The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Radcliffe Ridge logging proponents and opponents address RDCK committee

by Jan McMurray

Slocan Park residents Evelyn Kirkaldy and Kirsten Chase-Olsen, and BC Timber Sales representative Al Skakun and Ministry of Forests representative Jim Guido were invited to the RDCK Rural Affairs committee meeting on January 16 to speak about the contentious Radcliffe Ridge timber sale in Slocan Park.

Evelyn Kirkaldy outlined the residents' concerns, which include: slope stability (the area has a history of washouts, and terrain stability and hydrological reports on two of the four cutblocks were not completed until after the logging contract was awarded); lack of liability protection if residents' water supply or property is damaged as a result of the logging; lack of community consultation; visual quality (the very visible cutblocks will affect real estate values); and lack of adequate on-the-ground monitoring.

The residents asked the RDCK to write to the Premier and Minister of Forests, asking that the timber sale contract be set aside until proper community consultation has occurred, and hydrological and terrain stability studies are completed and reviewed in a proper manner. They also asked the board to undertake a risk assessment on water and terrain stability for Slocan Park properties and adjacent land.

Al Skakun of BC Timber Sales (BCTS) then provided the BCTS perspective on the residents' concerns.

He said the public consultation process was widely advertised.

Skakun said that the BCTS terrain stability and hydrology assessments show a low likelihood of any events that would affect residents' water supply.

As for monitoring, he said the licencee is required to self-monitor, and BCTS, contract and independent monitors all do monitoring as well. Also, monitoring takes place through the Ministry's compliance and enforcement office.

Skakun said that visual quality was given serious consideration, as the Slocan Valley is designated by government regulation as a visual scenic corridor.

Finally, Skakun let the committee know that concerned Slocan Park residents had filed a formal complaint with the Forest Practices Board, an independent forestry watchdog that investigates public complaints. "BCTS intends to fully participate in that process," he said. "Our intent is to look at where we can identify areas where we can improve our practices, particularly around public consultation. There is room for improvement there."

RDCK directors had several questions for Skakun. Director Zaitsoff asked what assurances residents have if something goes astray. He spoke of a situation in his area where road building impacted residents' wells, and it was up to the residents to prove it. Skakun answered that he is not aware of any liability legislation, but that if an unseen event occurs, it is investigated immediately and there are immediate efforts to restore water.

Director Popoff asked if it was standard practise to issue the licence first and do studies later, referring to the terrain stability and hyrological reports on the two cutblocks that were done after the contract had been awarded. Skakun explained that BCTS first looks at mapping to determine whether or not terrain stability reports need to be done. In this case, the two blocks were not in polygons requiring the studies. "In retrospect, we should have done these studies up front, because of the proximity to residences. I think we missed the boat there and should have done those studies right away." He added that as a result of the assessments, which included recommendations on ways to minimize risks to domestic water supply, "…we will implement some of the report's recommendations – we're going to amend our site plans."

Alternate Director Ross Johnson asked if the logging could be stopped. Skakun responded, "This area is within the provincial forest. We don't make land use decisions. It is expected that logging will happen in this area. As far as stopping the planned logging, we have an agreement with the licencee and we can't arbitrarily cancel the licence."

Director Popoff suggested that there was justification to rescind the licence, as there seemed to be problems with the process. Skakun replied that he had no knowledge of a public safety problem and had no authority to rescind a licence.

Director Binks asked if the logging would go ahead before the Forest Practices Board (FPB) had completed its work on the file. Skakun said that the licencee did not intend to log before summer, and that the FPB process would be done long before that.

Director Faust asked about the FPB process. Skakun explained that the FPB has a broader mandate than the Forests and Range Practices Act. "They also try to resolve issues and they have indicated that that is what they're going to do. I am confident that there is no infraction of any legal requirement, but we are very interested to participate and see where these issues can be dealt with."

Director Zaitsoff asked if it was worth it to do this logging, given the poor market conditions. Guido answered, "The markets are tough and this is part of the timber harvesting land base where we manage those lands to provide products that the forestry industry needs. Every bit of economic driver right now is beneficial to all of us."

Skakun summed up, "We strongly believe that the resource values in this area have been appropriately evaluated and there is a low risk to residents and the water supply. But we realize there are concerns and we believe the Forest Practices Board is the best group to deal with this."

Kirsten Chase-Olsen said that Slocan Park residents know that the RDCK has no jurisdiction over crown land. "We are looking to you regarding the impacts on residents on private land." She pointed out that the FPB cannot stop logging, but can only make recommendations. Neither can it provide money for an independent assessment.

Slocan Park residents summed up their case by citing no consultation, no terrain stability report, inadequate riparian protection, inadequate hydrology, and faulty risk assessments. Their concerns include their property values, their water, heavy traffic in their residential area, and visual impact.

Director Popoff has since written a letter to the Premier and Minister of Forests asking that "the Provincial government take steps to develop procedures for logging in populated areas and consumptive watersheds that address the high risks associated with these activities. We further request that License A80259 be set aside so that outstanding deficiencies can be addressed in a manner that restores confidence of the public in the Ministry of Forests."

Popoff's letter goes on to explain that the residents have filed a complaint with the FPB. "However, they have been informed by the Forest Practices Board that it does not have the authority to direct BCTS or to take back a licence that has been granted. Only the Minister appears to have that authority. It is in this context that I appeal on behalf of my constituents for your participation in resolving this important issue."

PHOTO CREDIT: GAIL BAUMAN

Kai Simmonds was one of about 200 people who participated in Kaslo's Winter in the Forest Festival, put on by the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society on January 25 at the golf course. There were hay rides, a variety of games and lots of fun in the sun on this glorious day.

Kit and Dave Mason of Evergreen Natural Foods were among the many who attended the fifth annual Slocan Valley Rail Trail Ski Day, held north of Passmore this past weekend. About 200 people skied, snowshoed or walked in from all directions to enjoy a sunny afternoon of hot chocolate and hot dogs on the banks of the Slocan River. To find out where the trail has been groomed most recently, visit www.svrt.ca.

STV referendum tour comes to region

submitted by FairVoting BC

In the upcoming May provincial election, there will be a referendum question on electoral reform. Voters have an opportunity unique in the history of democracy – for citizens to determine how we elect our politicians.

Be informed, and be a part of democracy history. Come hear Gladys Brown, Citizen's Assembly member from Midway, speak on the Citizen's Assembly process and Single Transferable Vote referendum.

Public awareness sessions will be held on the following dates: February 1, 4 pm at Lardeau Valley Community Centre; February 2, 7:30 pm, Nelson Library; February 3, noon, Hidden Garden Gallery, New Denver and 7 pm, Selkirk College Castlegar; February 4, 7:30 pm, Rossland Old Fire Hall.

At present, about half the voters get the MLA they vote for, and the result is significant distortions between the support voters give candidates from different parties and the number of seats they win.

The push for reform came about because we have increasingly been losing trust in politicians and becoming cynical about the possibility of making effective change through traditional legislative processes and political involvement. Young people, in particular, see less and less reason to vote or participate politically, and if this is allowed to continue, we will sooner or later face a serious crisis of legitimacy.

The proposal for change came from the BC Citizens' Assembly for Electoral Reform, a group of 160 women and men randomly invited by the Legislature from all across the province to represent BC in all its regional and social diversity. They took nearly a year to listen to the public about how government is working (or not!) and what we value in our system of voting and representation; to learn about how other places in the world vote; and to deliberate carefully about what way of voting would best suit our province and set us up for the future.

Our Citizen's Assembly recommendation is that we start using the Single Transferable Vote, or STV – a voting system designed to give as many voters as possible the specific representative they choose. You will get a single ballot which lists several candidates – typically more than one from each party. You will mark your preferred choice with a '1', and can also indicate as many additional choices as you wish (with a '2', '3', etc). With our current system, if your preferred candidate is not elected, your ballot is tossed away. With STV, counting is done in rounds so that if your first choice does not have enough support to be elected, your ballot is transferred to your second choice so that you can still have a say in who gets elected.

Many voters will choose to give their next couple of preferences to other candidates from their preferred parties, but you are free to support candidates from more than one party if you wish.

This tour is sponsored by: FairVoting BC-Kootenay region and Selkirk College Student Council Association.

For more information contact info@kootenaystv.com or 250 825-9282.

Meadow Creek Cedar files for creditor protection

by Jan McMurray

Meadow Creek Cedar has filed for creditor protection, thereby stopping the court bailiff's sale of all its land and assets in Cooper Creek.

The sale was ordered by the court as a result of legal action taken against the company by two of its creditors – Picture Valley Ranch and Mallard Logging – and was supposed to happen on January 23. Operations Manager Roland McCulloch is very happy that the sale was averted.

"We don't want a forced sale," said McCulloch. "Once the lumber market increases, we want to carry on our milling operation here. Right now, we're just market logging until the market turns around and we can make money at sawing."

While under creditor protection, creditors cannot come after Meadow Creek Cedar for money owing. It buys the company some time to figure out how to pay its debt.

"What it does is freezes the creditors that we have and gives us time to restructure our debt. It doesn't mean we don't have to pay them," explained McCulloch.

McCulloch explained that Meadow Creek Cedar hired a trustee to deal with the debt restructure. He said the company will negotiate with the trustee and the creditors to devise a repayment plan. The legal process allows them 60 days to come up with the plan, with the possibility of an extension. However, McCulloch says they are aiming to have the plan in hand within the 60 days, and to have their creditors paid off by the end of the summer.

When asked how much the company owes, McCulloch replied, "I'd rather not say, but it's not a lot – it's not a huge amount of money."

McCulloch says that the company is not creating any more debt. "Anyone we hire from now on, we pay. We don't buy what we can't buy. We don't do it unless we have the money. We're sorry this thing came about, but it's a sign of the times – everyone in this industry is trying to pay their bills and not create any more."

Meadow Creek Cedar currently has one contractor logging at Neil Creek in Trout Lake. The company's woodlands manager, Rodney Arnold, reported that this job will be ongoing until June. The logs are being sold to Wynndel Box, Bell Pole and Porcupine. "It's amazing we've got buyers – a few companies have managed to find niche markets and stay alive," commented Arnold.

The company is also planning to hire another three or four contractors for a job in Ainsworth, starting in February or March. He said there had been two public meetings and two field trips for Ainsworth residents, and that there was some opposition to the logging in the community. He said the company would do a hydrological study for private landowners in the area, that most of this logging would be done selectively, and that logging would not happen near creeks. "We're trying to do something different," said Arnold. "We're trying to do our job well, and we're trying to keep people working."

CONTRACTOR CALL

The following is a call for Expressions of Interest by qualified contractors wishing to obtain eligibility to conduct forestry operations within the Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) license area. The following categories are included in the eligibility list:

- Road Construction
- Road Maintenance
- Road Deactivation
- Bridge Construction
- Conventional logging
- Cable logging (grapple)
- Cable logging (tower)
- Log hauling
- Site preparation
- Treeplanting
- Brushing

To be considered eligible in any given category, contractors must possess the following minimum requirements:

- Safe Company Certification from the BC Forest Safety Council
- An active WCB number and appropriate classification
- Good company standing
- Liability Insurance
- Experience, with references

Interested parties can complete an Expression of Interest form on the NACFOR website at www.nakuspcommunityforest.com or pick one up at True North Forestry Consulting Ltd at 119 Broadway Street in Nakusp. To be considered eligible, applications must be received no later than February 27, 2009.

NACFOR's contractor hiring policies will be finalized following receipt and review of applications.

NACFOR is a newly licensed tenure holder with an Annual Allowable Cut of 20000 cubic meters. It intends to start operational activities as early as spring of 2009. For a description of operating areas and other information, please refer to our website.

Advance Public Notice
Load Restrictions

Pursuant to Section 66 of the *Transportation Act*, advance notice is hereby given that load restrictions may be placed, on short notice in the near future, on all highways in the following Highways District:

West Kootenay District

Restrictions will be imposed, as conditions warrant.

The restrictions may limit vehicles to 100 per cent, 70 per cent or 50 per cent of legal axle loading, as allowed under the regulations pursuant to the *Commercial Transport Act*.

Overweight permits will not be granted and all term overweight permits are invalid for the duration of the restrictions.

The public, and trucking and transportation companies, should govern themselves accordingly.

Your cooperation in adhering to the above regulations is appreciated.

Restrictions can be viewed at www.DriveBC.ca.

Glenn Olleck, District Manager, Transportation
West Kootenay District.

Dated in Nelson, British Columbia this 12th day of January, 2009.

For more information, please contact:

Hugh Eberle, District Technician
Phone: 250 354-6628

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Valley Voice launches new website

by Dan Nicholson

The Valley Voice has revamped its website to start the New Year on a new page.

"We wanted to make the site more lively and attractive, and to re-organize the information a bit. We hope that people will find it easier now to place their advertising with us online," says Jan McMurray, editor of the *Valley Voice*.

The site was designed by Nikta Boroumand of Maverick Design and bigbrowneyes.ca. Boroumand lives in New Denver and has built up a successful design business, specializing in websites.

"It was a pleasure to re-design the *Valley Voice* site," she says. "*The Voice* is everybody's favourite newspaper, so it's no surprise that the site is getting lots of hits."

The site gets about 1,500 visits per month. Many people read the paper online, and many also refer to the site for advertising, subscription and publication information.

Check it out at www.valleyvoice.ca.

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NDP Nelson-Creston candidates speak in Kaslo

by Katrine Campbell

The four women vying to replace Corky Evans as the NDP candidate in Nelson-Creston participated in an all-candidates meeting for NDP members in Kaslo January 21.

Kim Adamson, Rhonda Barter, Bev LaPointe and Michelle Mungall are all well-spoken, passionate and knowledgeable, and though they agreed on many issues they definitely had different ideas and approaches.

Adamson, LaPointe and Mungall are all from Nelson; Barter lives in Creston. All have impressive resumés, with memberships and volunteer work in multiple organizations, societies and charities.

The issues they are concerned about include climate change, job loss, affordable housing, child care, privatization of public services including BC Hydro and medical clinics, and cuts to health care, home care and the arts.

They disagreed on minimum wage. Barter, as a former small business owner, was alarmed at the NDP's proposal to immediately raise the minimum wage to $10. While she acknowledged $8 was too low, "I couldn't afford to pay the wage if it jumped all at once to $10." She suggested phasing in the higher amount more gradually.

The other three wanted the government to use the higher income tax people would pay on the higher wage to assist small business in meeting the payroll.

Water should remain in the hands of the public, the candidates all said. LaPointe had one of the best lines of the evening: "If Coca-Cola will charge you a dollar for a bottle of water, imagine how much they'll charge for a shower."

Their closing statements were brief but heartfelt.

Barter said she was a member of the party that cares.

Mungall called for "well-thought-out, bold moves to deal with climate change. The political will has to be in Victoria."

LaPointe said rural BC can't endure another term with the Liberals in power. She paid tribute to Evans' years as an MLA and said "it would be an honour to follow in your footsteps."

Adamson believes she was "the best chance to beat [Liberal candidate] Josh Smienk. I have great respect for my opponents but I can bring in votes the others cannot."

Mines hanging in despite recession

by Katrine Campbell

The downturn in the economy hasn't led to any significant mine layoffs in our area – yet.

The MAX molybdenum operation is still working at full capacity, says Roca Mines director John Mirko. Speaking from the mine office in Trout Lake, Mirko said the full complement of 110 miners, millworkers and support staff is back after a shutdown for maintenance and development over the holidays.

Part of the shutdown was because of a rockfall in the stope development area of the 875 level. No workers were present on the level at the time and no one was harmed, the company says.

"We have laid off a few people, mostly because we stopped the expansion program," says Mirko. "We're going to keep running as long as we can."

He added the mine's future depends on world metal prices and the Canadian dollar. Since those prices are set in US dollars, the lower loonie is a bonus. At present, molybdenum is worth under $10/lb; a year ago, it was about $36.

At Klondike Silver's silver/lead/zinc mine in Sandon, manager Steve Phillips says they've still got the full complement of 16 working in the mill and office, but the downturn in the economy is definitely having an impact on the industry and he's expecting bad news at any time.

The exploration staff has been laid off, but that is normal for this time of year as "we can't do surface regional exploration in the winter."

Over the past year, silver has dropped from about $20 US per ounce to $10. Zinc has gone from about $1.20 US per pound to 52¢, and lead from $1.40 US to 50¢ per pound.

"If it gets any lower," says Phillips "there will be no zinc miners left anywhere in the world."

In addition to plunging commodity prices, "The venture capital market for mining has dried up over the last year and a half. I think investors saw the bubble was going to burst and started to pull back a year or so ago."

Phillips says he is astonished at how quickly things went sour in the financial side of the industry.

"It's absolutely unbelievable how quickly this happened. I never would have anticipated this happening."

The Sandon mine, which re-opened in 2007, has not been producing any ore. Instead, the company has been conducting extensive exploration of its properties, while the mill has been processing material from Klondike Silver's properties in the Yukon.

Glacier/Howser IPP meeting in Kaslo tonight

by Jan McMurray

A meeting on the Glacier/Howser independent power project is being held this evening in the multi-purpose room at JV Humphries School in Kaslo.

Simon Gourdeau, project manager, said the format of the meeting would be very similar to the one held in Meadow Creek in late November.

Gourdeau will make a presentation about the project, and will provide answers to the most frequently asked questions. There will be a public question period, moderated by Area D Director Andy Shadrack. Forms for people interested in employment created by the project will be available.

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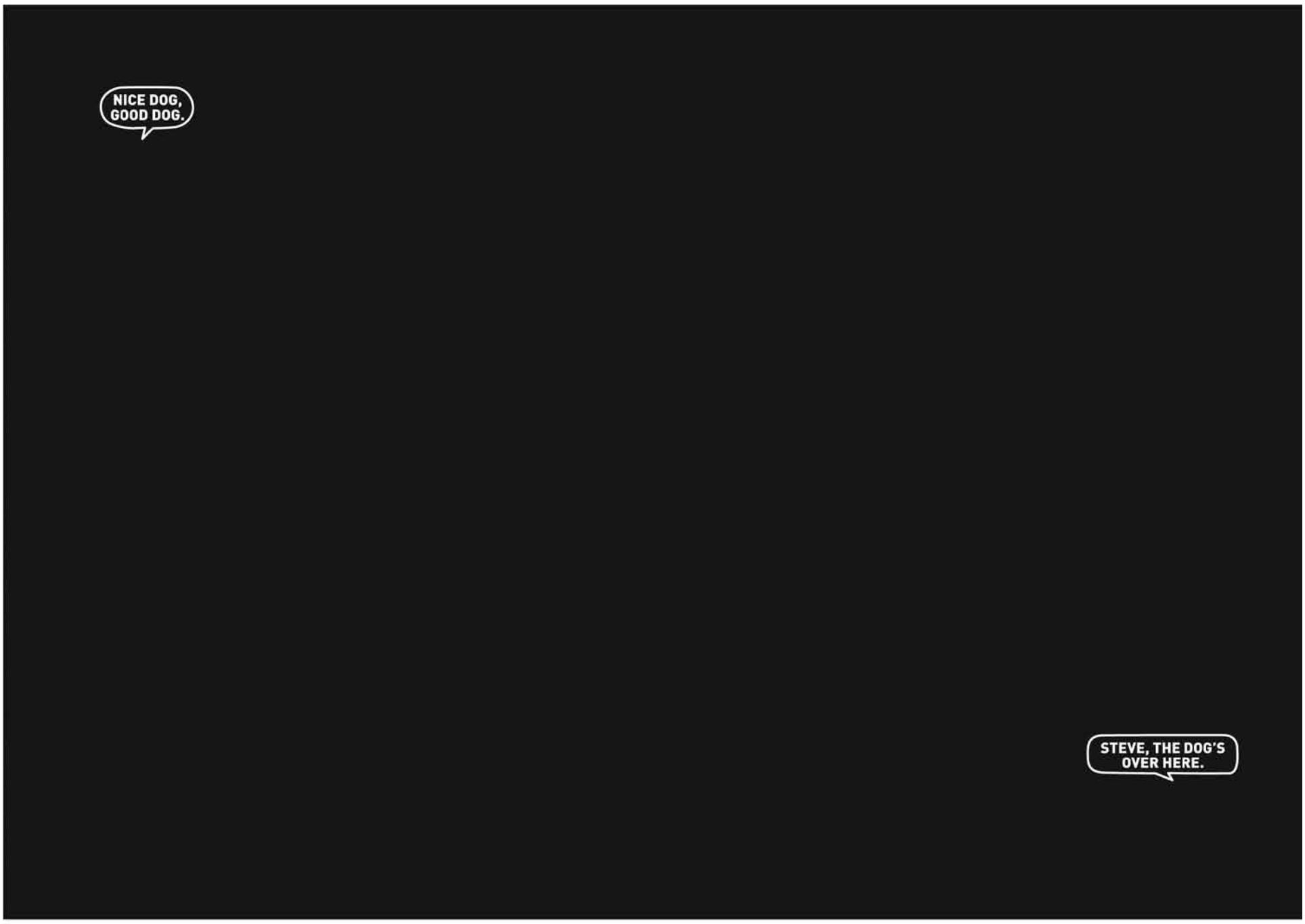

Are you prepared if the power goes out? A simple emergency kit isn't hard to put together. Some of the basic items include: a copy of your emergency plan, first aid kit, corded telephone, flashlight and battery-powered radio. For more information on how to create your kit, and being prepared for a power outage, go to bchydro.com/outages. **IN A POWER OUTAGE, KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.**
BC hydro
FOR GENERATIONS

Voices from the Valleys

The left should work together

I had a lol moment as I finished reading the letter in the last issue of the *Valley Voice* from Scott Leyland. The letter rather confirmed my first impression of him when I had the opportunity to meet him at last fall's garlic festival in New Denver.

My first impression was that he is all about promoting Scott Leyland ahead of everything else, including environmental stewardship.

On the other hand, I had the tremendous privilege to run against a party member of his, Ralph Moore, who in my mind is the kind of environmentalist we should all be.

He truly put environmental integrity before self interest. In the end, Ralph endorsed my candidacy over his own because he had grown to realize over the length of the federal campaign that I shared his intense desire to put environmental issues front and centre in every aspect of our lives, even though I am a staunch New Democrat.

I truly believe it is long past time we on the left begin to put our petty differences aside, and again work together for the sake of our grandchildren's ability to live as we have on this planet.

Because for sure, Stephen Harper and his kind are all about promoting the tar sands as a 'sustainable development'.

Leon Pendleton
Edgewood

Where will the children play?

A couple summers ago my house burned down and I found myself living helplessly across the street from a logging yard. With trucks pouring by every morning I found it hard to sleep and tried desperately to make some sense of my situation within the confusion. One morning I had the golden urge to pick up a magazine and read it. It was an article about a lady biologist named Alexandra Morton from the coast, where she had a little research house and did biological monitoring on marine life, and studied the ever-present danger that fish farms were having on the environment.

As almost any destitute youngster with no foreseeable hope for his children might do, I packed my cheap little backpack, escaped the gauntlet of the traffic lights and confusion, and went all the way to the coast and up to the north of the island where I hitched from boat to boat to get to the little station. On the way I managed to take in a few marine conservation courses and crash courses in hatchery work and talked to a lot of people before I got to Echo Bay.

I talked with some very important people on my journey about the salmon. They all said there was absolutely no reason for the farms. They put fishermen out of work, who are all selling their boats or converting to shrimp. They pollute the water with biological residues enough to have caused a life and death impact on ALL, that's ALL marine life, bears, eagles, killer whales, mollusks, salmon. One fisherman said he caught some of the escaped salmon and couldn't sell them, so he tried using them as crab bait. The crab would not go near them because they have no smell.

An elder there told me that the fish farms were NOT the way of feeding the starving world of the future. The dynamics of what was in play was an advantage taken by corporate money grabbers and poor government policies by the DFO that had loopholes.

The companies involved move from country to country, ruining ecosystems that have been untouched for millions of years, with the only purpose of promoting an ideology that is theoretical. Then theoretically they are burning the planet twice as fast for twice the capital they can put in their pockets.

I met Alexandra and the Living Oceans Society; they really need our help in a sincere and desperate way. They are a loving family, not unlike residents of the Kootenays, and have to deal with the same proverbial traffic light problems as we do. I left a big part of my life and my story out there on that trip, to learn. Mainly because my only true protector seems to be the sanctity of nature. A fragile web must not be broken.

Joseph P. Bernie
Rosebery

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*.

Community food reserve

Those of us who garden may be interested in growing one additional crop each year for a community food reserve. In the interests of crop rotation, one gardener might grow a plot of carrots, while another grows potatoes, and yet another beans or turnips, or any other food that can be stored *without reliance on electricity* in a root cellar, dried or preserved. The idea is to maintain a yearly off-season supply of locally grown food for emergencies, and to move us closer to being able to feed ourselves without reliance on outside sources.

A backyard garden can grow an amazing amount of food, and an organized group of backyard gardens can grow enough food to have an impact on our community food supply. There is no way of knowing how bad the economy might get, or how important this emergency supply of food might be in hard times.

Even in good times, it is still a good idea, especially for a somewhat isolated community, to annually produce and store enough food for an unexpected emergency. That one extra garden plot grown for the community food reserve is relatively easy to do and it doesn't have to cut into one's own personal garden produce in any significant way. It would be a voluntary effort, so it wouldn't cost the community anything.

Well, gardeners, what do you think? I, for one, would be quite happy to plant an extra plot for a community food reserve if the idea catches on. We just have to get together to decide who grows what so we can get the crop rotation cycle in motion, and to link up with others for drying, canning and providing non-electric root cellar type storage.

John White
New Denver

Need more ultrasound equipment

In September, I injured my shoulder. My doctor prescribed physiotherapy and also ordered an ultrasound examination. I started the physiotherapy and my shoulder responded very well to this.

I forgot all about the ultrasound until this week, when a lady from the hospital in Trail phoned to make an appointment. I asked her why it has taken three months just to make an appointment. She informed me that the waiting time for ultrasound procedures is six months. I know my shoulder is not that important, but there are patients with more serious ailments and they also have to wait that long.

My question is: why is there not more ultrasound equipment available in New Denver or Nakusp? Or why not have a technician travel once a month in to the Slocan Valley to visit all the health centers, do the procedures and take it back to Trail? Then a doctor can look at all the recordings and send the diagnoses to the family doctors.

I was in contact with an American company that sells ultrasound equipment. The quote that I got for a portable ultrasound machine is approximately $10,000 depending on the accessories wanted. I think this would be a very good investment, and in line with what the government preaches about bringing health care closer to home.

I think it is bad that people from Nakusp and New Denver have to travel two-and-a-half hours to Trail for a procedure that takes maybe 15 minutes, but have to wait six months for that. I know Interior Health has all kind of excuses why this cannot be done and it is too expensive.

I would like to say to the people that make the decisions about all of this: we do not all live in Kelowna where your office is located. Did you ever drive at 0500 hours to Trail so you can be at your appointment at 0800 hours in any weather condition?

I hope this letter will not put me in the black book of Interior Health.

Albert Boers
Hills

More thoughts on the Conservative Party

I was encouraged to read Alice Wailer's passionate assessment of the Conservative party in her "Open letter to Rob Zandee" recently, and I would like to add a few comments of my own.

Every significant move the Conservatives make shows they value moneyed interests above people, power above democracy, and ideology above truth. They want a majority government so badly because they wish to force into law things that no other party wants.

I find their cold, merciless determination very alarming. It expresses itself most viciously with those helplessly in their power, like prisoners. "We don't owe them, they owe us," said the last toxic flyer I found in my mailbox.

The Conservatives want to put 14 year-olds into adult prisons for long sentences. I feel chilled at the brutality and willful ignorance of this mindset. No responsibility is taken for our government for decades deliberately setting up a system whereby the rich become richer and the poor become poorer, thereby creating the social conditions for despair, hard drug addiction, alcoholism, suicide and criminal behaviours.

Now in the 21st century, I am amazed that the ideology followed by Conservatives and right-wing Liberals is not simply a curiosity in books about psychopathology. I am even more amazed that they have enough followers to form a political party, and I'm absolutely, mind-blowingly, astounded that they win elections. Their winning strategy, as practised by all unscrupulous power-seekers from Caesar to Bush, is to kindle fear in the hearts of their electorate. It's a big, scary world and only Daddy can save you from it. It works.

Attack ads against the Liberals worked. And to present a softer image, for goodness sake even being photographed playing with children while wearing a blue sweater worked. The techniques of modern advertising, as applied to selling toothpaste or politics, work extremely well, and of course truth doesn't enter into it. As a tragic result of this, many Canadians wanting a safe and secure future are actually voting for putting children in prisons at home and bombing them abroad, super-rich CEOs and impoverished workers, no free Medicare and hollowed-out civil rights. We can only hope they somehow soon see through this cunningly orchestrated deception.

Keith Newberry
Slocan

National Non-Smoking Week

During National Non-Smoking Week - January 18 – 24, the Canadian Cancer Society encourages British Columbians to speak out in support of initiatives that prevent youth from starting to smoke and encourage adults who wish to quit.

The Canadian Cancer Society BC and Yukon is urging the BC government to enact legislation that will see the removal of tobacco

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Voices from the Valleys

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from pharmacies and align British Columbia with the rest of Canada. Although smoking continues to plague the health of hundreds of thousands of British Columbians the sale of tobacco products is still permitted in BC pharmacies. British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Yukon are the only remaining jurisdictions in Canada without legislation to ban the sale of tobacco products in retail locations containing a pharmacy.

Cigarettes - which can kill when used directly as intended - should not be sold in a location designed to improve a person's health. Selling tobacco products in places that sell vitamins and medicines sends young people the message that smoking is acceptable. It is time to get BC's number one disease-causing product out of BC pharmacies.

Individual pharmacies have begun to embrace their own policies to stop selling tobacco in their retail locations. In the West Kootenay, Boundary and Arrow Lakes regions, 55% of pharmacies have chosen not to sell tobacco products and we congratulate these local businesses for their decision to become tobacco-free. These progressive pharmacies are making great strides on the tobacco front; however, more can, and must, be done.

Tobacco use is one of the most pressing public health concerns facing British Columbia, Canada and the world today. Tobacco use remains the number one cause of disease and death in Canada, killing over 6,000 British Columbians each year. Tobacco use is estimated to cost the BC economy $2.3 billion annually and causes 30 per cent of all cancer deaths and 85 per cent of lung cancers.

As we look towards 2010 and the goal of being the healthiest host of an Olympic Games, we must stop the sale of cigarettes in pharmacies; when you look to fill your next prescription consider filling it with a pharmacy that doesn't have tobacco on its product list.

Let's work together to urge our provincial politicians to ban the sale of tobacco products in retail locations that contain a pharmacy.

Phyllis Boates, Kootenay Region President
Patti Moore, Community Action Coordinator
Canadian Cancer Society

Comments on Gaza

We would like to clarify a few false facts with the truth. A doctor working in Gaza's Shifa Hospital claimed Hamas has intentionally inflated the number of casualties from the war. The number of deceased stands at no more than 500 to 600. Most of them are youths between the ages of l7 to 23 who were recruited to the ranks of Hamas. We have already asked Hamas commanders why they insist on inflating the number of victims.

Fiction: Gaza has no medical and other aid supplies.

Fact: During the first five days alone of Operation Cast Lead Israel has facilitated the delivery of 6,500 tons of aid.

Fiction: There's no food in Gaza.

Fact: The World Food Program informed Israel that it would cease shipment of food to Gaza because the warehouses there are at full capacitiy. Even as Hamas fired rockets, Israel facilitated the delivery of 2,500 tons of humanitarian aid, medical supplies and medication.

We are saddened by the fact Hamas forced innocent children to be used as shields, knowing Israel did not want to hit children, whereas Hamas for the last eight years has been firing rockets into Israel aiming at schools, kindergartens, etc. In the last three years since Israel pulled out of Gaza more than 6,000 rockets have landed in Israel killing and maiming and terrorizing residents. In a display of remarkable restraint, only after three years and thousands of unprovoked attacks did Israel finally feel justified to launch a defensive response.

Daily Telegraph correspondent Tim Butcher returned to Gaza for the first time since the war: "I knew Gaza well before the attacks, so when Israel ended its ban on foreign journalists reaching Gaza on the day the ceasefire was announced, I was able to see for myself. One thing was clear – Gaza City 2009 is not Stalingrad l944. There had been no carpet bombing of large areas, no firebombing of complete suburbs. Targets had been selected and hit. Buildings nearby had been damaged and there had been some clear mistakes, like the firebombing of the UN aid headquarters. But, for the most part, I saw the primary target had born the brunt. For the most part, I was struck by how cosmetically unchanged Gaza appeared to be. Officials in the Palestinian People's Party said the resistance fighters were firing from positions all around the hospital and the UN building, making it a set-up for the Israeli soldiers."

We would like to quote Golda Meir: "We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us."

Danny and Joan Law
New Denver

Watch out for the birds

Now that winter has arrived I would again like to ask motorists to show a bit of care and caution when encountering the flocks of birds who come onto our highways in search of grit and salt. This winter, rather than chastising the callous behaviour and poor driving habits that result in the slaughter of hundreds of birds needlessly, I would like to help educate people about these interesting creatures in the hope that by knowing more about them motorists would care more about the birds' welfare.

Pine grosbeaks, pine siskins, and two species of crossbills (white-winged and red) are the birds most commonly seen on our roadways in winter. All four species belong to the finch family *(Fringillidae)* and have evolved to feed primarily, if not exclusively, on conifer seeds. They wander over large areas during the winter searching for good supplies of conifer seeds.

Crossbills have bills so adapted to prying open conifer cones that they cannot feed on anything else. Crossbills feed their chick regurgitated seeds rather than insects, and have been known to raise a brood of chicks in the winter, if the cone crop in one area is plentiful enough.

Pine grosbeaks and pine siskins have less specialized beaks and pursue a more varied diet. Siskins will eat insects and grosbeaks will eat berries as they find them, but they too rely on conifer seeds in winter.

All these birds exhibit nature's beauty. The rose mantle and contrasting black wings with white bars make the male white-winged crossbill the most colourful. The brownish pine siskin may appear drab from a distance, but it is closely related to goldfinches and the yellow highlights on its wings and tail make it a very attractive bird.

All these species are very sociable and form mixed flocks in the winter. The birds exhibit an intensive collective flock mentality, and flocks of 50 or more birds are able to fly complicated manoeuvres as a group in complete synchronicity. This flock behaviour protects them from predation by pygmy owls and accipiter hawks. It is difficult for a hunter to select a victim from a swirling mass of birds and the predator often ends up confused and empty-handed.

Unfortunately this flock behaviour puts these birds at great risk along our highways. Their seed diet requires large amounts of grit to grind the hard seeds in their gizzards to release the much-needed energy that helps them survive the winter. They are also attracted to salt, particularly pine siskins, and the combined sand and salt on our highways brings flocks of birds to our roadsides. Having such an ingrained flock mentality, they forage for grit in numbers, and wait to leave the roadway in a group when danger threatens. This increases their mortality from motor vehicles.

The avian carnage on our roads can be greatly reduced if people would make two minimal adjustments to their driving habits. When you see a flock of birds on the road, honk your horn. You paid for it with the car, so go ahead and use it. Secondly, remove your foot from the accelerator for a few seconds to give the birds a little more of a chance to escape. How hard is that? It works very well for me.

Brian Barney
Beaton

Hamas is the bad guy

It seems incredible to me that in our midst, there are people who support Hamas.

Just in case you forgot, Hamas is one of the groups, along with AL-Qaeda, Hizbollah and the Taliban, that was dancing with joy in the days after 9/11, and who:

-has no human rights for women or Christians, has no free press, denies the last Holocaust as it prepares for the next one;

-builds hundreds of tunnels for smuggling arms and rockets, but cannot build shelters to protect its residents?

Those of you who bemoan the lack of Israeli deaths should realize that the lack of deaths is due to every citizen having a well-equipped bomb shelter near their residence. That is just good planning!

Hamas receives billions of dollars in international aid every year, but does not use any of this money for infrastructure to make its citizens' lives better.

Hamas lets its army and 'leadership' hide underground and in hospitals leaving its citizens on their own? Uses human shields by firing from booby-trapped schools, hospitals, and homes? Sends suicide bombers to kill civilians in cafes, schools, and fired thousands upon thousands of rockets into nearby towns trying to kill civilians over an eight-year period without any human rights organization or the UN protesting?

If you would like to see Hamas representatives onstage talking about how women, the elderly, and especially old people are "especially suited" to be human shields, check out the videos at www.memri.org, a media outlet which monitors and translates all TV stations in the Middle East.

If you would like to see a YouTube video of Hamas shooting up a local wedding because they didn't like the music, I will send you a link narrated by a Palestinian who just couldn't stand it any longer. I can also send you a link showing Hamas lining up Fatah members, and shooting them again and again and again? WARNING – Not for the faint of heart!

Let's not forget the nature of Iran-backed Hamas and Hizbullah, who state in their charters that they will never negotiate peace, and also call for the death of every Israeli. I'll be glad to mail you a copy. Do you think the headlong rush by Iran to acquire and/or build nuclear weapons is really peaceful? They did say, after all, that when they are through with the "Saturday" people, then they will take care of the "Sunday" people. Guess who "the Sunday people" are.

And if you are really interested in this topic, here are Hamas supporters in Florida, recently calling for the destruction of the West, including using nuclear weaponry against it.

https://www.watchobsession.org/

Do you really think the world is a better place with groups like Hamas, the Taliban, Hizbollah, Islamic Jihad, etc, in it?? Any country that is fighting Global Jihad deserves our respect, and our thanks!!

To read what an Palestinian ex-terrorist has to say about the true nature of Hamas and to learn about what the other terrorist organizations have in store for Israel AND us, go to www.shoebat.com. It's a real eye-opener. He now travels the world to defend Israel to the West, which has its head in the sand.

Ian Zack
New Denver

Jumbo/Glacier-Howser: same mould

Popped out of the same mould, here they come, these proponents for developing our backcountry crown land.

First we get Oberto Oberti from Milan, Italy who has remained unsuccessful at convincing us we need his jumbo Jumbo Resort and real estate grab. Now it's young Simon Gourdeau from Montreal twisting the arms of the locals to support his mega power project, the Glacier/Howser IPP. Like the snake oil salesmen of yesteryear they come from afar to tell us what we need and to save us from ourselves. But both are so transparent; their arguments are full of holes.

Fairly recently, the folks at the north end of Kootenay Lake and the Lardeau Valley, near to where the Glacier and Howser creeks are located, have been treated to two presentations concerning Independent Power Projects. The first, hosted by Purcell Green Power (Glacier/Howser IPP) November 20, by invitation only, was to promote jobs should the project go ahead.

As Simon said, "If you want these jobs you must actively support this project." AXOR, the parent corporation, offers at this time jobs for 290 person-years. From early 2009 to early 2010 is when the devastation to the environment occurs with the help of dozers, trucks, tunnellers, etc.

After 2010 there will be six full time staff to fill out the rest of the 40-year tenure. If we multiply 39 years by six people we get 234 work years. That leaves 56 people to work the one year of construction.

Simon told us AXOR will do the hiring and they hire union – not to mention that many will be hired for extremely specialized jobs. Sounds like one year of job security for a few lucky ones.

Then at the Rafe Mair presentation, December 3, we learned that once government has awarded the crown land lease, the lessees put up big fences with locked gates beyond which unauthorized personnel are not allowed for the duration of their 40-year tenures.

Yes, that means no access for us into the whole vast upper Glacier and Howser Creek areas. Now consider at this time Poplar, Cascade, Cooper and Tenise Creeks have active applications, with other creeks in our area coming, as part of the more than 600 active applications in the whole of beautiful BC at this time.

Please further consider the 92+ km transmission lines from the Glacier/Howser project across the roadless wilderness to Invermere substation. But don't just consider the visual spider web at these 600+ IPPs, think electro-magnetic frequency (EMF) fallout from each and every one.

And, last but not least, consider the consequences from the power plants once they are up and running. The Glacier/Howser pelton wheel will operate a 100-ton generator that will be rockin' and rollin' 24/7 with an extremely high-pitched whine, not to mention the far-reaching concussions on and into the earth multiplied by 600 multiplied by 40 years each.

When I asked the Jumbo Resort real estate developer if he considered at all what we locals stood to lose, he replied, "You people don't like crowds."

When I asked the Glacier/Howser IPP developer if he knew what we stand to lose, he answered, "Nothing."

Rowena Eloise
Argenta

New Denver Council, January 13: Health service issues discussed

by Leah Main

• Council received a letter from Interior Health Authority asking for a meeting to discuss "regulatory and health improving activities and roles which support and serve [your] community," with a focus on developing "a healthier environment for residents of the community." This would include such community health issues as drinking water, air quality, etc. Council suggested that IHA might benefit from a visit to the community gym and exercise centre as a start to their understanding of what this community already does to help improve community health.

• Councillor Greensword referred to a press release from IHA announcing that lab and x-ray services at Slocan Lake Community Health Centre will only be available during the day, due to lack of available technologists. While IHA says they will provide training for existing staff to undertake critical x-ray services after hours, they "may need to transfer patients requiring urgent x-rays after hours to alternate facilities." Greensword commented that due to current ambulance staffing difficulties, here and in Nakusp, we are at times left with no access to emergency service. Additionally, a recent change in the provincial funding formula regarding rural doctors will prohibit payment for extra time after June 2009, and will likely reduce the hours of the emergency room in New Denver. There have been ongoing difficulties getting IHA to provide adequate service to our community. IHA has committed to setting up a public meeting to discuss these issues. It will also be a matter for discussion at West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital Board meetings, with hope that support from this body can help resolve the problem.

• Councillor Bunka asked council to send a letter to the Ministry of Transportation, with a copy to YRB, asking them to improve communications among the appropriate agencies regarding road closures and openings. During the early January highway closures, apparently Slocan Lake Detachment RCMP and New Denver Emergency Services were not notified when the highway was reopened. This is a serious matter for emergency service agencies.

• Mayor Wright reported that he had met with Silverton Mayor John Everett regarding the renewed possibility of sharing services between the two Villages. Ongoing discussions should be documented in writing, and will continue during the budget process.

• Council will send a letter of thanks to the Village of Silverton for their assistance clearing snow at the Health Centre during the recent storm.

• Mayor Wright reported that RCMP priorities for 2009 are now being set. He was advised by Corporal Bowden that due to administrative changes, our detachment, which is now served through RCMP E Division, will be responding to regional priorities only, and that local priorities will no longer be addressed. Mayor Wright commented that after years of giving local input, now "There will no longer be local priorities, only regional ones. Our region now includes Kelowna – their priorities are different than ours." He proposed, and received council approval, to send a letter to the Attorney General advising that this removal of local policing priorities is unacceptable, and that we need to be able to have our local priorities addressed.

• Council received a detailed report on the new provincial Model for Delivery of Fire Services, with a request for comment. Councillor Greensword has reviewed the document in detail and has discussed it with Fire Chief Leonard Casley. The new Model for Delivery appears to require a high level of training, even for volunteer fire departments, that may be unattainable given the lack of training resources available in our area. There also seems to be a trend to change from fire department to "Fire/Rescue" which would require all fire departments to supply medical first responder and road rescue services, which would likely be unattainable for small local volunteer departments. Questions also arose about funding and new requirements for planning, training, and administrative and management support. After detailed discussion, Council authorized Greensword and Casley to draft a letter to UBCM advising them of council's concerns, with copies to be distributed to Regional District and other municipalities.

• A complaint was received from Linda Lamarche about motorized vehicles traveling on the dike along Carpenter Creek. This area is posted "no motor vehicles on dikes" on both sides of the creek. Council normally refers such complaints to the RCMP, and will look into additional measures they can take regarding enforcement.

• New Denver is applying for a Towns for Tomorrow grant for renovations to the Village hall, including an addition to create expanded office space. The plans include a new ventilation system, soundproofing and fire walls, solar panels, geothermal, lighting and insulation upgrades, and a wheelchair accessible washroom. The entire project has been looked at with a view to environmental sustainability. Eighty percent of the funding for the $300,000 project would come from Towns for Tomorrow, and council will need to budget for the remaining 20%. A decision on the application is expected by the end of May, and if approved, construction would be undertaken this summer.

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The Picture Mug Canada - Kaslo
Ceramica311 - Kaslo
Palmer Computer Services - Lemon creek
Kootenay Lake Gallery.com - Meadow Creek
P and R Archery and Sport - Winlaw
Emily Graphic Design - Winlaw
FLIKS - Vallican
Brent Kennedy Learning Center - Crescent Valley
Jems Propane Ltd. - Slocan Park
Stones Throw Glass House - Slocan Park
Han's Painting - Slocan
Maverick Designs - New Denver

For more information on the Self Employment Program contact Farhana Dumont in Nakusp 265-3674 X 201 or call the Nelson office 352-1933

Supported by Canada

TV Society serves North Slocan Valley

submitted by Peter Roulston

The cold days and long nights of winter find many of us indoors more of the time, perhaps reading that great book or enjoying something on the radio or television set. For more than 30 years now, the Area H TV Society has provided quality reception found on the radio stations and television channels in our homes and cars.

The society is a committee of local folks who meet from time to time to ensure that the signals and content broadcast around the valley are suitable and sufficient. Over the years, these volunteer efforts have provided several channels and stations that are deemed to be informative and entertaining to the general area population. Questionnaires have been circulated and comments from interested residents help the society to determine what programming may be delivered, with content and cost as prime considerations.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay allots a portion of tax dollars to cover the many real costs of operating the society. Some of these costs are annual permit fees, monthly fees to channel/station providers, occasional technician costs and power/phone bills. Some tasks undertaken by society directors include upkeep of the tower site in New Denver with snow shovelling, satellite dish cleaning, and pruning shrubbery. Directors meet to discuss all aspects of operations and to plan future improvements.

The lakeside position of the transmission tower ensures good signal coverage from Red Mountain through to Hills for most television channels, and reception from Slocan City to Summit Lake for most radio stations. Signal quality diminishes considerably if a house is located in deep forest, though, and the calibre of your rooftop antenna can make all the difference as well.

Existing signals are already rebroadcast in digital form so the coming big changes to digitized signal delivery should not cause problems.

Annual cost per household in New Denver, Silverton and the defined portion of Area H is about $34 for the availability of eight TV channels and six radio stations. Any automobile or portable radio can have fine reception and some folks even have good TV viewing with a simple set of rabbit ear antennae. Compare just $34 per year with the monthly fees charged by satellite and cable providers!

The Area H North TV Society will continue to work at providing the local community with affordable and enjoyable reception in coming years. Feel free to phone or speak to one of the directors any time, and offers of help and participation are always welcome. Clip and save the ad in this issue of the *Valley Voice* showing channel and station choices.

Silverton council holds planning meeting

by Leah Main

At its January 12 public planning meeting, council reviewed priorities for the coming year, with items brought forward by each councillor and by Administration, Finance, and Public Works.

Items were prioritized as follows:

High priority: Garbage pick-up (including the possibility of sharing with or contracting the service from New Denver); playground upgrade; building relationships with neighbouring local governments; boulevard and Village properties maintenance and improvement; Gallery building (undertake an engineering and feasibility study, with particular attention to furnace, plumbing, and exit stairs); Day Park (upgrading washrooms, locating septic field, installing outdoor electrics); fire hydrants and inspections; sidewalks, streets and lanes assessment (with annual budget allocation for upgrades and maintenance); arena (working with Arena Society to complete renovations); Fingland Cabin area (work with Historical Society and Community Club); and review all leases held on Village owned properties and facilities.

Next priority: Boulevard Bylaw; Community Club storage facility; septic systems (evaluate, locate, maintain); park benches; fire truck and equipment (in conjunction with regional fire service); Public Works shop upgrade (insulation, electrics, efficient use of space); campground (advertise new attendant contract, planning for new washrooms, showers, etc.); beaches and picnic areas (dock repair, signage, swimming raft); Lake Avenue (angle parking, tree planting); chicken bylaw; signage (Day Park, campground, etc.).

Low Priority: Municipal Hall/ Fire Hall; website; bus stop gazebo; community garden and compost project; Dewis Park; additional public washrooms; schedule committee meetings for daytimes.

All undertakings requiring financial commitment from the Village will be discussed in detail at ongoing budget meetings.

Mayor Everett and Administrator Ida reported that they are developing a Towns for Tomorrow grant application, to be submitted immediately, as the Province has announced they are seeking to fund "shovel ready" projects that can be completed quickly. The grant would be for water system upgrades, potentially including fixing the existing storage tank, installing a second storage tank, fixing existing lines, decommissioning obsolete lines, and other related items. Total project cost will be approximately $500,000, with $400,000 coming from Towns for Tomorrow. The Village already has $89,000 Gas Tax Rebate money to use toward this project, and expects to receive another $40-50,000 this year, as well as $17,000 unused from last year's budget that can be brought forward for this project. If approved, this project could start as early as June 1 and be completed in approximately two months.

Because this meeting was held as Committee of the Whole, Village residents in attendance were allowed to participate in discussion, and brought forward some valuable input.

Council will ask Destination Silverton for input on a Lake Avenue beautification plan, and will work closely with Silverton Historical Society and Silverton Community Club on other shared projects.

Silverton council, January 20: Corporal Bowden reports on RCMP activities

by Leah Main

• RCMP Corporal Todd Bowden attended the meeting as a delegation, and reported to council on the Slocan Lake detachment's activities in the last calendar quarter. He said that from October through December the detachment had responded to only six calls in Silverton, one of which was a commercial break-in (which has been resolved), and said this is a pleasantly low rate of crime for a community with a commercial zone and a substantial residential area. He congratulated the community on successful self-policing.

Bowden then reported that the Slocan Lake Detachment now falls under a new, expanded regional administrative area, Kootenay-Boundary Regional RCMP Detachment, which encompasses essentially the same geographic region as IHA (Interior Health). Bowden indicated that this will enable the local detachment to call on more resources, including plainclothes surveillance staff and vehicles, which he anticipated would be used primarily for drug interdiction. Bowden indicated that RCMP interdiction activities here in the past year have resulted in decreased interest in this area on the part of organized crime.

Additionally, both the Traffic Enforcement Integrated Road Safety Unit and a Traffic Services Unit comprised jointly of RCMP and Nelson City Police have been assisting with traffic patrol, resulting in an increased level of enforcement throughout this area. Both council and community members indicated that highway speeding is still an issue, and asked for suggestions of what can be done within Silverton to reduce speed through town. Bowden indicated that, while RCMP will continue to explore traffic enforcement, it seems that the Village is limited to using "environmental design" – visually making the highway through town have more of a sense of being "downtown".

• Bruce Gardiner of the Silverton Historical Society and Vern Hartman representing Silverton Community Club spoke with council about the possibility of developing the area around Fingland Cabin as an expanded display and amenity area, which could be tied in to a walking trail and possibly a second footbridge over Silverton Creek on the east side of the highway. This would include re-designing how the lane is laid out behind the cabin, to increase the usable ground area while maintaining road access to the cabin and to the Village pumphouse, and would require input from residents in the immediate area. Council passed a resolution of agreement in principle to work with the Historical Society and Community Club to plan the development of this area. Funding for such a project would be looked at as a shared responsibility between the two societies and the Village, with Village funding potentially available through the Towns for Tomorrow grant already applied for.

• Public Works has been extremely busy with snow removal over the last couple of weeks, following our record snowfall in early January, as well as keeping equipment repaired and running. Additional staff and contract workers were required for these efforts, and costs are being tracked.

• Mayor Everett reported that the Towns for Tomorrow grant application has been getting positive feedback from the Province, but a decision won't be made on the application till probably the middle of March.

• Councillors Bell and Johnson both attended the Regional District orientation session, and reported that it was extremely informative. Johnson reported that the Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital Board is trying to set a meeting date to discuss emergency service at Slocan Community Health Centre.

• Administrator Junko Ida reported that a meeting is scheduled with Trainer Mechanical for next week regarding the Memorial Hall projects. Approval of a Heritage Legacy Fund grant has been received, in the amount of $19, 934.25 (exclusive of GST) for refinishing the Hall floor, work to be completed by March 31.

• Further to discussion at the January 12 planning meeting (Committee of the Whole), Mayor Everett and Councillor Barber, both members of the Facilities and Recreation committee, proposed that a select committee be appointed to oversee completion of the current hall renovations, within the already established time frame and budget. Council approved appointments of: Councillor Barber (Chair), Junko Ida, Ken Butler, Kerry Heidema, project manager (2010 grant), and Councillor Provan, project manager (kitchen and other renovations). This committee will meet at its earliest possible opportunity to ensure success of these projects.

• Other council committees were asked to set meeting schedules, so that members of the public who wish to attend would be aware of when the meetings will be held.

• Councillor Provan brought forward ongoing discussion regarding the Community Club/ Christmas By The Lake temporary buildings on the gallery lawn. Community Club was asked for a detailed plan of their proposed storage building, to be located in the vicinity of the old recycling building. They will work with administration, and develop a plan to move the temporary buildings as soon as feasible.

• Garbage Bylaw No. 433, 2005 was brought to council for review. After discussion of some options regarding commercial garbage pick-up, council tabled the matter to a later meeting.

• Council approved application for a Village debit card through Kootenay Savings Credit Union, with a spending limit of $3,000 to be held by Administrator Ida and used for Village purchasing when needed.

• Council received a letter from Destination Silverton, renewing the request from last year that a policy protecting lakeshore values and prohibiting rental or sales of houseboats and jet skis be included in the Official Community Plan. This matter was referred to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Silverton mayor's report – Memorial Hall renovations

Many citizens of Silverton have asked me to clarify the source of funding for the ongoing renovations to the Memorial Hall.

In 2006 the Village received approval from the Spirit of 2010 Legacy Fund to make upgrades to the Memorial Hall so it could be used for a venue for folks to view the 2010 Olympics/Paralympics. The upgrades included new washrooms, improved storage, fire suppression (sprinklers), air conditioning, floor refinishing, painting, and an audio/ visual system. The original grant was for $176,000, of which the 2010 contribution was $88,000 and the Village had to provide a matching amount of $88,000. Council agreed at the time we would not use tax dollars to fund our share but would use the proceeds from the sale of land on Leadville Street and our tourism grant.

We quickly learned that we could not do all the planned work with the $176,000 and the project was scaled back. Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall was formed by a group of citizens to raise funds and apply for additional grants to complete the work not covered by the 2010 funding. Friends have been very actively fundraising and were able to raise considerable funds on their own. In addition they obtained Columbia Basin Trust grants for kitchen improvements ($30,000) and a business/marketing plan ($5,000). They were also instrumental in the Village obtaining approximately $16,000 from the Legacy Heritage Fund of British Columbia for fire suppression (sprinklers). Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall are contributing $15,000 to the kitchen improvements and are also paying for painting of the interior.

New tables, chairs and staging were all purchased by the Friends for use by the community.

The Silverton Community Club has offered to paint the exterior of the hall at their expense along with volunteering to help with the removal of the old washrooms and with kitchen improvements.

Yes, the renovations have been ongoing for some time and seem endless, but council has been careful not to use tax dollars for the improvements. The plan is to have the work completed this spring.

Thanks to the partnership of the Village, 2010, CBT, Celebration 150, Heritage Legacy Fund of BC, Silverton Community Club and Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall Society, we will have a vastly improved facility. My hat goes off to all the parties for a job well done.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - Valhalla Fine Arts Society

The Valhalla Fine Arts Society (VFAS) is seeking a part-time **ARTS COORDINATOR**. The position will be responsible to the President of the Society and will work closely with the Managing Director of each of the VFAS Programs. The successful candidate will possess strong communication, organizational and managerial skills. Being an effective and creative problem-solver and a team-player are essential qualities.

The position will involve managing the correspondence, communication, publicity, and promotion of the Society and its programs, the coordination of volunteers, and the oversight of fundraising programs.

Applicants should mail or e-mail a resume and covering letter by February 9th to:
VFAS Board of Directors · Box 163 · Silverton, BC · V0G 2B0 · katrina@redmtn.ca

Thanks...
to all the wonderful volunteers who keep the Rail Trail groomed and set from Crescent Valley to Slocan. We really appreciate it!
– Happy Skiers

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CH. 6 Knowledge	91.7 CBC #1
CH. 7 CTV Vancouver	93.5 KBS Trail
CH. 8 NBC USA	94.3 Country 105
CH. 10 CBS USA	98.3 CBC #2
CH. 11 ABC USA	103.7 Rock 101
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Long overdue protection coming for logging contractors

by Jan McMurray

The Province will re-draft the Woodworkers' Lien Act so that logging contractors are adequately protected in the event they are not paid by a licencee.

"People in the industry are looking for good protection, expecially in challenging economic times," said Miniser of Forests Pat Bell in an interview.

He said that the current act is "outdated and not of any particular value. We want to give logging contractors the same sorts of rights that home builders have."

The new legislation will allow contractors to put a lien on logs they have harvested if they are not paid.

Bell said he would consult with the industry associations during the re-drafting process, and that he expected to table the new legislation in the spring session.

Wayne Lintott of the Interior Loggers Association has been advocating for legislation like this since 1998. "Minister Bell has been one minister we've been able to communicate our message to quite clearly. He understands where we're coming from and is willing to see what can be done to correct it," he said.

Lintott said many contractors had been affected by the lack of an effective Woodworkers' Lien Act in the past when companies went bankrupt. As for the recent case in the Arrow Lakes with the Pope & Talbot bankruptcy, Lintott said, "It's turning out to be a good ending there, but it was a long struggle."

Lintott said payments to P&T contractors were being made "as we speak" and that Minister Bell had announced at the Truck Loggers Association convention in mid-January that contractors would be paid 100% of what was owing them.

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Volunteers for tax preparation needed

submitted by Marilyn Boxwell

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Return (CVITR) program sponsored by Revenue Canada is about to spring into action for the sixth year running.

Mike Thomson will offer a one-day training workshop for those who want to volunteer to help persons of any age to complete and file their income tax return.

Last year the income ceiling for this free, confidential service was set at $25,000 for individuals, $30,000 for couples and families, plus $2,000 per child. More than 100 people from throughout the district were helped last year.

Filing an annual tax return is strongly advised. Some low-income individuals who don't have to pay income tax believe this process is not necessary. Unfortunately, if they don't file they may not receive certain financial benefits to which they are entitled, or may be overpaying their medical services premiums. Unless your income is entered into the system, you have no proof of eligibility for a range of financial benefits and tax breaks.

The training workshop will be held in Nakusp February 12 from 9 am to 3 pm at Robertson United Church hall. The session is offered free of charge and participants will receive updated tax return guidelines and related information. Bring your lunch and also a pencil and calculator.

To register for the workshop call Revenue Canada toll free, 1-888-322-3622. A volunteer representative from the Silverton and/or New Denver areas would be greatly appreciated.

For further information contact the CVITR district co-ordinator Marilyn Boxwell at 265-0075.

Summit Lake Racers rip Whitewater

submitted

The course was tight. The snow was firm. The sun flashed off the peaks surrounding the bowls as the Summit Lake Racers challenged rival teams from Red Mountain, Salmo, and host Whitewater.

January 18 was the first race ever for many of our young skiers, often stimulated by their first chairlift ride. Rhys McLeod got pumped up waiting in the starting gate. Rebecca Nolan commented that it was "difficult going so fast" with so many turns, while Dawson Bone was excited, preferring his first run.

Colby Mackintosh marvelled at the "cool red snow" marking the finish line. Jordan Reimer's two successful runs preceded a short afternoon of bumps and trails. Jared Groenhuysen, voicing the feelings of racers, parents, and coaches, "would like to ski here forever!"

The Rio Tinto Alcan Nancy Greene Ski League's first zone race of the year was a success. The course and logistics were well-managed by the Whitewater team.

All of our 'E' level Summit Lake Racers competed. There was exceptional parental support, and thanks to outstanding volunteer coaches Frances Swan, Barb Lewis, Nicole Nicholson, Roger Waterfield, and Dan Nolan, our racers were prepared.

The 2009 season is off to a great start.

One of the Summit Lake Racer teams at Whitewater on January 18.

Donation store re-opens February 2

submitted

The Donation Store in New Denver will re-open February 2 after a one-month shutdown so the volunteers could do some serious culling. White elephants (such as outdated computer and unsafe electrical equipment), decrepit household wares and unwearable clothing of several decades past, occupy more hours than the store has staff for.

"We appreciate the many donations of clean, useable, and invaluable 'stuff'," says Carol Bell, "but discarding the dross plays a larger part than we would like."

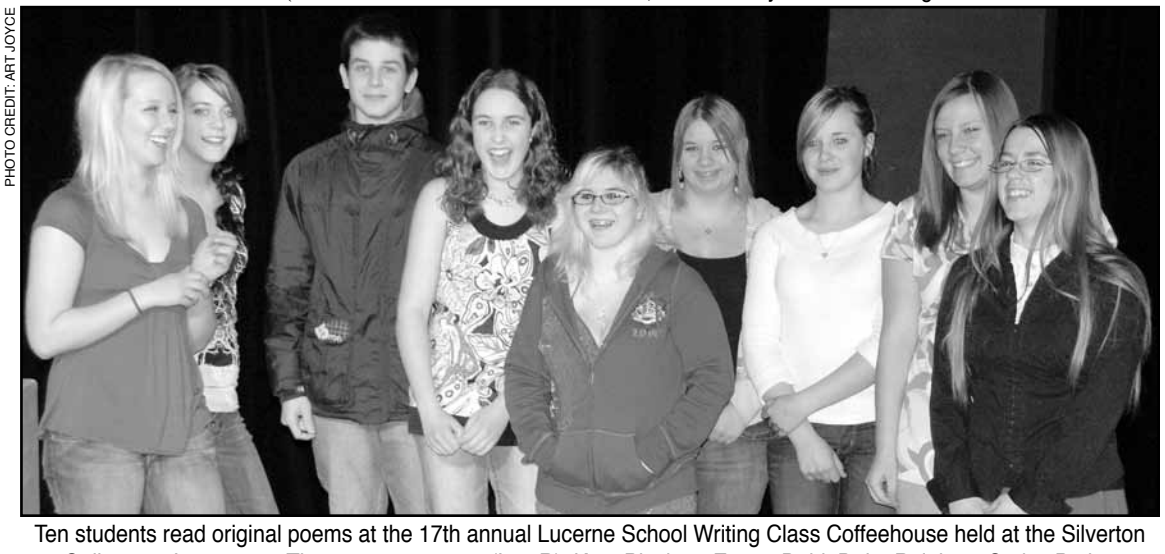
Volunteers spend hours sorting, organizing and categorizing donation. Bell calls the store "our El Dorado, filled with gems and treasures."

The Bosun Hall is the beneficiary of this gold mine. Revenues from the store enable LACE (Lucerne Association for Community Education) to upgrade the kitchen, the heaters and lighting, and take care of many other maintenance concerns. Rentals are held to affordable rates while LACE works towards supporting youth and other vulnerable individuals.

At the AGM on February 4, at 7 pm, members will establish the process for the Great Front Wall Project. "We need the help of those committed to community building, both in the donation store and at the Bosun Hall," says Bell. "Will you lend a hand?"

The Vallican Whole was packed January 24 for the Locavores' Feast, a potluck where all the food and drink came from within 100 miles. The feast was followed by 'Six Slocan Valley Minutes.' Here, singer Christine 'Snowfaery', about to run overtime, is warned by a hook-wielding Warren Macdonald.

PHOTO CREDIT: ART JOYCE



Ten students read original poems at the 17th annual Lucerne School Writing Class Coffeehouse held at the Silverton Gallery on January 22. The young poets are (L to R): Kate Plaskett, Emma Dahl, Dahv Reinhart, Sadye Butler, Stephanie Reder, Michelle Magnuson, Briana Ward, Ashley Bernhof, Rachel Hodsall (Erin Burkholder missing).

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CALL FOR PROJECT SUBMISSIONS
Columbia Basin Trust
Community Initiatives & Affected Areas Funding Programs

The Regional District of Central Kootenay is accepting proposals for funding consideration from the Community Initiatives & Affected Areas programs sponsored by the Columbia Basin Trust. Funding for **2009** is to be used for new initiatives or the enhancement of existing programs and is open to all non-profit/not-for-profit community groups.

Application forms are available at the Regional District of Central Kootenay main office, at all member municipal offices, or can be downloaded from our website at www.rdck.bc.ca/corporate/grants/cbt.html.

Deadline for submissions is 4:30 p.m. PST on March 19, 2009.

Completed Applications must be submitted to:

Community Initiatives & Affected Areas Program
Attn: Trish Gerald
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive
Nelson, BC V1L 5R4
or by Fax: (250) 352-9300
or by email: tgerald@rdck.bc.ca

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

'No Excuse' and 'Lazy Poker' to rock 17th annual Winter Blues Boogie

submitted

Winter officially ends at 8:30 pm, February 7, when the Silverton Memorial Hall doors are unlocked. Frantic boogie fans, who have travelled from far and near and lined up outside for an hour, will scramble in to secure a table. The evening's first act, The Lazy Poker Blues Band, will be tuned up for a blistering set of can't-sit-down rhythm and blues, and memories of a long, snow-filled winter will be banished.

Just when the crowd thinks it can't stand the pace, No Excuse, who shared the stage with Dr. Fun last year, will stand and deliver two more sets of booty-rockin' boogie. These guys have been at it since the early '80s when they blew out the rafters at Matthew Hudson's barn dance as 'The Albert Fick Review.' Along the way they have picked up a couple more players, enjoyed notoriety, held three funerals for Albert and are now enjoying a huge resurgence of popularity, playing halls and ski lodges across BC the past few years.

As always, this event is a community fundraiser. Proceeds this year go to the preschool and to Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall. Refreshments will be available; no minors, please. Tickets are $15, and we've sold out for the past 13 years. Outlets are: Nelson: Hemp&Co; Valley: Winlaw Minimart; Nakusp: Broadway Deli Bistro; New Denver: Mountainberry, Appletree; Silverton: Cup and Saucer, SBS. Lodging info: 250-358-7765.

Enthusiastic dance fans have been coming from Washington State and southern BC for the past 16 years for what we call 'The Cure.' A winter of doldrums is erased in five hours of non-stop R&B dance tunes. This year, we have chosen two of the best bands in BC to feed the fever and starve the cold: Lazy Poker has been keeping the dance floor packed at Nelson's Royal Blues Bar this winter, and came so highly recommended that we just had to include them in the mayhem.

Aryn Sheriff is Lazy Poker's woman out front with the big voice, who can serve up Janice Joplin with a side of Big Mama Thornton, or rip you apart with a soulful heart crusher. Bill Lynch, the band's leader, hails from Dublin, Ireland, and has played lead guitar and done vocals in blues bars from Europe to Turkey. Mirek Hladik, the ace on the harmonica, is from Czechoslovakia, where the blues was a form of protest against the former Stalinist regime. Versatile Jack Olson has been spanking the ivories of his keyboard in the rock, blues and jazz circles in Edmonton, home of one of Canada's most happening music scenes, while bassist Randy Leach, also an Albertan refugee, has played with numerous bands, revues and duets around Calgary. Steve Wilson is a local drummer who got his formal training in Nelson's prestigious school of music. He also plays with a variety of other acts here. Lazy Poker comes with its own noisy following, which will pack the floor while the band is tuning up. This will be a fine addition to the raucous Boogie crowd that has been coming here forever.

No Excuse now features veteran Bill Wilson on skins, with John Cullen and Dennis Turner, the best damn guitar duo anywhere. Versatile Bob Kinnear can tickle every last note and phrase out of his keyboard, and Ken Turner is the Big Guy out front with the large voice and the upside-down, left handed bass. You absolutely must check out this monster. He's been playing for 40 years, and has opened for the Animals, Jefferson Airplane, the Byrds and a long list of others. You'd be hard pressed to find a more complete bass player.

Long, tall Jan Dehaan will be wailing away on his sax to complete the sextet, but as usual, you never know who else will fill in on a few numbers. All but Ken are ex-Nightcrawlers, so obviously they are ready and more than willing to keep the party rolling until the wax is stripped off the dance floor and their sound man's brand new system is pleading for relief.

RDCK building bylaw to be reviewed following complaints

by Jan McMurray

A review of the RDCK building bylaw may be coming down the pipe, following a discussion about Notices on Title at the Rural Affairs committee meeting of January 16.

The RDCK board routinely directs staff to file Notices on Title when RDCK residents do not obtain building permits or are otherwise in contravention of the building bylaw.

At the meeting, there were seven Notices on Title on the agenda – six of them were in Area H/the Slocan Valley.

Area H Director Walter Popoff told the committee that he received many complaints about the building bylaw during his election campaign. He wanted to refer all six items back to the building department to give him time to become familiar with the building bylaw.

This did not go over well with committee members. Several directors spoke up to tell Popoff that the job of directors was to govern, not to micromanage, and that it was staff's job to administer bylaws. Director Cunningham added that the bylaw clearly requires filing a Notice on Title in these situations or else be open to liability. However, the committee agreed to refer back one of the six items to the building department. They also asked staff to prepare a report for the board outlining why the RDCK would want to retain the bylaw and why they might want to change it.

The one case that was referred back to the building department was discussed in detail because the Slocan Valley property owner attended the meeting to object to the filing of a Notice on Title.

The resident said the reason he did not obtain building permits for a greenhouse and a shed, both built on blocks, was ignorance. He explained that he had spent the last 10 years in Alberta, where building permits are not necessary for buildings on blocks.

He went on to tell the committee that he felt he did not need a permit because his land is in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and he is in the process of achieving farm status. Under section 5 of the building bylaw, no permit is necessary for small buildings (less than 430 square feet) on farm status land or a small greenhouse (less than 300 square feet).

He also pointed out that the cost of the building permit would come to about one third the cost of building the greenhouse. "This would discourage anyone from building a greenhouse in the first place," he said.

Finally, the resident said he feels that the enforcement of the bylaw is somewhat unfair. He said local people had told him that he was unlucky because his property was on the highway, thus more exposed to the building inspector. Also, a previous owner of his property constructed a building and did not get a building permit or follow the building code, and no Notice on Title was placed on the property as a result.

"The enforcement of the bylaw is somewhat unequal, and since it's a shed and a greenhouse I don't think this is following the spirit of the rules. I wouldn't build a house without a permit. There was no ill will intended," he said.

Senior Building Official Max Hoedeman provided the committee with a written report outlining the background of this case. Between May 8 and November 14 last year, a Stop Work notice was posted on both the greenhouse and the shed, and four Stop Work letters were sent. No response was received until January 1 this year, when the resident wrote to say he objected to the filing of a Notice on Title and would like to speak to it at the Rural Affairs committee meeting.

The resident claimed that he called the RDCK office when he got a Stop Work notice, but did not receive a call back. He said he went to the website to check the bylaw, and did not see anything that applied specifically to greenhouses. He said that the "unanimous view" of neighbouring local people was to just continue building, "so I did."

RDCK directors told the resident that ignorance of the law is no excuse and that he had plenty of time to contact the RDCK building department since the first Stop Work notice was posted on May 8. They also explained to him that a Notice on Title was not very serious – it allows the buildings to remain and does not usually affect the property owner until he goes to sell the property and the potential buyer is uncomfortable with the notice. Currently, the fee to have the notice removed is $750.

The board decided to give him 60 days to contact the building department and straighten things out. He said he would obtain building permits if they were required.

Free cross-country skiing lessons next month

submitted

The Hills Nordic Ski Club is hosting free ski lessons on February 15 for area children and adults, at 10 am and 12:30 pm. Call 358-2660 for details and location.

Come enjoy winter and support the expansion of activities offered by the club, including regularly groomed tracks, a trade-up ski program, and the restart of a junior ski program. Cross-country skiers from Nakusp to Slocan are encouraged to find some skis and come out.

• On March 7 there will be a ski party with games, relay races, and food. Celebrate the last days of snow. The sun has been ordered up for this event, but be prepared for any weather. Location will be the Hills Ball Park.

Hills Nordic Ski Club welcomes new members to help promote fun and fitness programs for all ages. Donations of ski equipment for kids, money, or in-kind assistance are greatly appreciated. For memberships and event information contact Kip Drobish at 358-2660 or kipandmarcy@netidea.com.

Area H North residents invited to OCP meeting

by Jan McMurray

A public meeting on the Area H North Official Community Plan (OCP) is happening on January 31 at the Bosun Hall in New Denver from 1 pm to 3 pm.

"I would like as many Area H North residents as possible to come out and provide their input," said Area H Director Walter Popoff.

The OCP has received first reading. It must go through two more readings, a public hearing, and be approved by the Province before it is adopted. The public hearing will likely take place in March.

Director Popoff says that at the January 31 meeting, RDCK planner, Meeri Durand, will explain how the OCP will affect property owners. There will also be a brief explanation of what a public hearing entails. Comments from the public will be the most important part of the meeting.

"We will try to set a timeline so everyone that wants to has a chance to comment," said Popoff.

The OCP process in Area H North has been ongoing since 2006, initiated under the leadership of former Area H Director Don Munro. Since the current director, Walter Popoff, is just newly elected, he wanted one more public meeting to guage the opinions of his northern constituents on planning before moving forward with the legal process involved in adopting the OCP.

Popoff was elected in November on an anti-planning platform, and his southern constituents rejected the continuation of the Area H South OCP process in a referendum.

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Kootenay Restorative Justice
is hosting a
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY
February 27, 28 and March 1st in Nakusp
(Friday evening at 4 pm is an information session, everyone is welcome)
*Restorative Justice principles focus on repairing the harm done when an offence occurs. The facilitator training course give the skills necessary to lead victim-offender healing circles and also skills valuable for work, volunteer and daily life experiences.
Registration is required by February 20th for catered meal planning. Donation to the course is gratefully accepted. Call Suzanne at 250-226-7942 or Carol at 250-358-2125 or email krjustice@wegcss.org

Coffeehouse musical comedy benefit for Rosebery Parklands a smash hit

by Art Joyce

Religion, Politics and Neuroanatomy is an unlikely title for a musical comedy show, except in the capable hands of Kevin Murphy, who can turn the lyric to any song into a wry comment on the political landscape. The Silverton Gallery was jammed to standing room only Friday, January 23 with an audience eager to be shed of its January blues and help raise money for the Rosebery Parklands Society legal defense fund. The show raised over $1,000 for the cause.

The subtitle was *Putting the Duh Back in Fundamentalism* and Murphy's wit ranged from piercingly subtle to punning groaners. Although cheap shots, below-the-belt jokes and off-pitch singing were plentiful, Murphy was careful to be gracious to the outgoing leader of American Empire, saying George Bush had done the best he could. He sang Bush into the twilight of history with the Straw Man's wistful song from the *Wizard of Oz*, *If I Only Had a Brain*. An early highlight of the show was our own 'Paul Schaeffer Trio' (Michael Dorsey, Al Arnett and Dominic Raso) doing their version of The Band's classic *The Weight*, with the refrain, "Rosebery ain't Alberta, and it sure ain't Calgary."

Murphy turned Obama's ('Obi-wan') spirit of inclusiveness on its head by telling jokes and singing ditties that were equal opportunity jibes at Muslim, Christian, Jew and New Agers. Not content merely to criticize, Murphy chose songs that "accentuate the positive" in human nature. The show brought everyone on board with singalong numbers like *Sunny Side of Life*, *Swinging on Ishtar* (the ancient Sumerian goddess of love and war) and the Bellamy Brothers' *There's A Reason*. That song's refrain, "Just let your love flow, like a mountain stream…" was augmented by an audience chorus of the meditative chant "Aum."

Guest performers included Eric Faulks with his version of the Ian Tamblyn song *Black Spruce*, Richard Burton's deft keyboard stylings, and the epic, Dylanesque songs of Soleil. Judy Maltz got some unplanned laughs as she tried to extricate herself from a tangled mishap of sheet music and scotch tape. She handled it with grace and humour and performed a rousing Broadway version of Ann Mortifee's feminist *Creation Song* at the piano. Lilliana Wright and Jeremy Down pulled off a slide-guitar, blues mama number written by Wright called *Looks Like Rain* that shook the house.

The political theatre became literal with the performance of several skits. *Dry United* took as its premise the discovery of a cannabis crop found drying in Silverton's United Church about two years ago. The straight-laced church ladies and the minister played by Hank Hastings experience a whole new take on revelations when a certain type of brownie is mistakenly consumed. The results were hilarious and Julia Greenlaw was a revelation in talent with her acting, singing and dancing. RCMP officer Surwinder of the North added a comic touch, and Norma Kilpatrick's jailbird set the 'joint' on fire with a Rastafarian prayer.

The second half of the program took its inspiration from the Reverend Monty Python, with an inspired take on the classic cheese shop skit, retitled *Cheeses of Nazareth* and milking the 'Lord Cheeses' pun to the hilarious limit. Hastings and Susie O'Donnell pulled it off with consummate skill and led the choir in a spirited rendition of *Every Sperm is Sacred* from Monty Python's *Meaning of Life*.

Lilliana Wright and The Deciders featuring MC Jake closed the show with rousing energy and professional polish, featuring several of Wright's original compositions in a genre she calls "socially conscious hip-hop with gospel influences." Howard Bearham's saxophone wizardry spiced the mix seamlessly. Wright's voice is soulful with rich depth and control, and her lyrics prove that poetry still has a role to play in social evolution.

PHOTO CREDIT: ART JOYCE

Kevin Murphy, director/performer for the fundraising coffeehouse held to benefit the Rosebery Parklands Society, plays 'devotional ukelele music' satirizing the religion and politics of the times.

PHOTO CREDIT: ART JOYCE

Kevin Murphy's coffeehouse featured Shelley Thring and Julia Greenlaw playing church ladies in 'Dry United,' a skit based on the true incident of the discovery of a marijuana crop drying in Silverton's United church in May 2006.

The sunny side of global warming

submitted

Acclaimed author and journalist Chris Turner reads from his best-selling book, *The Geography of Hope: A Tour of the World We Need*, at the Nakusp Public Library February 13 at 7 pm.

Named one of *The Globe and Mail*'s best books of 2007, *The Geography of Hope* is a chronicle of Turner's eye-opening experiences during a yearlong trip with his family. He set out in search of the positive side of climate change in response to the fierce warnings and grim predictions of the environmental movement. The people and projects documented in Turner's book all point to the bright light at the end of this very long tunnel.

Turner is no climate change denier. Rather, in his travels he sought out the next generation of political, economic, social, and spiritual institutions that could provide the global foundations for a sustainable future. If we aim to survive, he says, "the only way we'll make the shift is by truly believing we can do it."

This reading is sponsored by the Kootenay Library Federation and the Nakusp Public Library, in partnership with Selkirk College.

CBT Community Initiatives/Affected Area funding – Nakusp voting questionnaire

by Jan McMurray

Results are in from a questionnaire circulated on Nakusp's voting day last year for Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and Affected Area funding.

Mayor Hamling said that only Nakusp residents were to fill out the questionnaire, but that some Area K residents did as well.

The questionnaire states: "Nakusp now receives $108,000 in funding and with that in mind, we are asking you for direction on future votes."

The grand majority wants to continue with the large and small categories vote. There were 206 votes in favour and 25 against.

Most (141 people) thought that some money should be set aside each year for a large project – 80 people thought not. Of those who were in favour, 22 suggested $10,000, two suggested $15,000, 24 suggested $20,000 and six suggested $30,000.

Only 26 thought 100% of the funding should be set aside for a large project – 202 people voted against this.

Asked if the voting age, currently 19, should be lowered to 16, 56 people voted in favour and 180 voted against.

There were 160 people who supported the same projects coming forward more than twice; 56 people did not support this.

SPIRIT OF BC WEEK
EVENTS IN NAKUSP

Friday, February 6th, 5:30 pm

Spirit of BC Week Celebration of Arts, Culture and Heritage - A Night At The Opera
Nakusp Auditorium
5:30 pm - recognition of Nakusp's Arts, Culture and Heritage on display for all to enjoy in the Auditorium.
6:00 pm - unveiling of Winter Sports Sculpture in Arena Lobby
6:30 pm - a program of performing artists with a windup wine and cheese chat called "A Night at the Opera" until 7:30.
Opera dress is optional. Free Admission.

Saturday February 7th - Sunday, February 8th

Nakusp Ice Devils and the Spirit of 2010 Present: Action Hockey!!!
5&6 year olds 7&8 year olds
First puck drop Saturday Feb 7th, time tba
Come out and have a Rink Burger!
Support your local junior skaters!!!
Chances to win: Loonie Stick, Music Fest Tickets, 50/50 Draws

Tuesday, February 10th, 7:00 pm

For The Love of Poetry
Nakusp Public Library invites the public to enjoy an evening of poems from around the world, read by local readers. Guitarist Caelen Larocque will provide music, and a delicious array of refreshments will be served. As well, some lucky person will win the door prize of the anthology "Ten Poems to Change Your Life".
Everyone is welcome and discussions are encouraged!

Thursday, February 12th, 5:00 pm

Come and make some noise at the Arena!
Celebrating the One Year Countdown to the Vancouver 2010 Olympics!

Nakusp Minor Hockey hosts some fun minor hockey action and cake!

Spirit of BC Week
one year countdown
FEBRUARY 6-14, 2009

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Health co-op forming in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

A group of people in the Nakusp area is in the beginning stages of forming a health co-op. Beverley Darnell is one of the movers and shakers behind the initiative. "The idea behind the co-op is that it will offer natural health practitioners a place to work out of," explained Darnell. "We're hoping to have a naturopathic doctor, a nutritionist, an acupuncturist, a registered massage therapist – a well rounded choice of complementary medicine."

Darnell says the co-op will deliver the message that people need to have as many choices as possible for health care, both natural and mainstream. She says her family has put together a "health team" that includes a general practitioner, a naturopath, an acupuncturist and a chiropractor. "We all need to work together. We need to take responsibility for our health and not hold the government accountable for it. We can't afford to not go this route."

Darnell says the local group has 12 members so far, with three of them willing to sit on the steering committee. "We plan to do a membership drive, and get our feelers out there a bit more – can we find that need in our community for alternative care?"

Darnell says the group is pursuing one possible opportunity for a building in downtown Nakusp to house the co-op, but this is in the preliminary stages.

The group invited Doug Stoddart from the Nelson health co-op to come and speak to them on January 15 at Selkirk College. Darnell said the meeting was very informative, and it was good to hear from someone who had already formed a co-op similar to the one the Nakusp group has in mind.

The group has also thought about being part of the solution for the Nakusp Hot Springs, "but right now, we're focused on setting up the co-op. We want the co-op to go ahead, regardless of what happens at the hot springs," said Darnell.

She says the group has received pledges totalling $301,000 to go towards developing the idea of holding workshops and retreats at the hot springs. Also, a person who has the qualifications to run the hot springs has come forward. "At this point, it is a dream – a possibility – for the co-op to hold workshops and retreats at the hot springs," she said. Contact Darnell at 265-9977 or bbdarnel@telus.net.

Celebrate Spirit of BC Week in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp has lots in store for Spirit of BC Week, February 6-14.

The Nakusp Spirit of BC Community Committee has partnered with the Arrow Lakes Arts Council (ALAC), Minor Hockey and the Nakusp Public Library to offer a week full of special events in celebration of Spirit of BC Week. This year marks the one-year countdown to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

On Friday, February 6 at the arena auditorium, there will be a celebration of Nakusp's arts, culture and heritage from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm called 'A Night at the Opera.' There will be displays by local groups, recognition of local artists, a short program of performing arts, and a wine and cheese, where everyone can learn about the opera. Opera dress is optional and admission is free. The highlight of the evening will be the unveiling of the Winter Sports Sculpture in the arena lobby. Local metalwork artist Kate Tupper was commissioned to create this piece.

On Saturday and Sunday, head down to the arena for some action hockey by local junior players. There will be 50/50 draws and chances to win a loonie stick and Music Fest tickets. Come out and have a rink burger, and support our local junior hockey players.

The Nakusp Public Library will host 'For the Love of Poetry' on Tuesday, February 10 at 7 pm. The library invites the pubic to enjoy an evening of poems from around the world, read by local readers. Guitartist Caelen Larocque will provide music, and a delicious array of refereshments will be served. The door prize is the anthology *Ten Poems to Change your Life*.

On Thursday, February 12, Nakusp Minor Hockey will host some fun hockey action and cake at 5:30 pm at the arena. Organizers expect a lot of noise as we celebrate the one-year countdown to the Vancouver 2010 Olympics at this event.

Nakusp library to host poetry evening

submitted

The Nakusp Public Library, committed to constant fine-tuning and upgrading its collection, is in the process of enlarging its poetry section. Head librarian Evelyn Goodell has ordered several new anthologies and collections of new major poets. The whole section will be revamped to encourage patrons to browse the shelves, stretch themselves a little and see what poetry might have to offer them.

To introduce the new volumes, the library is hosting a special evening, *For the Love of Poetry*. The public is encouraged to come and enjoy an evening of poems from around the world, read by local readers. Guitarist Caelen Larocque will provide music for the evening and a delicious array of refreshments will be on hand.

As well, some lucky person will win the door prize of the anthology *Ten Poems to Change Your Life*. Everyone is welcome and discussions are encouraged!

The poetry evening is made possible by a 2010 Legacies Now grant in partnership with the Province of BC and the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy.

Rotary dinner theatre will have audience howling

by Katrine Campbell

Nakusp & District Rotary Club presents its ever-popular dinner theatre February 13 and 14.

Bedside Manor is "a tune-filled romp through the wackiest hospital around. Dr. Fred tunefully tells about his longing to be the hospital's head honcho. Dr. Huggems may be heading back to his job at the car wash if he can't stop passing out when he sees blood. The Band Aides, those lovable volunteers, have their eyes fixed on their favourite TV program, 'Of Human Bandage,' while a film crew roams through the halls making a documentary, 'This Was Your Life'."

The cast of 25, directed by Michelle Williams, includes Rachel Hughes as Dr. Jekyll, Dan Nolan and Kori-Lynn Crosby as the interns Dr. Huggems and Dr. Sweets, and Darryl Smolik as Nurse DeFarge.

The dinner menu this year is roast beef, potatoes and gravy, veggies, salad and dessert.

Tickets are $35 each, available at Hub International Barton Insurance.

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The Rotary Club of Nakusp

is accepting Nominations for 2008 Citizen of the Year in 3 categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Lifetime achievement
- Youth Citizen of the Year

Please include as much supporting data as possible with your nomination.

Deadline for nominations - March 21, 2009

Submit nominations to:
Nakusp Rotary Citizen of the Year Committee
General Delivery
Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0

Nakusp & District Rotary Club presents its 11th Annual Dinner Theatre

Bedside Manor

A hilarious spoof in a hospital setting

February 13 & 14, 2009

Don't disappoint your Valentine!
Get your tickets today!

Tickets are $35.00 each, available at Hub International Barton Insurance Brokers, 202 Broadway, Nakusp
Starting December 8, 2008

For the Love of Poetry...

An evening dedicated to poetry

Everyone is cordially invited to listen to poems from around the world.

- Music by guitarist Caelen Larocque
- Delicious refreshments

at Nakusp Public Library
Tuesday, February 10th at 7 pm

This event is in cooperation with the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and is made possible by a 2010 Legacies Now grant in partnership with the Province of BC.

cbal Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

Spirit of BC Week one year countdown FEBRUARY 6-14, 2009

2010 LEGACIES NOW

Residents want winter access to Arrow Lakes boat ramps

by Jan McMurray

Boat ramps at Burton, Fauquier, Edgewood and MacDonald Creek Park are snowed in and residents are not happy about it. They feel that BC Hydro is obligated to make sure they can access the boat ramps year-round.

Since 2006, when BC Hydro was ordered to provide access to the Arrow Lakes reservoir via boat ramps, residents have been through a public consultation process with BC Hydro about boat ramp improvements. People who attended the public meetings are under the impression that BC Hydro was striving for year-round usage of the ramps.

When residents complained to Area K (Arrow Lakes) Director Paul Peterson about the lack of snow removal at the ramps, he contacted Jennifer Walker-Larsen of BC Hydro. Unhappy with her response, Peterson took it to the RDCK board. The board is going to write a letter to the Comptroller of Water Rights, asking him to order BC Hydro to provide year-round boat access to the reservoir.

In an interview, Walker-Larsen pointed out that winter boat access is available at the Nakusp launch and the Fauquier ferry landing, as in past years. She said there has never been winter access to the BC Hydro ramps in Burton, Fauquier and Edgewood, to her knowledge.

BC Parks owns the existing ramps at Burton, Fauquier, Edgewood and MacDonald Creek, and is responsible for their day-to-day maintenance, while BC Hydro is responsible for their structural maintenance, she explained.

"The day-to-day operations will continue to be the responsibility of BC Parks [after BC Hydro has made the boat ramp improvements] and as far as I'm aware, the ramps have never been made available in winter," said Walker-Larsen. She added, "BC Hydro doesn't maintain any boat ramps anywhere in the winter, to my knowledge. BC Hydro believes that providing access to boat ramps in winter conditions poses an unacceptable level of safety risk to ramp users."

She said BC Hydro has committed to improving access to the Arrow Lakes Reservoir as recommended by the Columbia River Water Use Plan and clause m requirements of the water licence. "The intent is to improve reservoir access during the summer recreational boat season and in the case of the new low level Burton boat ramp, improve access during the shoulder season," she said.

Walker-Larsen said BC Hydro is currently focusing on the planned boat ramp improvements. She indicated that by talking about snow removal before the improvements were done was "getting a little ahead of ourselves."

BC Hydro is targeting the spring of 2009 to start construction of planned boat ramp improvements at Fauquier and MacDonald Creek Park, but does not yet know whether reservoir levels will be low enough. For the new low-level ramp south of Burton, BC Hydro is working on the property transfer and required authorizations.

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents

In performance at the
BONNINGTON ARTS CENTRE

OPERA WITH A TWIST & A KISS

With Paul and Melina Moore

Friday, Feb. 6th at 8:00 pm

Tickets are $27 Adults and $22 Seniors (60 and over)
Students $10.00 (17 & under)

Concession is included in ticket price!

Tickets available at the Broadway Deli or at the door

Doors open at 7:30 pm.

Hospitality Host:
The Old Grey Barn

"A Night at the Opera" wine and cheese Social and Music Chat at the Nakusp Arena's Auditorium from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

AXEL

You can see the intelligence and love in his eyes. Axel just wants to be your boy. Are you the right family for this 7 month old neutered male Staffie cross? Please call 250-354-7800 for more information or visit www.homes4animals.com

www.homes4animals.com

Opera With a Twist and a Kiss

submitted

On Saturday, February 7, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents the third concert in its concert series. Paul and Melina Moore's *Opera With a Twist and a Kiss* has been delighting fans with their love for music, mayhem and one another. The couple are "visually appealing, vocally stunning," and this duo performs with "dynamic energy from beginning to end."

These Juilliard-trained vocalists deliver their music with wit and charm in a program that opera and musical theatre aficionados won't want to miss. Prepare to be delighted, moved, riveted and reminded that the music of love makes for an extraordinary show. *Opera with a Twist and a Kiss* includes everything from opera to Broadway and beyond – tunes from Phantom of the Opera, Carousel, La Boheme, Rigoletto and more.

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council plans a gala kickoff to the 2009 season. In a celebration of Arts, Heritage and Culture (A Spirit of BC Week Event), everyone is invited to *A Night at the Opera*, a wine and cheese social and music chat, to be held from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, at the arena auditorium, prior to the concert.

In keeping with the spirit of celebration, attendees are encouraged to wear 'opera dress' or to come costumed as one of their favourite opera characters.

Tickets are available at the Broadway Deli until 4 pm, then they will be available at the door of the arena auditorium during the reception. If there are any left, they will be at the Bonnington when the doors open at 7:30 pm.

The same performance will be presented at the Langham in Kaslo on Friday, February 6.

Phone: 250-265-2141
Toll free: 1-877-265-5565
nakusp@nakuspmusicfest.ca

Looking for the Nakusp Music Fest 2009 EMCEE!!
Are you outgoing, enthusiastic and organized?
We are looking for an energetic & reliable individual to emcee this year's festival.
Submit a 3 – 10 minute video showcasing your emcee skills
No previous experience necessary! Deadline March 1
Competition is open to locals and out-of-towners.
Must be 19 or older to apply.

Wanted: Earth Committee Supervisor
Nakusp Music Fest is committed to making the festival environmentally friendly.
If you are a reliable person who works well with others, we would welcome your involvement.
Together we can come up with solutions to make the festival greener.
Please drop off your resume at the Music Fest Office, 619 Broadway Street, with a cover letter indicating how and why you would like to get involved.
Volunteer position with supervisor benefits.

Nakusp Music Fest – July 17, 18, 19, 2009
Volunteer position with benefits:
Transport Drivers for Hospitality and Backstage Equipment:
Duties to include:
- Running Errands, Hotel runs, Possible Airport Pick Ups,
- Transporting equipment between two stages
- Must have respect for privacy and positive attitude
- Must have copy of Driver's Abstract
- For passenger transport you must have a valid Class 4 Drivers License
- All other transport must have a Class 5 Drivers License

Nakusp youth centre revival in the works

by Jan McMurray

Plans are shaping up to revive the youth centre in Nakusp.

Jason Rogers from the Straight Arrow Youth Op Society (SAYOPS) attended the January 13 council meeting to ask about the possibility of operating the youth centre in the arena building. Council gave the proposal approval in principle.

Rogers said that they were "still battling with the insurance company" after the fire that destroyed the Green Door building in March 2006. The Green Door housed the youth centre and a few other youth oriented enterprises, including a bowling alley and pizzeria, for a tragically short time before it burned down.

Rogers said the society, which is carrying a substantial mortgage on the Green Door property, is looking at selling the land, clearing the mortgage, and taking the proceeds and the insurance claim to build a new youth centre.

Mayor Hamling said that the youth missed the centre, and that it was imperative to remove the Green Door building, as it is "an eyesore" and "there are some real issues with it." She said that with approval from council, the group can move forward with demolishing the burnt building and putting the land up for sale.

SAYOPS representatives have looked at the arena building with Village staff and see two possible spaces for the centre – the flat area above the curling rink lounge where the second storey was never extended over the building, or the space above the mechanical room.

On the question of ownership, CAO Lafleur explained that the Village would have to own the youth centre space if it were in the Village-owned arena building, as the Village would have to assume liability. He said the Village would build the addition in partnership with the youth group and lease it back to them.

Rogers indicated that this arrangement would be agreeable to the society.

Council directed staff to have a structural engineer verify that a room could be built over the curling rink lounge.

Edgewood Women's Institute report

submitted

Since it is a new year we want people to know the Edgewood–Inonoaklin Women's Institute is still active, but still badly in need of new members to help make a difference in our world.

This past year we have been able to accomplish many things: continue to support the Edgewood clinic, reading centre and community club; sponsor an annual anti-litter poster contest at the school; knit blankets for the homeless; crochet lap robes for the seniors and baby blankets for the nursery at Vernon Hospital; deliver shoe boxes for 'Operation Christmas Child'; donate personal items to the Nakusp Safe House.

In conjunction with the Federated WI we have made quilts, toques, baby sweaters and many warm items to be delivered to the needy of communities in northern Canada; donated to a project of the international WI, which is a food supplement for undernourished children from the makers of Nutella.

Future activities include celebrating our 100-year anniversary with BCWI, hosting the spring convention of the North Okanagan/Shuswap District, and raising money to help with the expansion of the BC Children's Hospital. The goal is to raise $100 per provincial member.

We write many letters to address concerns, e.g. the decision by the University of BC board of governors to eliminate or greatly reduce the UBC farmlands.

Edgewood women, come be our guest, enjoying our friendly group, at any meeting the first Thursday of each month. Meetings are held in homes; call 269-7314 at any time to find out where the next one will be.

The executive is: Ella Spence, president; Lois Wood, vice-president; Rachel Eckert, secretary; Penelope Penner, treasurer; Teresa Nesbitt, director.

EVOLUTION BOUTIQUE

February Clearance SALE
Feb 3-28

Select Birkenstocks - 20% off
ALL ecco shoes - 25% off
ALL Jewellery - 15% off
Misc. Items - 20-50% off

Quilt Fabric Specials

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(Behind CIBC)
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Nakusp council, January 13: Geothermal systems for arena discussed

by Jan McMurray

• Just back from a two-day trip visiting arenas around BC with Arena Parks Manager Gerry Little, Trevor Shephard of Delterra Engineering attended as a delegation to update council on the arena and water projects.

An $885,000 grant has just been announced for a more efficient heating system for the building. Shephard showed a PowerPoint that illustrated several different types of geothermal systems, which can save up to 50% on the heating bill compared to conventional systems. Council decided to have a separate meeting to discuss the options further.

• Shephard let council know that he wanted to submit a grant application under the Towns for Tomorrow program for the water system. The application would be for well #2 and a backup generator. Council authorized Shephard to go ahead with the grant application.

Shephard explained that when well #1 was drilled, the pumphouse building was set up for well #2 also. He said that bringing well #2 online could almost double Nakusp's current water supply, coming from well #1 and the gravity-fed system.

The grant will pay for 80% of the total cost, estimated to be $521,830. Treasurer Richard Mahoney said that the 20% Village portion of $121,830 would likely come from 2009 gas tax revenue. This will be discussed during upcoming budget meetings.

• Starting February 1, the hot springs will be open from 2 pm to 9 pm from November through April. Council reduced the hours as a cost-saving measure.

A staff report from the CAO states that the hot springs has historically generated most of its revenue from May through October. During the winter, attendance drops 50%, the campground is closed, and expenses soar with heating and snow removal. He estimated that reducing the hours would save about $4,060 per month over the five months.

Lafleur recommended that the hours be reduced to 1 pm to 8 pm, but council members felt that many local people enjoyed a dip after supper, so decided to push the hours back to 2 pm to 9 pm.

•Nakusp will apply to become a fair trade town. Council unanimously supported the proposal put forward by Alysia Gustafson from the environmental club at Nakusp Secondary School. She made a presentation on fair trade at council's December 9 meeting and asked council to consider applying to become a fair trade town. Councillor Mueller volunteered to be the council representative on the fair trade steering committee.

•After receiving a staff report from the Public Works manager on snow and ice removal concerns on sidewalks, council asked staff to bring forward a bylaw on boulevard and sidewalk maintenance.

CAO Lafleur explained that the Village currently has a policy stating that business owners are responsible to keep the sidewalk clear in front of their businesses. However, there is no bylaw, so the policy cannot be enforced. A bylaw would also allow for liability to be placed with the business owners.

Lafleur also mentioned that the Village was being sued by two people over injuries sustained on Nakusp sidewalks. A woman who was in Nakusp for the hockey tournament on the weekend had slipped on an icy sidewalk and broken her arm. The other incident happened in the fall.

•Council received an email summarizing a meeting about the new fire hall. The meeting was held December 17 and attended by CAO Lafleur, Fire Chief Terry Warren and two other members of the fire department. As for a location for the new hall, Lafleur had sent a letter to the Province requesting a meeting to discuss the purchase of the Ministry of Forests property adjacent to 5th Ave. A select committee to work on a new fire hall was struck, with Mayor Hamling, Bob Lafleur, Reg Gustafson, Bill Regner and H. Anderson as members.

•Council received a grant application under the Trees for Tomorrow program that was drafted by the Village's administrative assistant and arena parks manager. The application described an ambitious $111,219 project that would require a Village contribution of $36,219.

Council was impressed with the application, but decided to scale it down to about 1/3 the size, concentrating on the sewer lagoon, cenotaph and campground.

"I don't think we will have the staff and machinery time for this because we have so many projects right now between the ice plant, geothermal system, virtual cemetery and sewer and water systems. I think the worst thing we can do is overload staff and ourselves…" said Mayor Hamling.

•Neil Muth, President of Columbia Basin Trust, responded to council's letter requesting CBT to consider funding a fueling station in conjunction with the wharf and boat ramp being built by BC Hydro. Muth states that two CBT reps met with Mayor Hamling on December 4. At this meeting, it was agreed that there was a need for a plan for the waterfront area. Muth encourages council to continue discussing this with Lynda Lafleur, local CBT community liaison, as CBT may be able to assist with financial support for the plan.

•Mayor Hamling reported that the community consultative group is looking at an education program for youth and the community about ATVs on the trail and is discussing speed limit signs with the Ministry of Transportation.

She also reported that there has been a rise in domestic violence in the area. The Stop the Violence program will be putting on a Healthy Relationships workshop in the fall.

•Hamling met with Deb Austin and toured the new complex care wing. It is expected to be completed in February. Hamling said it was originally to be finished in June, but "they had one problem after another."

•A request from the Rotary Club for a fee waiver for the use of the auditorium and kitchen for its Dinner Theatre on February 13 and 14, and for rehearsals, was granted. Mayor Hamling said she spoke to Area K Director Paul Peterson, who agreed, as the Rotary Club puts their funding back into the auditorium.

•Council agreed to write a letter of support for Mirror Theatre, which will be hosting the Theatre BC Kootenay Zone Festival 2009 in Nakusp May 14-18.

•After receiving a copy of a letter to Premier Campbell from the Village of New Denver regarding the newly announced property tax deferment program, council asked staff to write a similar letter from the Village of Nakusp. Treasurer Mahoney confirmed that if a significant number of people are able to defer their taxes, it could impose an economic hardship to the Village. The Province pays the amount of the deferred taxes to the Village, but the question is when that payment will be made. The Village of New Denver asks that payment to municipalities be guaranteed no later than August 1st every year. "The municipality is required to pay its property tax requisitions for School, Police, Hospital District… by August 1st of each year, regardless of whether the taxes have been collected or not. Late payment of deferred property taxes by the Province will in effect cause further strain on capital and operational costs for small municipalities by delaying projects until funds are received," states the letter from New Denver.

•Council will meet on January 31 at 9 am to come up with a three-year plan. Budget meetings were also set for January 21, February 4 and February 25. The budget is due May 15.

•Accounts payable of $281,383.99 for the month of December were approved.

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP PUBLIC NOTICE

THE VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

As required under Sections 94 and 95 of the Community Charter, the Village of Nakusp is required to provide public notice that Municipal Records are available for public inspection. The following records will be available for public inspection beginning January 31st at the Village Office, 91 1st Street NW, Monday to Friday, during regular office hours, excluding holidays: all bylaws and all proposed bylaws that have been given first reading; all minutes of Council meetings, other than a meeting or part of a meeting that is closed to the public; all minutes of committee meetings, other than a meeting or part of a meeting that is closed to the public; all disclosure statements under Section 106 (declaration of gifts); the report under Section 168 (Council remuneration, expenses and contracts); the written disclosures by council members and nominees; any applicable agreements under Section 9(5), between the Village and Provincial Minister in relation to bylaws under s. 8(3)(i)(j)(k)(l)(m). Municipal Records will be made available for inspection within 7 days after it has been requested. A copy can be made of all or part of the Municipal Records outlined above, on payment of the applicable fee(s), as outlined in Bylaw No. 586. No Municipal Record can be removed from the office without authorization. An obligation under this Bylaw to provide public access to a Municipal Record does not apply to records that must not be disclosed under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

2009 MEETING SCHEDULE

COUNCIL MEETINGS 6:30 pm in Council Chambers (91 1st Street NW)	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 6:30 pm in Council Chambers (91 1st St. NW)
▪ January 13 & 27 ▪ February 10 & 24 ▪ March 10 & 24 ▪ April 14 & 28 ▪ May 12 & 26 ▪ June 9 & 23 ▪ July 14 ▪ August 25 ▪ September 8 & 22 ▪ October 13 & 27 ▪ November 10 & 24 ▪ December 8	▪ January 20 ▪ February 17 ▪ March 17 ▪ April 21 ▪ May 19 ▪ June 16 ▪ September 15 ▪ October 20 ▪ November 17

Subject to Section 166 of the Community Charter, the Council of the Village of Nakusp invites public consultation in the preparation of the Village's 2009 Five Year Financial Plan. Council will begin holding budget meetings in the near future and welcomes public input from members of the community with regards to items of concern they would like to see addressed in the budget. Please submit your comments to the Office: Box 280, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0; 91 1st Street NW, Fax: 250-265-3788 or email: blafleur@nakusp.com by January 31/09.

Dates for Budget Meetings: January 21st, February 4th and February 25th at 3:15 pm, 91 1st Street NW.

2009 CONFERENCES

Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Gov't – April 23-25 (Cranbrook)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities – June 5-8 (Whistler)
Union of BC Municipalities –September 28 – Oct 2 (Vancouver)

DOG LICENSES: Dog owners in the Village of Nakusp are reminded that all dogs residing in the Village are required to have a current dog licence. Discounted price if purchases prior to Jan. 31/09.

***EFFECTIVE FEB 1/09: HOT SPRINGS HOURS OF OPERATION WILL BE REDUCED TO: 2 PM TO 9 PM DAILY**

Kaslo council, January 13: No GM foods in Kaslo

by Katrine Campbell

• At the request of John Steinman, who appeared as a delegation to speak about genetically engineered crops, council adopted a policy "that the Village of Kaslo opposes the cultivation of genetically engineered plants and trees within the municipality, and that the municipality agrees to revisit this resolution as pertinent new information becomes available that affects this resolution."

• Staff reviews were referred for discussion to the labour management meeting scheduled for January 15.

• Mayor Greg Lay and Chief Administrative Officer Rae Sawyer were authorized to sign leases between the municipality and:

the Kaslo Golf Club for a period of three years beginning January 1, at a fee of $4,215 in the first year, with a one per cent increase annually for the balance of the term. Councillor Anthony Frary opposed the motion; the Kootenay Lake Independent School Society for land and improvements located at 503 First Street for a three-year term beginning December 1, 2008 at a monthly fee of $104.06 in the first year, with one per cent increases annually for the balance of the term, for the purpose of operating a childcare/preschool. Councillor Frary opposed the motion.

• Council decided: that all municipal leases will be referred to the Municipal Services committee for review; that e-mail from Alan Davidson regarding funding the rehabilitation of Whitewater Creek be referred to 2009 budget deliberations.

• Council will ask Nelson lawyer Greg Stacey for a cost estimate to draft a dog control bylaw which is both simple and effective, compared to the current bylaw.

• Councillor Frary, with Mayor Lay as alternate, was appointed as the Village liaison to the Columbia Basin Trust Initiative 'Communities Adapting to Climate Change'.

• A meeting will be scheduled with Area D Director Andy Shadrack and the Kaslo & District Arena Association board to review the 'Evaluation of ice plant waste heat recovery and use potential assessment' authored by EBA Engineering Consultants.

• An application will be submitted for *Towns for Tomorrow* funding to convert city hall from oil to geothermal heating. This application will take precedence over the application to replace Kaslo's main water reservoir lining. A letter of thanks will be sent to FortisBC for its contribution of $1,000 to the application.

• A motion to send a letter of support in principle for an additional hotel room tax was defeated.

• A letter of support in principle will be provided to the Kaslo Trailblazers Society for construction of a 5th Street suspension bridge across Kaslo River. Concept plans and engineered drawings were provided to council.

• The Fraser Basin Council workshop *Sustainability101* was scheduled in Kaslo for January 28 between 6 pm and 8 pm, with council and CAC members attending.

• Councillor Molly Leathwood was directed to prepare an analysis of the role and responsibilities of the Building Management select committee in relation to the provincial building. Leathwood was also appointed as liaison to the Kaslo Childcare Centre Society. A business plan requested by council from the society was received, and the society was requested to provide an update on School District No. 8's indication of interest in establishing day care facilities at JV Humphries School in Kaslo.

• Terms of Reference for a Sanitary Sewer Ratepayers select committee will be developed by staff and the Municipal Services committee for recommendation to council.

• All correspondence from Alison Carnegie regarding invasive plant species in Kaslo will be referred to the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant committee for action.

• Mayor Lay was authorized to meet with the manager of the Kootenay Lake Forest District concerning the status of the Meadow Creek Cedar forest license.

• The Village of Kaslo expressed support for the Act Now and Measuring Up Programs in Kaslo.

• An application will be submitted for LocalMotion funding for Water Street trail development, and this application will take precedence over the municipality's original funding application to the same program to provide a wheelchair ramp to Periwinkle School. The Village of Kaslo will contribute a maximum of $20,000, including in-kind contributions, to the program.

• Councillor Frary was authorized to send a letter directly to SmartGrowth requesting an immediate response regarding Official Community Plan progress. The Regional District of Central Kootenay will be asked to conduct a peer review of SmartGrowth's latest draft of Kaslo's Official Community Plan.

• Correspondence regarding council orientation workshops was referred to the Municipal Services committee for recommendation to council.

• Kootenay Rockies Community Foundations photo shoot funding was referred to 2009 budget deliberation.

• Correspondence from Mountain Trek Fitness Retreat requesting permission to dump into the Kaslo sanitary sewer system was received, and the author will be invited to attend the next Development Services committee meeting. Rainer Meuntner will be invited to attend the next committee meeting to speak to short- and long-term plans for the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society to harvest timber in the Kaslo watershed. Correspondence from the Ministry of Community Development regarding *Trees for Tomorrow* was referred to the committee for recommendation to council.

• The 400 block lane between 4th and 5th Streets will be named Penny Lane.

• Mayor Lay was appointed on an interim basis as liaison to the Kaslo Early Childhood Coalition

• UBCM information regarding the School Community Connections Program was referred to Principal Dan Miles for consideration of potential local projects, and to the Kaslo Childcare Centre Society.

• A sewer select committee will be established to review the sewer bylaw. Council will retain a licensed professional, experienced and knowledgeable in sanitary sewer classes of use and usage units, to review and make recommendations for amendments to Bylaw 1066, Schedule C to Village of Kaslo Bylaw 973. Staples correspondence regarding sewer regulation was referred to committee.

• Auke Elzinga will be advised that condominium sewer rates will not be reduced based on volumes, and that rate class will continue to apply.

• Council made a number of decisions regarding the municipal campground. The village will provide 50% of the cost of security, as needed, and 50% of the cost of calcium chloride needed in addition to the original spring application for dust control for the adjacent Vimy Park ring road. The campground attendant will be permitted to live on-site year round for a period of one year on a trial basis. The campground will be reserved for recreational camping purposes only. Permanent signage regarding biodegradable effluent standards will be installed at the sanidump, and the attendant required to supervise inputs from recreational vehicles.

• The draft RDCK Recreation Commission Bylaw dated November 21, 2008 was approved as presented.

• Correspondence from Yale/Holmberg regarding the golf course lease was struck from the Municipal Services Committee project list, and the authors will be thanked for their interest. The municipal insurance review was struck from the Municipal Services Committee Project List, as this project is complete.

• An agreement for fire prevention inspection services for a three-year period between the municipality and SCM Risk Management Services Inc. will be signed by the mayor and CAO.

• The Outdoor Burning Regulation Bylaw permit schedule will remain as is.

• The Village will write a letter to the Ministers of Forests, Lands and Environment supporting the position that there has been a lack of landscape level planning in the matter of caribou habitat protection process.

• The following projects were prioritized for action: Water Street development, geothermal for city hall, replacement of main reservoir liner, Kaslo Childcare Centre.

• Hall rental and advertising costs for a January 19 meeting on affordable housing will be paid by the municipality.

• The name 'Kemball Memorial Centre' was accepted as the new name for the provincial government building. The new name honours Lt. Col. Arnold H.G. Kemball, commander of the 54th Kootenay Battalion who was killed in France in 1917.

The Public Works foreman was directed to explore any need to rekey the building. The main floor vault will serve as unsecured tenant storage only.

• Mayor Lay reported on the RDCK inaugural meeting, investigation of the recreation block for a new fire hall, and discussion of a regional district fire service with a blended tax rate, rather than continuing with a fire contract.

• Bylaw 1080, Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw, was reconsidered and adopted. Bylaw 1081, Procedure Bylaw, was reconsidered and adopted.

North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society

Community Counsellor: Adult Mental Health and Addictions Case Manager / Child Youth Mental Health / Full Time

North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society is seeking a unique, inspired caring professional to work in beautiful Kaslo BC as an Adult Mental Health and Addictions Case Manager and Child Youth Mental Health Counsellor. The position entails providing assessment, treatment planning, implementation and outcome evaluation for adult clients of the Mental Health and Addictions Outpatient Program in collaboration with physicians, psychiatrists and families. The position also requires experience in child centered and expressive therapies for children experiencing the onset and occurrence of mental health, emotional and behavioural issues. A working knowledge of DSM is required.

The position is 37.5 hours per week.

Benefits and professional development provided.

A Masters Degree in Social Work, Counselling Psychology or equivalent is preferred. A Bachelors Degree with equivalent experience and education in expressive therapies for children and the mental health system may be considered.

Only candidates that can confirm long term commitment and residency in the Kootenay Lake area need apply

Please indicate a possible start date in your cover letter.

Send resume and cover letter to administrator@nklcss.org or fax to 250-353-7694. Closing date for applications is February 6 at 5pm.

For more information see our website: www.nklcss.org

Nelson musician to perform in Silverton and Kaslo

submitted

Nelson musician Aspen Switzer is about to kick off her CD release tour with a concert in Silverton. She will also play in Kaslo. She has just finished recording and producing her second CD, *Humble but Bearing no Apology*, which will be available at the concerts.

The first venue is the Silverton Gallery on Saturday, January 31 at 7:30 pm, followed on February 7 at 8 pm by a concert at the Langham in Kaslo. Tickets for the Kaslo show are $18 in advance at Sunnyside Naturals, or $20 at the door.

Although she is still an emerging artist, Switzer came to national attention in 2007 when Hockey Day in Canada used three of her songs in their all-day special when they visited Nelson. Her first music video on YouTube received an editor's choice, which resulted in more than 20,000 views in the first week. Switzer's voice is powerful, subtle, pure and haunting, filled with longing and an ethereal, yet grounded, quality. Her songs illuminate the stories of a young woman who is wide awake with a clear sense of who she is, striving for balance in aspirations, social responsibility, love, independence and caring.

Her trio, *Thistledown*, sings flawless three-part harmonies, balancing the charm and warmth of old time music with the contemporary.

After a few concerts in the Kootenays, she moves on to the Okanagan, Lower Mainland and the Island then to Montreal to prepare for her circuit of Fringe Festivals this summer. You can lean more about Switzer and listen to her music on her website at www.aspenswitzer.com.

Kaslo's Million Penny Project for Africa

submitted

We all want to make a difference in the world. In Kaslo, we can't give a million dollars to the grandmothers in Africa who are raising their grandchildren and other children orphaned from AIDS, but do you think we could gather a million pennies for them?

Soon you will see collection jars throughout the village to deposit your pennies for *The Million Penny Project* sponsored by Kaslo's *Grammas to Grammas,* a chapter of Canadian Grandmothers Supporting African Grandmothers.

How long do you think it would take? How much space would a million pennies take? A million pennies is really only $10 from 1,000 people. Yes... a million pennies is $10,000! And that is not a small amount to give to the struggling African Grammas.

Please scrounge around your cupboards, closets and window sills and give every penny you can find... and encourage all your visitors to bring the pennies they've been hoarding.

Let's collect a million pennies as quickly as possible to send to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to support these African grandmothers. We can help turn the tide in Africa. It's true: together we can make a difference.

For more information please contact Nancy Hansell, 353-2042 or Linda Lynch, 353-7457.

Laid-off workers reduce Kaslo's interface fire hazard

by Katrine Campbell

Twelve laid-off forestry workers from the Kaslo area are back at work in the bush, thanks to funding from a provincial job opportunities program and the Union of BC Municipalities.

The Kaslo Fire Interface Project will keep them working and living in the area, hopefully until the industry recovers, and remove much of the hazardous dead wood which could fuel a forest fire.

John Addison, a project planner with WREN Consulting, says the project grew out of a 2006 report which rated fire danger to the village forest interface as high to extreme. A January 12 public meeting to let people know where the project was at and where it was going was not well attended, something Addison blames on the weather and the season – people aren't worried about forest fires right now.

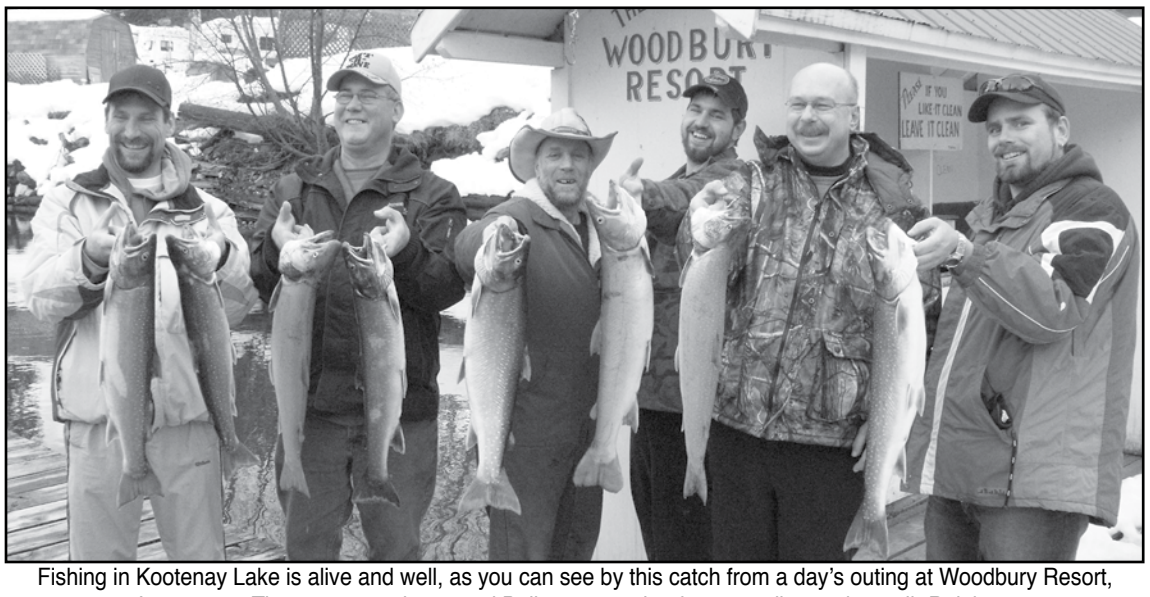
The workers reduce the fuel load by cutting small trees and saplings, and pruning large dead branches. Anything good enough for firewood is cut and stacked; the rest is burned. Addison says Minor Hockey took some of it to sell as a fundraiser, and he's open to other not-for-profit organizations picking up a share.

The workers are also cutting trails to provide access for fire-fighting equipment and personnel. These will be added to the inventory of recreational trails.

Planning for the future, Addison is in the process of looking for areas inside and around the village, and beyond, that need to be cleaned up. He's hoping for funding to cover the next two or three years.

"Everything looks good for it to continue. It's a matter of having good plans in place, knowing where you're going to go, having good community support. We work with communities up and down the lake, and everybody thinks it's a good thing."

Initial funding of $192,500 came from the Ministry of Community Development's Job Opportunities Program; that was matched by a grant from the UBCM. Three companies manage the project: WREN, Progressive Forest Management Ltd, and Appropriate Forestry Services.



Fishing in Kootenay Lake is alive and well, as you can see by this catch from a day's outing at Woodbury Resort, January 13. The group caught several Bull trout, ranging from 7-11 lbs, and a 19-lb Rainbow.

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Dinners, Wraps & Stir-Fry"

Beat the winter blues in Kaslo

submitted

A Winter Blues Buster with music by *Beltane* followed by improvisational theatre – what better way to escape the winter blues?

Beltane is a local band with Steven Lee on piano, Kevin Watt on guitar and Derek van Deursen on drums. In a tight half-hour set they will play a variety of Beatles tunes plus their own original songs. We're happy to showcase these young musicians on January 31 at the Langham in Kaslo.

Then, after the music, we've got theatre sports – two teams (one young and one older) who will battle using their comedic wit in a variety of improvisational games for your entertainment pleasure. The show starts at 7 pm; tickets at Sunnyside, sliding scale $5 – $10.

Thank you
Valley Voice
The only newspaper that tells us what is going on in the Kaslo area. The only newspaper that gives us a chance to say what we think about it, free of charge, in Voices from the Valleys.
Paid advertisement by Jane Lynch
in support of the *Valley Voice*

Eric's Meat Market & Deli
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• Many Imported Items
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Ph/Fax: (250) 353-2436

PURCELL GREEN POWER INC.

Purcell Green Power Invites the Public to attend a Community Meeting on the Glacier/Howser Project

Purcell Green Power will be hosting a community meeting on the Glacier/Howser Project (Project) in Kaslo, on January 28, 2009. The meeting will take place in the multi-function room of the J.V. Humphries School.

Purcell Green Power Inc. (Proponent) is proposing to build, own and operate two hydroelectric facilities on the East side of Duncan Reservoir in the Regional District of Central Kootenay, approximately 15 km North of Meadow Creek. The facilities would divert water from Glacier and Howser Creeks, for a combined capacity of 99.5 MW. The Project includes a 230 kV transmission line that would cross the Purcell Mountain range and interconnect to a substation located in the Regional District of East Kootenay, 6 km West of Invermere.

The proposed Project is subject to review under British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act,* S.B.C. 2002, c.43. This meeting does not form part of the official environmental assessment consultation process mandated by the Crown, but is meant to provide local residents with additional information on the project and its progress.

The meeting will include a formal presentation on the project followed by a question and answer period. Representatives from Purcell will also be available to answer additional questions following the conclusion of the formal meeting. General comment sheets and sign-up forms for Purcell's local employment database will also be made available at the meeting.

Community Meeting

Interested parties are invited to attend the community meeting being held at the following location:

J.V. Humphries School (Multi-function room)
500 Sixth St, Kaslo, BC
Wednesday, January 28, 2009
7:00 to 9:30 PM

Ainsworth
HOT SPRINGS RESORT

Accommodation in the Resort includes complimentary passes to the Hot Springs. Rates are seasonal and displayed on our website **www.hotnaturally.com** or available by phone at 1-800-668-1171 or 250-229-4212.

Premium Non-View Room - Adult oriented, this room type features new bedding,linens and decor. These Premium rooms feature one queen bed for single or double occupancy and face the back of the hotel (window opens to the "grassy" bank at the back of the hotel). Full bathroom, satellite TV, in-room coffee and small table and chairs are also in the room.

Standard View Room features two queen beds and faces the Kootenay Lake and Purcell Mountains. Ground floor View rooms have outside access to the parking lot. Up to five people (additional charge over 2 people) may share occupancy in the View room. New beds for these rooms, too. Full bathroom, satellite TV, in-room coffee, table and chairs and small fridge complete room amenities. There is a picture of this room type on the "fall rate" schedule of our website **www.hotnaturally.com**

Premium View Room - Adult oriented, these rooms feature new bedding and linens. They are located on our third floor. Amenities are as the standard view room, although new beds, bedding linens and décor make this adult room special. The "maximum" occupancy in this room type is 4 adults.

Kitchenette Room also faces Kootenay Lake and features a console size sink, two-burner stovetop, fridge, toaster, kettle and cooking/eating utensils. This room type has two queen beds (also new) in the same room and is located on the ground floor, only. "Up to five" people may share occupancy in the Kitchenette room. Full bathroom, satellite TV, in-room coffee, table/chairs complete amenities in this room. Kitchenette rooms may adjoin/connect with a Standard View room.

Deluxe View Room - features a king bed (new…with new bedding, linens and décor) and faces the Kootenay Lake. This room type is a bit larger than the standard View room and has a pony wall which separates the bed from a dressing area with an extra vanity sink. Deluxe View rooms are for single or double occupancy, only. They may adjoin/connect with a View room. Full bathroom, satellite TV, in-room coffee, table/chairs and small fridge complete room amenities.

Deluxe King Room is a large corner room which faces Kootenay Lake and Purcell Mountains. The king size (also new) bed also faces the lake and mountains, which is something our guests love about this particular room. The spa-like bathroom features a two-person soaker tub and subdued lighting. This room is located on the same floor as the hot springs facilities for single or double occupancy, only.

Honeymoon Room is also a large corner room. Facing the Kootenay Lake, this room features a king size bed (also new) and the same spa-like bathroom (…as the Deluxe King). There is a loveseat in the window corner making this room very comfortable for lounging or extended stays for single or double occupancy, only. Satellite TV, in-room coffee, table/chairs and small fridge are also included as amenities. There is a picture of this room on the "spring rate" schedule of our website **www.hotnaturally.com**

Book your winter getaway today!
Call 250-229-4212 for details

Get Outta Town

with Peter Roulston

Nature Boy runs amok!

Reading the headline this week you may think this is about some hermit gone crazy with cabin fever, but in fact Nature Boy is the name of a mine claim adjacent to the huge avalanche that closed the highway east of New Denver for several days. Plenty of locals have taken the short drive up to see the massive wall of debris and numerous spectacular runouts onto and across the highway. The many slide zones were released by the highway crews to relieve the growing overall slide hazards.

One day last week I drove to Three Forks with a couple of other guys to shovel off the frail footbridge to the Galena Trail, a bridge that is slated for eventual replacement. There was no repair work to the highway at that hour so we stopped several times to marvel at the volume of snow, ice, rocks, stumps and trees heaped along the roadside. Several power poles were tilted over and the slides had roared across the highway and left great scooped-out chutes going right down to Carpenter Creek.

As we cleared the tons of snow from the small bridge deck we imagined the awful job it would have been for the crews hand-digging out the trains and tracks back in the glory days of Sandon some hundred years ago. Crews had to hurl the slide debris up and out from the rail bed, and handsaw through all the busted trees and limbs…Then I suppose they'd return to the misery of hard rock mining in some tunnel or shaft way the heck up the hillside.

Driving back to New Denver afterwards, past the hydro crews stringing new lines, it then occurred to us that all that avalanche debris was likely all over the Galena Trail, since it is directly below the highway and on the same very steep slope. I was hoping that the main slide runout at Nature Boy might be farther east than the cable car at Alamo, but that seemed pretty optimistic.

Next day I decided to ski up Galena Trail from the start at the YRB yard and see what kinda carnage the trail had indeed suffered. The snow was crusty and awful, but not bad going. There were a couple of snow slides at the rockslide area, but only snow, without serious consequence. All fine past Denver Canyon and way on up past the wooden ramp things. Finally, I came to the results of the slide at the 4.5 km sign on the highway above. It was impressive, an icy trough some 20 metres wide with some trees down, but much of it will melt away and cleanup will be only some saw time.

Happily, I got right to the cable car where the trail crosses to the south side of Carpenter Creek. I booted down to the creek and saw the enormous wall of dirty snow only 150 metres upstream. The cable car was all iced up solid and I could see where skiers from the Three Forks end were able to cross the main creek on the ice bridges left by the load of dispersed snow and ice that had blocked the creek for a time. So I walked out onto the main creek bed and stood about a stone's throw from the base of the avalanche deposit with the cable car behind me. Felt kinda weird but very solid and safe out there for now.

It's quite possible that lots of slide debris may have crossed Carpenter Creek to cover the trail on the Alamo side, but I couldn't see around the corner enough. Just imagine all this wreckage and crap melting free in the spring and somehow ramming its way through the tight gap of Denver Canyon back towards town. I guess it will flush through somehow, seeing that a lot of Sandon and Three Forks architecture did during the flood in the 1950s…

So the one slide on the trail will remain a novelty for a while after the rest is melted clear, and spring cleanup should not be much worse than usual. Galena Trail can make a nice ski tour when the snow is freshly fallen, but often it does have a lot of crusty areas and the stuff falling from trees can be a nuisance as well. While I was skiing back to the car I thought I saw the rear end of a horse ahead of me – which might be a bit odd – but it ended up being a cow moose out for a trudge – still somewhat odd.

Anyone who has the time should take the family for a drive up to see the Nature Boy effects on Hwy 31A. Most remedial work is likely done for now and there's plenty of parking. Spend some time checking out the massive new 'luge run' just west of the main chute. Looking up the main drainage you can see the denuded rocky slopes and broken timber jammed into the sidewalls. This is an impressive roadside attraction and would make a memorable impression, on any child especially. Let's hope it doesn't happen too often.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and enjoys natural disasters. 250-358-2133

BICYCLE SEASON STARTS MARCH 14!

Okay winter's really here now and we're all spinning and sliding the best we can at work or in play. Most bicycles are in quiet hibernation and will emerge again next spring, for better or worse... I'm mostly around over the winter so if you find yourself needing some obscure bike part or small repair done, just give me a call or wait 'til spring.

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- Andrew Rhodes, Valley Voice Food Editor

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with Jamie Barber

Drawbacks of the Graduated Licencing Program

I remember the old days when I went to high school back on the prairies. If you didn't get into the parking lot early, you ran the risk of not getting a parking space and had to leave the old girl out on the street.

This isn't much of a problem for modern students however, as there just doesn't seem to be that many student cars parked at the high school these days. If you look into this a bit deeper, you soon find out that few high school students have cars, and even fewer have driving licenses. What is going on?

Back in 1998, the BC government instituted a graduated driver-licensing program. By 2000, this program was fully implemented. Gone were the old days when you turned 16, went down to the motor vehicle office to write your beginner's permit, and shortly thereafter, took your driver's test. In my own case, I did both of these on the same day – my 16th birthday.

Today's fledgling drivers can write the written portion of the new graduated licensing program (GLP) when they turn 16, but this is only the beginning of a very long process. Once you have passed this test, you are given a red 'L' sticker to put on the rear of the vehicle and you are now allowed to drive a vehicle under the direct supervision of an adult (over 25), who has had their full license for a minimum of five years. You can't carry any passengers, you can't drive by yourself, nor can you drive between midnight and 5 am. This stage lasts for a minimum of one year.

Once you have put in the requisite one-year minimum and the proper amount of supervised driving time, the 'L' driver can request a driving test to progress to the next 'N' stage. This stage lasts a minimum of two years and has a number of restrictions associated with it including the fact that you cannot have any more than one passenger, you can't drive at night and there is zero tolerance to any alcohol. If the driver gets cited with a traffic violation or ignores any of the many restrictions, the time period for the 'N' stage can start from the beginning, extending it many years.

If you make it through the 'N' stage, the now considerably older driver is required to take another driving test. If they pass, they now receive their full class 5 license. Of course, they have to pay inflated insurance premiums that are approximately twice that of other drivers. These inflated premiums last for at least another five years assuming they don't get in an accident.

So what are the drawbacks of this system? Most students here in rural areas will mention the fact that you can't start driving yourself to school or town until you are 17 years old. Even then, you can only have one passenger. This makes it difficult to arrange for a designated driver at a party, or carpool to school or work. Many jobs require a full driver's license which young people can't get until they are 19. Insurance rates are high even for those drivers that have never had an accident.

The Motor Vehicle branch counters these arguments by citing that young drivers are involved in an inordinate number of traffic accidents and it is prudent to give them more instruction and experience before they receive their license. This sounds like a good idea, but what does the research say on this topic?

The government of BC has underwritten three major research papers on this topic and they all show the same picture. Traffic accidents are substantially reduced for those drivers under direct adult supervision (L), but the accident rate remains unchanged for those in the 'N' category. In other words, no substantial difference in accident rate has been observed since the graduated licensing program has been introduced. It seems young drivers learn by experience, and it makes little difference if that experience is gained at 16 or 19. By instituting the GLP, the government has simply set back the maturation process and done nothing to decrease the accident rate among young drivers.

Why do we continue with a program that is not effective then? That would be a good question to ask those in charge.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Fomi's still fantastic

Once again, hello out there all you food fans, eating experts and chewing champs.

Here I am, Mr. Lucky again, with a chance to share eatery information with all of you, and I'm pleased to say that this time I'm going to tell you about one of my all time favourite places.

I was surprised when I recently learned that I've been writing this column now for well over three years. In fact a little over three years ago, I began a particular installment going on about the drive to Nelson, and why so many people on Highway 6 seem to be in such a hurry. What's the rush? If you are in such an all-fired hurry you'll miss a wonderful and rewarding opportunity to stop at FOMI'S BAKERY (and restaurant). FOMI'S is located just north of Winlaw on the west side of the highway. If you're not in a hurry you can see it there just below the road. The round sign says FOMI'S, and that is definitely a place you do not want to miss! FOMI'S is owned and operated by Nick and Wendy Fominoff, and they've created a comfortable haven from the highway where you can shop for heavenly baked goods, or if you please you may sit down and have a great meal...and THEN shop for some of your groceries including, of course, sweets!!!!

OK, let's get down to it here. BREAD? There are about 20 types of fresh bread available. My favourites are Valley Harvest made with whole wheat flour, whole flax, sunflower seeds, sour culture, fresh yeast and sea salt, and next: a Whole Grain Rye with ground caraway, and I also love their Heavy Grains Bread made with organic whole wheat flour, whole flax, sunflower and sesame seeds, rye meal, corn meal, oats, sour culture sea salt and yeast. Some of the other breads are French, Traditional White or Brown, Sesame Garlic (ahhhh), Jalapeño Cheddar and, of course Whole Grain Spelt. Buns? FOMI'S has everything from Spelt Buns to Sticky Cinnamon Buns and everything in between.

But what about those SWEETS I promised you? There's not room here to name all of them, but how 'bout NINE varieties of Truffles? (Callebaut Belgian Chocolate, of course!) There are turnovers, nut bars, swirls, twists and Bismarks. There's The Fruit Slice which is Puff Pastry with Bavarian Cream rigged up with strawberries, kiwi fruit and blueberries. But for the incurable Sweet Tooths (Sweet Teeth?) go for the BLACK FOREST CROISSANT: Slice open a tender croissant, load it with Bavarian Cream, load it further with cherry filling, then top it with whipped cream and then drizzle melted chocolate over it all.

If you like you can sit in the restaurant part of FOMI'S and order from a variety of PIZZAS, California Chicken Sandwiches, Thai Shrimp & Chicken, or create your own sandwich.

Also available at FOMI'S are pies and cakes made to your order. Why not pick up buffalo, beef, pork or turkey sausages from Legendary Meats?

Like I say, FOMI'S is one of my all-time favourite places. Nick, Wendy, and two of their daughters are as friendly as can be and happy to serve you.

I had the California Chicken Sandwich (a chicken lovers dream). Guess what I took home? An Apple-Peach-Blueberry Pie. Ha!

Oops, I almost forgot the giant cookies… YUM!

Hurry up and slow down and go to FOMI'S. You'll love it.

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE NAKUSP CELEBRATION OF WELLNESS Festival committee would like to let the communities of this area know that the decision has been made to put on the Festival bi-annually. Our next Celebration of Wellness Festival will be June 19th and 20th 2010. We will be putting together our Celebration of Wellness Directory this year, ready for distribution in June. The Celebration of Wellness Committee thanks everyone for their continued support of this worthy cause of bringing all aspects of wellness and health awareness to our community. We look forward to an even bigger, better, and more dynamic festival in 2010! See you there!

Nakusp Celebration of Wellness Festival Committee
Beverley Darnell 250-265-9977

HILLS NORDIC SKI CLUB is hosting free lessons for children and adults Feb. 15th. The tracks are being regularly set this year! Memberships support our winter activities. Call for details. 358-2660.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

WANT TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS? Community Futures offers business counselling and start-up information. Appointments available in Nakusp and New Denver. Contact Farhana Dumont at 265-3674, ext. 201 or email nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

COMING EVENTS

BURTON SENIOR CITIZENS will be sponsoring a Stew & Chili Night, Saturday, February 7, '09 at the Burton Hall. Continuous serving from 5-7 pm. Adults $10; children 6-12, $6; children 6 and under free.

SILVERTON GALLERY - Sat. Jan. 31 @ 7:30 pm Nelson singer / songwriter Aspen Switzer kicks off her CD Release Tour at the Silverton Gallery. Advance tickets $10 available all over town or call 358-2828; or $15 at the door.

HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY AGM Thursday Jan. 29, 2 p.m., at the gallery: 803 Kildare St., New Denver. All are welcome.

COMING EVENTS

FOR THE LOVE OF POETRY evening at Nakusp Public Library Tuesday, February 10th at 7 p.m. Poetry, music, refreshments. All invited. Free.

LISTEN TO THE BODY/MIND Wisdom Part 1: Chakra Expressive Painting - Thursday Feb 19th, 12-2:30pm. Contact Sue 358-2177.

ACCLAIMED AUTHOR and journalist Chris Turner reads from his best-selling book, "The Geography of Hope: A Tour of the World We Need", at the Nakusp Public Library on Friday, February 13 at 7 p.m. Everyone invited. Free.

THE KOOTENAY DANCEBEAT SOCIETY will be hosting a dance on February 14th, 2009 at Brent Kennedy School, South Slocan. There will be a mini lesson at 7:30pm, dancing 8-11pm. Cost $5.00. www.dancingbeat.org.

PASSMORE HALL is hosting their AGM on Wednesday February 11 at 7:00 pm. We are looking for new Board Members with fresh ideas. Live locally, Help locally. Come and support the community you live in.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for Smum Iem Society will be held at the Brent Kennedy Learning Center located at A-1092 Highway 6. The meeting will be held January 29 at 3:30 p.m. All are welcome.

BLUE MOON COFFEE HOUSE: Get ready for The Whole School's 10th Annual Blue Moon Coffee House, Saturday February 21 at the Appledale Community Hall. This will be an evening of fun for the whole family - exotic Indian food, decadent desserts, silent auction of Kootenay artists, and a stage featuring many local musicians. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Admission $5/adult and child care available on site by donation. Local entertainers interested in playing call Bevan (250) 359-6654.

3rd ANNUAL BLUES FORUM, Friday, Feb. 6 at The Cup and Saucer in Silverton. Dinner and live blues with Dr. Glue and guests. Dinner from 6 pm, Music after 7 pm. Kick off your blues weekend with this awesome event! Followed by Winter Blues Boogie Sat. night at the Silverton Memorial Hall.

COMING EVENTS

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION REGIONAL TOUR - Make your vote count! From February 1st to 4th, you have the opportunity to learn about the electoral reform referendum question that will be part of the provincial election on May 19th of this year. Gladys Brown, a member of the Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform, will be hosting public awareness sessions on how and why this group of randomly selected voters chose to recommend the Single Transferable Vote as the best system for us to elect our MLAs in B.C. Be informed, and be a part of democracy history. Tour details: **Sunday Feb. 1**: Meadow Creek, Lardeau Valley Community Centre, 4:00 PM; **Monday Feb. 2:** Nelson, Nelson Library, 7:30 PM; **Tuesday Feb. 3:** New Denver, Hidden Garden Gallery, noon, and Castlegar, Selkirk College, 7:00 PM; **Wednesday Feb. 4:** Rossland, Old Fire Hall (1st and Queen Sts.), 7:30 PM.

Sponsored by: FairVoting BC - Kootenay region and Selkirk College Student Council Assn. For more information contact **info@kootenaystv.com** or 250 825-9282 or visit STV.ca.

FOR RENT

LARGE 3 BEDROOM apartment in Silverton above Grocery Store. $525.00/ month plus utilities. References. Call 250-358-2293.

SUITE FOR RENT on acreage one mile from Nakusp. 3 bedrooms, appliances. $800/month. 250-860-0736.

FOR SALE

MOUNTAIN CORAL PRODUCTS are available again in New Denver. Selling skin care bars and powdered Mountain Coral. Call 250-358-7171.

DOME SWEET DOME - own an eco-friendly, monolithic dome. Overstock available at one time only price. Call toll free at 1-877-982-3322. www.cwdg.ca.

8' TRUCK CAMPER – New 1 pc roof, fridge, stove, furnace. $1250 firm. 10.5 Simplicity Air Conditioner – new (used two months). $300 firm. 250-355-2375.

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SIRIUS Satellite Radio Kits For Sale: Stratus 5 Satellite Radio and Complete Vehicle Kit, plus Plug & Play Home Kit that brings satellite radio to your home stereo. Connect to 100 streams of satellite radio, commercial-free, digital-quality sound. Great if you drive long distances, commercial-free music that doesn't cut out. Both kits brand-new. Retail price $150, will sell for $100, proceeds donated to the Valhalla Mile. Lorna Visser 250-358-2722 or lvisser@xplornet.com.

FOUND

VALID LICENCE PLATE found on Kennedy Road, Lemon Creek. Call Elisabeth at 250-355-2536.

HEALTH

YOGA AT THE DOMES - MONDAY MORNINGS 9-10:30 am – Jan. 12 through Feb. 9 FLOW CLASS - Aligning movement with breath - bring the body alive through the flow of Hatha Yoga through pose and counter pose. Class open to the beginning student as well as the seasoned student. THURSDAY AFTERNOONS - 3:30-5:00 pm - Jan. 15 through Feb. 12 WINTER ROOTING - A time to slow down and deeply rejuvenate through simple postures, to open up the breath and restore the body and mind. Open to all levels.

FULL SPECTRUM BODY WORK offers deep tissue and stress reduction treatments in the privacy of your own home. For additional info and to book appointments please call 358-6808.

PILATES WITH SUSAN in Nakusp - Discover this powerful, head to toe, workout for all fitness levels. Call 265-4952 or visit my website at www.susanspilates.com.

HELP WANTED

HOME SUPPORT WORKER wanted 4 hours/day weekends for disabled independent male. Need Care-Aide course or equivalent. Reply to Box 433, New Denver, V0G 1S0.

NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION ON AA MEETINGS contact Therese 358-7904; John 265-4924; Tonio 358-7158; Dave 353-2658; Joan 355-2805; Dan 359-7817; Bill 226-7705.

PETS

DOG TO GREAT HOME with kids and outdoor space. Female 6 yrs. All shots, spayed. (250) 229-2322.

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

TUMBLEWEEDS - Wed. & Fri. at the Crescent Valley Hall

PAINTING THE MASTERS - For ages 8 & older. WE Graham School begins Feb. 11th

WINTER SWIM PROGRAM - Feb. 17th to Mar. 12th (Tues./Thurs.) Castlegar Pool

STROLLERCIZE - A fitness class where kids are optional. Thursday mornings at the Slocan Park Hall

THERAPEUTIC TOUCH INTRODUCTION - With Camille Roberts. Sun. Feb. 1st

WORKING WITH PHOTOSHOP - Feb. 5th to 19th.

VALENTINES WINE TASTING - Sat. Feb. 14th Arica Gardens B&B

KNITTING WITH EDNA - Jan. 30th to Feb. 13th, Slocan Park Hall

TEXTILE ARTS AT THE THREADS GUILD - Nuno & Conweb Felting - Feb. 7th; Knitting 101 - Feb. 4th & 11th; Collage - Feb. 21st & 28th

IRRIGATION FOR HOME & GARDEN - Mon. Feb. 9th Slocan Park Hall

226-0008

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OBITUARIES

PAN HOPE NASMYTH

The Nasmyth family is sad to announce the passing of their father, Pan Hope Nasmyth, on January 9, 2009.

Born in Vancouver on Sept. 21, 1917, Pan's life was one of adventure and new beginnings. Pan graduated from UBC in 1942 as an engineer and left soon after to serve in World War II with the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in Sicily and Italy, finishing with the rank of Captain. Having honed his photographic skills taking beautiful photos of his travels in B.C., he snapped many historic photos during his tour of duty in Europe.

Pan's long and creative life spanned three careers. On his return from the war he married Frances Sandall in 1945 and the two moved to Cornwall, Ontario where Pan worked as Chief Engineer at the Courtaulds rayon manufacturing plant while beginning a family. In 1956 he returned to the west with his family to prepare for his second career as a high school science teacher.

In Vancouver in 1959 he completed a high school teaching certificate at UBC. Practicum work in the Cariboo and in Castlegar led to a position as Science Teacher at Mt. Sentinel Secondary School. Pan settled with his family in Crescent Valley in 1960 and taught until 1974. During this time he completed a Master's degree in Education through summer school courses at UBC.

Pan's next endeavor was the acquisition of community grocery stores in New Denver and Slocan. Recalling the region's gold mining history, and utilizing the historical name of New Denver, he named the stores the Eldorado Markets. These stores served their communities for a period of 32 years until 2006.

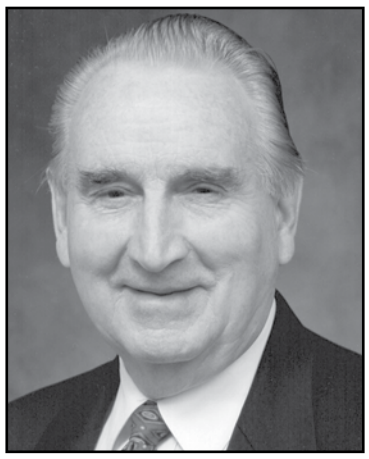
Pan had many interests to which he devoted his time and energy over the years. He was a devout student of Christian teachings throughout his life. In his younger years he was an avid fisherman who loved the ocean and a good trout stream, an expert photographer and a keen hiker and camper. Later he originated many projects on the family farm, utilizing his engineering skills to construct buildings, irrigation systems, fences and a duck pond.

Pan is survived by his four children, Monica of Pointe-Claire, Quebec, Michael of Nelson, Peter of Surrey, and Patricia of Victoria, who remember "Pops" with love and admiration, and by ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Pan was predeceased by his wife Frances and his brother Patrick.

A special thanks is extended to all who assisted Pops in his last years, particularly Patricia Bambrick for her dedicated work and the wonderful nurses at Kootenay Lake Hospital in Nelson.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the KLH Foundation.

Pan dearly loved the garden at Crescent Valley and for this reason a memorial and reception in honour of Pan and Frances will be held at the family residence in the spring.



NORRIS, Mackenzie Charles ("Mac")
1925-2009

Passed away after a brief illness peacefully and with dignity, with his family at his side on January 25, 2009 at Lion's Gate Hospital. Beloved husband of Clara (Ogawa) loving father of Mark (Fiona) and cherished grandfather of Hilary, Emma and stepdaughter Aletia Stoltz and family. He is also survived by his brother, John, former wife, Patricia Norris (Wastell), and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his sisters Hallett and Doretta. Mac was born June 2nd, 1925 in Silverton, B.C. and raised in Nelson. During World War II he served as a pilot in the RCAF and the RNVR Fleet Air Arm. He returned to Canada graduating from UBC (B.A.Sc. – (Forest Engineering) '51). During his undergraduate years at UBC he worked in the industry in sawmills, logging camps and timber cruising throughout BC. He had a long and distinguished railroad career spanning 20 years with Canadian Pacific Railroad (CP Rail) and 20 years with PGE/BC Rail. From 1978 until 1990 Mac was President and CEO and Director of the BC Rail Group of Companies and during his tenure as Vice-President and President the railway was rebuilt and reorganized and became a very profitable venture. He had a special 20 year association with Peter Armstrong, Executive Chairman and CEO, Great Canadian Railtours Co/Rocky Mountaineer Vacations. He was a founding Director of Rocky Mountaineer and upon retirement he was honoured with a life time Honorary Director award. He served as a Director of Pacific Insight Electronics Corp and was a Paul Harris Fellow of the Vancouver Rotary Club. Mac had a strong sense of public service and gave generous support to his Church congregation, his Rotary colleagues and the fellow residents of his beloved Silverton, B.C. During his life Mac touched others with his traits of integrity, responsibility and initiative, but his greatest legacy is the love he had for Clara, his family and his home province. The family wish to express their heartfelt thanks to Dr. Mayo, Dr. Fingland and all the other outstanding personnel at Lion's Gate Hospital ICU and for the exceptional care by Dr. Greg Phillips. Cremation will have taken place. Memorial Service to be held Friday, January 30, 1:30 p.m. at West Vancouver United Church, 2062 Esquimalt Ave. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lions Gate Hospital Foundation (Emergency Department), 231 East 15th Street, North Vancouver, BC, V7L 2L7 Canada.

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Wapp collages at Oxygen residency and exhibition

submitted

Local collage artist Judy Wapp is the January artist-in-residence at Nelson's Oxygen Art Centre. Tables are layered with images that she has inspirationally and intuitively selected from magazines since the 1970s. During her month-long residency, she will create multiple simultaneous collages for her exhibition opening, *Appropriation and Recycling*, on February 6. Wapp will also introduce a community wall collage component that takes place every Saturday until the opening.

Wapp describes her work as satirical. She takes a visual approach to her collages, which then take on meaning from the juxtaposition of images. As a writer and photographer, she has a natural affinity for combining words and images. She recycles, reclaims, and reinvests meaning in otherwise unrelated images.

Oxygen Art Centre is located at 320 Vernon, alley entrance, behind Hipperson's Hardware. For more information, check out the website at oxygenartcentre.org.

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RDCK board, January 24: resolution to include regional districts in consultations for IPPS

by Jan McMurray

• The board endorsed the following resolution to be forwarded to the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments for consideration: That Regional Districts be included in the provincial consultation process for independent power projects in their areas.

• The board received notification that Glacier Resorts Ltd., proponent of the Jumbo Glacier Resort proposal, had requested a five-year extension of the Environmental Assessment certificate, which is due to expire in October 2009. The Environmental Assessment Office gave the RDCK until January 16 to comment on the extension request. The board agreed that Director Shadrack provide comments to the EAO directly, as Area D is immediately adjacent to the area of the proposed resort.

Area H – Sandon Free Crown Grant

• The RDCK application for sponsorship of a Free Crown Grant for crown land in Sandon for a regional park was approved. The sponsorship does not guarantee final approval from the Province, but is the first step in the process. The final decision is made after the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) reviews the application.

The approval letter for the sponsorship states that the RDCK may be required to cover additional costs other than the value of the land, such as legal, survey and appraisal fees.

The board passed a resolution to advise the ILMB that the RDCK wishes to investigate and assess the implications of acquiring the Free Crown Grant for the purpose of creating a regional park.

Area H Director Walter Popoff, when asked to provide more detail about the resolution, replied, "At this point, I am not in a position to comment on the Sandon Crown Grant until I have more information."

• Water rates in Denver Siding will remain unchanged at $160 for the year 2009.

• Water rates for the South Slocan will be increased by $50, ranging from $205 for a single family residence to $1216 for a restaurant.

Area D – Keen Creek Road

• The RDCK chair will write a letter to the Minister of Transportation requesting assistance with repairing and maintaining Keen Creek Road.

Because the road is closed due to failures at kilometers 2 and 9.5, about one quarter of the Kaslo and District Community Forest's tenure is inaccessible.

Area D Director Andy Shadrack met with the Minister of Transportation at the UBCM convention last fall, and followed up with a letter. The minister's reply to Shadrack states, "Although my ministry is not in a position to upgrade this unmaintained road, we are prepared to assist the society and these agencies and will continue to give geotechnical advice, suggest repair methods and offer material sources, as necessary."

In a recent email to local Transportation and Forestry officials, Shadrack states, "While I acknowledge that Keen Creek Road has been classified as an unmaintained Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure roadway since 1971, the truth is that the crown has been collecting resource rents, fees and such from those using the Keen Creek Road for the past 38 years."

Shadrack says in the email that it does not seem appropriate for the ministries that have been collecting revenues from the use of this road to now expect that Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) bear 100% of the cost of repairing and maintaining the road. He also points out that KDCFS is not the sole current user of the road.

• The board received a letter from a resident of Howser, questioning the status of Howser in the Area D planning process. He claims that the majority of Howser residents are against planning, and yet Howser is listed as one of the communities that will continue with the planning process. Director Shadrack said he would refer the letter to the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) and ask the Howser commissioner, Ann MacNab, to consult with the community. A letter will go out to the Howser resident to inform him that his letter is being reviewed by the APC.

• The following Advisory Planning Commission members were appointed for the term ending December 31, 2011: Ann MacNab (Howser), Kelly Abey (Cooper Creek), Jillian Madill (Johnson's Landing), Rhonda Ruston (Shutty Bench), Nelly Edmeads (Fletcher Creek), Gillian Froese (Pineridge subdivision), Bob Dovey (Mirror Lake), Herb Thompson (Kaslo rural), Iwona Smuga-Otta (Allen Division), Mike Young (Schroeder Creek), Joe Johnston (Lardeau), Janet Mainland (Meadow Creek), Sean Hennessey (Argenta), Tom Humphries (At Large).

• Water rates for the McDonald Creek water system remain unchanged at $273.65.

Area K – BC Hydro boat ramps

• A letter will be sent to the Comptroller of Water Rights requesting that BC hydro be directed to provide year-round boat access to Edgewood, Fauquier, Burton, MacDonald Creek Park and Nakusp as well as three communities presently under negotiation for development in the Area J – Lower Arrow / Columbia region.

• The board gave support in principle to True North Forestry's application on behalf of the RDCK for UBCM Operational Treatment funds to treat lands in the vicinity of Burton.

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Affordable housing ideas introduced at Kaslo public meeting, January 19

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo Councillor Tony Frary held a public meeting on affordable housing on January 19 at the senior's hall.

Frary opened the meeting by saying he was not an expert on affordable housing but was very interested in the issue. He attended a symposium held in Nakusp late last year, and has been in contact with the administrator of the Revelstoke affordable housing society.

Frary explained that there are a few things that municipalities can do to encourage affordable housing. Some of these are to require developers to provide a certain percentage of affordable housing, to support individual homeowners, or to form a housing society to build and manage affordable housing units.

Frary went over excerpts from Kaslo's draft Official Community Plan that deal with affordable housing. The draft OCP includes: encouraging secondary suites, density bonusing, encouraging higher density and mixed use development in the downtown core, creating a Development Cost Charges bylaw, requiring developers to build affordable housing units, encouraging non-profit groups to build affordable housing, completing an affordable housing plan and implementation strategy, and using Village land or proceeds from the sale of Village land to offset costs of developing affordable housing units.

Frary spoke about the Revelstoke experience. The affordable housing society there received $100,000 from the City and $100,000 from Columbia Basin Trust to build a housing complex on land donated by the municipality. To be eligible to live there, people must have ongoing employment, be residents of Revelstoke, have no other residences, and have an annual household income of $85,000 or less.

It was pointed out that an income of $85,000 was very high for Kaslo. Frary agreed, and showed a chart he had made with an estimate of the mortgage a person could get based on their income. The chart showed that a person making $10 per hour may be eligible for a $75,000 mortgage; a person making $20 per hour may be eligible for a $150,000 mortgage. With housing prices way up, it was easy to see that an adequate mortgage is unobtainable for many people in Kaslo.

Frary also went over the various funding programs offered by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

A lively discussion followed Frary's presentation. Andy Shadrack suggested that Frary get in touch with the Kaslo Housing Society, which hired a consultant to do a market survey for a seniors housing development. The result of the survey was that the cost of constructing the housing would not be affordable, given the aerage incomes of the people in the target market group.

Ramona Faust related a success story told by people from Langford at Nakusp's affordable housing symposium in the fall. She said that local Langford builders did the construction work on their affordable housing development during the off season at a very good price, and other professionals, such as lawyers, volunteered their services. "They really pulled together as a community," she commented.

Greg Lay said he felt a mixed neighbourhood concept would work best for Kaslo, as some people would want to buy and others would want to rent. "It would be good to have those options available." He also suggested that there could be a sweat equity program, where people who wanted to live in the development could invest labour rather than cash.

Faust pointed to the need for a needs assessment study, which "could be instructive about what kind of housing to build" as well as give demographic information.

Lay suggested that a valuable contact would be George Penfold, Regional Innovation Chair for Rural Economic Development at Selkirk College.

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The health centre will have lab and x-ray services from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Interior Health has committed to additional training for staff and physicians at the health centre to provide critical x-ray services after hours in urgent cases, but it may take a few months to develop this service to safely meet the care needs of our patients. Until then, we may need to transfer patients requiring urgent x-rays after hours to alternate facilities.

Interior Health appreciates your understanding and patience as we work with our physicians and staff to ensure we provide the best sustainable health care services to the community of New Denver given the available resources. We are extremely grateful for the efforts of our physicians and staff for their help in working through these challenges.

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The Valley VOICE

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Jan Mc Murray and Dan Nicholson, *Valley Voice* co-owners

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