SD8 Facilities Plan – Slocan Valley faces closure of Winlaw Elementary or WE Graham

by Sheri Walsh and Lori Thompson

Whichever Slocan Valley school will close on September 1, 2017?

That’s what over 80 parents, grandparents, and community members wanted to know when they gathered in the Winlaw Elementary School gym on the evening of Wednesday, March 30. What they heard from Secretary-Treasurer Kim Morris and six trustees is that either Winlaw Elementary or WE Graham would close September 2017. That did not sit well with those present, many of whom pointed out that the Slocan Valley is the only area in the Kootenay Lake School District facing closure of a thriving school. No changes to present, many of whom pointed out that the Slocan Valley is the only area in the Kootenay Lake School District facing closure of a thriving school. No changes to

Graham would close September 1, 2017?

SD8 Facilities Plan – Slocan Valley faces closure of Winlaw Elementary or WE Graham

The meeting format called for eight trustees in attendance, parents in Nelson and Creston. It in front of an audience of about 40 people should “take it easy on the trustees had not debated the plan more time, an additional meeting had not been scheduled.

The draft facilities plan had been unveiled the previous evening at a special board of education meeting in front of an audience of about 40 parents in Nelson and Creston. It received unanimous support from the eight trustees in attendance, although Slocan Valley/Bonnington Trustee Sharon Nazaroff and Creston Trustee Heather Suttie stressed that they were supporting the plan only because it was a draft and could be revised before being adopted, currently planned for May 3.

For the Kaslo/Crawford Bay family of schools, the draft plan proposes to close Jewett School in Meadow Creek, move K-5 to the community hall and grades 4-5 to JV Humphries in Kaslo. A public meeting will take place at the Lordeau Valley Community Hall on April 7 from 6:30 pm to 9 pm.

Several trustees reiterated that the plan was a starting point for discussion and encouraged feedback.

Board Chair Lenora Trenaman urged everyone to attend the community meetings, emphasizing that the board and staff were committed to listening.

The draft facilities plan along with the community meeting presentations can be found at http://www.sd8.bc.ca/?p=3507. Feedback should be sent to facilities@sd8.bc.ca before April 30.

LESS Robotics Club wins at RoboGames

The Lucerne School Robotics Club joined students from across the region to compete at the RoboGames at Selkirk College in Nelson. Lucerne students Braydon Heaney and Aleks Palyanski show off the robot they made and the prizes they won for their first place tie in the Robot Battles event. Congratulations to all six members of the LESS Robotics Club!
Community Forests Part 2: Harrop-Procter Community Forest

by Art Joyce

While the details may change with the realities of day-to-day forestry operations, a clear founding vision provides essential direction. For Harrop-Procter Community Forest – one of the first such tenures granted in BC – that has meant a mandate based on Silva Forestry Foundation methodology. “Take the interest and leave the principal” is the guiding ethic.

“At Harrop-Procter we used our ecosystem-based planning approach, lowering our Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) considerably from what the ministry thought we should cut,” says Herb Hammond, founder of the Silva method. “In the early days there was a lot of pressure to get our AAC up. One of the ministry people came out and we went through it with them, and they said, ‘Well this is all very sound, you guys just have different values than we do.’”

Rami Rothkop was a treeplanting contractor and parks activist before being hired as the value-added manager for Harrop-Procter’s mill. He says those early negotiations with the ministry allowed the community forest to start with an AAC of only 2,000 cubic metres in an 11,200-hectare tenure that includes four major domestic watersheds. “We took a precautionary approach and that makes total sense, because water should be higher up the value chain than timber. Flash forward to 2016 and our cut level is 10,000 cubic metres; we’ve added area, the forests are denser than we thought, there’s more stable terrain than indicated in our initial analysis, and we’ve realized there’s huge fire risk in some of the stands.” The original 1999 Silva Plan framework continues to be held in principle but with more “ground truth” collected since then, the management plan was rewritten in 2012. Old growth stands are left untouched to preserve genetic diversity. Sixty percent of the logging is done on a selective basis, so partial cuts can be allowed to regenerate naturally. Further, with the steep terrain of much of their tenure, some timber stands are marginal. “Because we have a low risk tolerance for impacting water quality, that often means not cutting in risky areas,” says Forest Manager Erik Leslie.

Harrop-Procter has embarked on a two-year climate change adaptation plan funded by Columbia Basin Trust, based on projections of 5-50% higher rates of wildfires in the coming decade. The plan will include thinning undergrowth to reduce fuel load and planting more drought-resistant species.

Community forests create 50 percent more jobs than industrial logging, which creates less than one job per cubic metre cut. Because Harrop-Procter has its own mill, that figure is considerably higher – four jobs per cubic metre. Its mill is on leased land but the equipment is already paid for, with six jobs at the mill and four full-time equivalents in planning, layout, supervision, administration, logging, road building, log hauling, tree planting, and various contractors and consultants. The mill turns out an impressive array of specialty products: tongue-in-groove paneling, channel siding and decking in cedar, Douglas fir timber framing material and flooring, and live-edge countertops, to name a few. “I think there’s a place for large mills, they can do work that we can’t do,” says Rothkop. “But we have to start being more innovative instead of just pumping out dimensional lumber.”

Does Rothkop think the government needs to rewrite forest tenures legislation to better reflect the realities of the 21st century? “If I was 35, I’d start a tenure reform campaign. We’re cutting too much in BC anyway, especially given the looming impacts of climate change. And yet there’s not enough timber to go around because it’s all allocated. There should be the political will to take back some of the tenure and reallocate based on jobs created per cubic metre, water values and community needs.”

And unfortunately, despite the best of intentions, there are always those who will ‘game the system,’ as for example with Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC). Although Harrop-Procter is so far the only community forest to obtain FSC status, Rothkop says this doesn’t necessarily mean anything. A recent report produced by the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) showed how one large sawmill company in that province, seeking FSC certification for their products, hired independent auditor SmartWood to assess their forest operations. They found 60 infractions, basically flaking them. So the company hired another certifier that only found two infractions, passing them for FSC.

“When I hear this, I think, well then what’s the point of standards?” asks Rothkop. “I have increasing concerns about FSC. We’re already so far beyond FSC standards at Harrop-Procter anyway.” In its report, the AWA stated: “FSC must undergo a fundamental policy change to gain control over auditing services so they are truly independent of industry.”

Harrop-Procter’s Forest Stewardship Plan is quite specific regarding threatened or endangered species. “With the exception of mountain caribou, we have never encountered any red- or blue-listed species habitat in any of our planned logging areas,” says Leslie. However, should such species be encountered, their management plan requires a professional biologist to design a site-specific conservation strategy for the species at risk prior to implementation of any forest activities.

Hammond says that registered professional foresters (RPFs) are schooled in a system dominated by industrial forestry, reinforcing their values. As Leslie explains, with less than two percent of the operable land base allocated to Community Forests, few RPFs can spend an entire career in community forestry. “Foresters aren’t running forestry anymore, accountants are,” concludes Rothkop. “As long as that’s the case, we won’t make the right ecological decisions. Foresters often end up in a conflict of interest, between their code of ethics and the profit agenda of the corporations they work for.”

Vallican Whole Community Choir holds spring concert

It’s that time of year again – time for the Vallican Whole Community Choir’s Spring Concert. Members say they’ve had a lot of fun learning new songs this winter, and have also been perfecting the newest choir members. If you’d like to hear this amazing choir, led by Sophia Grey and Sharon Lang, you are invited to join them at the Vallican Whole Community Centre on Sunday, May 1 at 3 pm.

The Vallican Whole is located at 3762 Little Slocan South Rd, Vallican. There will be juice and goodies; admission is by donation, and half of the proceeds will be donated to the Slocan Valley Refugee Coalition.

For more information, call Sharon at 250-226-7191.
by Jan McMurray

“A lot of our youth are experimenting with social media with no real education on the dangers they can get involved in.”

Jingfors, representative of Safer Schools Together, said this to a group of about 30 parents at the Bonnington in Nakusp on March 29.

Jingfors came to speak about social media to School District 10 teachers, parents, and students in separate sessions over two days in Nakusp. Safer Schools Together is a consulting company that works with schools and the police throughout North America to prevent violence and bullying, both on and off line.

“Technology is evolving faster than our understanding of it, particularly for kids and parents,” he said. “So how do we prepare them? Because strangers will approach them online.”

Jingfors said education starts at home, and moderation is “the name of the game” for parenting. He suggested family meetings for respectful dialogue about social media, a contract between parents and children that outlines the rules of technology use, and the use of parental controls on the devices themselves to block or limit specific apps or features on the child’s device.

“Make technology a privilege, not a right,” said Jingfors. “After all, who is the contractual owner of the device? You are.”

Another suggestion was to set up a family charging station overnight “so everyone gets a good night’s sleep.” He said sexting and sextortion happens mostly during the overnight hours.

Sexting, the exchange of inappropriate sexual messages, photos and images, is happening almost as frequently as hockey card trading of yesteryear, Jingfors said. Once an image is posted onto social media, a right, said Jingfors. “After all, who is the contractual owner of the device? You are.”

Jingfors believes that up to grades 5-7, youth should have no digital footprint at all. “After that, we can only hope that they are branding themselves positively online,” he said. He recommends that children have no contact with technology until the age of four. From age four, “there are positive uses in a structured environment,” he said.

For more information:

SaferSchoolTogether.com

Dangers of social media outlined for parents in Nakusp

Byline: Jan McMurray

April 6, 2016 The Valley Voice

Parents and children are being treated for addiction to technology, and experience classic withdrawal symptoms when away from their devices. “Like any other addiction, it takes over the ability to sleep and maintain relationships,” he said. He added that an inability to separate reality and media is also being seen in youth today.

Jingfors also warned parents about the ‘geotag’ that is often attached to a photo when posted online. The geotag reports the person’s physical location. He recommends that parents disable the geotagging feature on their children’s devices, usually done by clicking on the camera icon.

For Instagram, Jingfors suggested that parents set up an account for the child, create the password, set the account as private, and require the child to ask permission before posting photos.

Snap Chat is now the main platform youth are using to communicate with one another. Jingfors reports. “They’re not texting anymore – we are now seeing them communicate with photos and Snap Chat,” he said. Although Snap Chat promises that the photos disappear after 24 hours, Jingfors says they don’t really disappear, as images can be screen-shotted on the recipient’s end and re-sent, or saved by using another app. Also, Snap Chat tracks the number of images per day the child sends, and gives the child a friendship rating by way of an emoji character on the screen. These ratings affect children’s self-worth and encourage them to send more and more photos.

With Facebook, parents can sign up and have some oversight over their children’s activity online. However, Jingfors suggested six different conversations parents need to have with their children about the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships; the importance of establishing and respecting personal boundaries when using technology; the problems with sharing private and intimate information; the law (Bill C13, anti-cyberbullying legislation), makes it illegal to distribute intimate images of a person without their consent; and what happens when you change your mind about consent, i.e. when you break up with your boyfriend/girlfriend; sexting vs. sextortion. Jingfors said the element of extortion or blackmail is taken very seriously by the RCMP, and this is “an unfortunate circumstance a lot of youth are experiencing.”

“The place to start is a discussion at home,” he stressed.

Young people’s lives can be hugely impacted by their digital footprints, Jingfors points out. He said post secondary institutions and employers check up on applicants online before accepting or hiring them. Tragic cases like Amanda Todd’s illustrate only too well the potentially devastating effects of a person’s online footprint.

Jingfors says there is a spike in self harm, anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues among today’s youth. Another emerging phenomenon is technology addiction. Jingfors said 10-15 year olds are being treated for addiction to technology, and experience classic withdrawal symptoms when away from their devices. “Like any other addiction, it takes over the ability to sleep and maintain relationships,” he said. He added that an inability to separate reality and media is also being

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Stand with oil sands workers calling for training in renewable energy

A new initiative known as Irving & Earth looks to the government of Alberta to retain 1,000 out-of-work oil industry electricians in solar panel installation training. They know what a drop in oil prices means for jobs and families and no longer want to rely heavily on any single energy resource for economic well-being.

They “acknowledge the contribution of fossil fuel extraction projects to our lives and livelihoods. And as global citizens, they acknowledge the need to reach climate change targets.” They want to seize this opportunity and create jobs in the renewable energy sector.

They “believe that together we can support the workforce and knowledge economy that will allow Canada to be a leader in the projects of tomorrow – projects that utilize cutting-edge technology to harness renewable energy sources and minimize the impacts of carbon-based extraction practices.”

We should champion these individuals for their foresight.

Carole Summer
Kaslo

Gratitude for KSCU

I’d like to express my gratitude to the excellent staff at KSCU for their incredible help recently. My credit card was compromised and while fraudulent charges were made, they were flagged and I was alerted only days after the first one occurred. It was clearly explained to me what would have been a very stressful situation was instead much easier to handle. So to everyone at KSCU, both in New Denver and the other offices that helped me, thank you so very much. Take pride in a job exceptionally well done.

Jamie Rice
Calgary/New Denver

Community solutions needed for climate change

The Vancouver Declaration on clean growth and climate change was drafted by the provincial premiers and the prime minister 90 days after the Paris Summit. Canada made a commitment to keep emissions from increasing global temperatures another 1.5 degrees Celsius. The declaration should be the road map to that target, but is only a beginning step on the urgent journey toward climate justice.

The first commitment in the declaration uses Steven Harper’s ineffective target of “30% reduction of GHG below 2005 levels by 2030.” Harper’s government stated it would “set a target we can achieve.” But truly we must “set a target we can survive.”

A bold plan is needed. We have a scientific, moral, and economic imperative to do so. Scientists and economists tell us, we must keep 85 percent of all known fossil fuels in the ground. The technology and the money for transition are available, but as yet, not the will.

We need real engagement, led by the federal government. The time for dialogue is now. We need town hall meetings across the country over June and July, led by non-partisan government representatives, to provide opportunity for Canadians to share their views and develop community-driven solutions.

Dona Grace-Campbell
Kaslo

Message to School District 8

Perhaps the most depressing moment during the meeting on Wednesday in Winlaw was when it was made painfully clear that the maintenance of the social fabric of our community was NOT the responsibility of, or even of real interest to, the board. (Should education and community not be inextricably linked?) In an instant, I saw the board as a business, doing what businesses so often do: ruthlessly cut corners to save money. And then the kicker was when they asked us what we would like to see done with the savings they would have after implementing their plan (which includes closing one of our schools). Not to mention their other ludicrous question of whether this plan adds value to learning.

It’s clear the valley community and the board are on different wavelengths. Here’s a wavelength I’d like to share: I am a mother of two living in Winlaw and, with a well-established homeschooling community and the Whole School, you will lose my business (and I know of others). I am not going to chase after you. It would be a tragedy to see either school go. You spend five minutes in Winlaw and you are going to see children, lots of them. It is a vibrant, growing community. To expect to just ‘transport’ an entire community is unrealistic. If Winlaw closes, there is no guarantee we will all flock to Slocan. Sheep are not in the valley.

Are there no other options? Community partnerships or fundraising options? Or perhaps having Winlaw as an elementary school and WE Graham (with its home ec room, woodworking room, gym/climbing wall and wilderness program) a high school?

It was a sad moment when someone asked the trustees/board who was taking notes and there was a deadening silence. Is this truly an interactive process taking place or are we a rural community up against a business, driven by the almighty dollar and not the human beings it serves? Time will tell.

And to touch on the aforementioned irony one last time, to ask us what we would like to be done with the savings that would come about after you take one of our schools from us is a bit like Neslie selling back water to the community it took from and left destitute in the process.

Please reconsider taking our ‘water,’ our well-spring, the heart of our community, from us. We are more than just dollar figures. We are a cohesive community of people who care about our youth and each other. Surely there must be a way for the board and the community to work together, instead of the board alienating its clientele. It takes creativity and resourcefulness to live in the valley. Let’s put those traits to work and come together to look at other alternatives. Creative solutions are what propel humanity forward.

Catherine Trudel
Winlaw

The bear truth

When Wayne McCrory stood up at the S.W.A.M.P. presentation and asked about the effect of logging in toad habitat at Summit Lake, he was not jokingly told that this was a political meeting and everybody laughed. So he sat down. So many smart people are studying flora and fauna, habitat and wildlife while we watch it disappear. At least our gutty MP, Dick Cannings, mentioned the plight of our toads in Parliament.

Years ago, I was teaching Aboriginal Studies at a school where the community was deeply concerned about the logging on Perry Ridge, a place of great cultural value to our Sinixt people. In an attempt to engage the children in an active democratic role, they visited the Sinixt protest camp as well as the loggers. They made drawings of their experience. I wanted them to see their artwork to the MLA and was told that the children shouldn’t be used for political means. Feeling rather discouraged, I quit and sadly watched the logging on Perry Ridge.
April 6, 2016

The Ship of

The Valley Voice

The Ship of State – a survey

From the list below, in the context of British Columbia, who would be the best choice for leading the Province in to the “new economy”? Commander Phillip Queeg Christy Clarke Lieutenant William Blake None of the above

If you chose D “none of the above,” you would be correct. All of the other choices have exhibited decision making that is seriously out of touch with the available data of their time. Although one of the above is an historical figure, another fictional – one is currently operating in real time and insisting on policies that would make little difference.

If we consider the health of the economy of British Columbia as part of the health of the global economy, why on earth would you promote a failing carbon-based economic model, when the new economic reality has been bouncing off your windscreen for several years? What eggs do you want in your economic basket? Intelligent and proactive transition should be one of them.

Ron Robinson Nelson

Background to the Kootenay petition against speed and noise of motorcycles

In recent years the Kootenays have experienced very high numbers of motorcycles. While many users obey the speed limits and comply with existing laws on mufflers, others do not. As an option to modify their factory-built mufflers to purposefully increase their noise.

For instance, some motorcycles with modified mufflers produce noise over 100 decibels, while Vancouver and Victoria limit noise to 70 decibels in industrial areas. Due to the high volume of motorcycle traffic in our communities and on our highways, this has become a serious disturbance to community peace. Although there are regulations in place to ensure proper mufflers and regulate speed, they are apparently not enforced by the police.

For this reason, 4,500 people have signed a petition in the Kootenays asking the government for increased enforcement of the existing laws. A good number of motorists have also signed the petition.

Some residents have expressed concerns that, by specifying motorcycle noise and speed, the petition will discourage motorists from coming to our communities, and thereby diminish the tourist trade. Residents of our communities who form the foundation of support for our local merchants should not have to forego the peaceful and quiet enjoyment of their lives in order to increase business profits.

In September 2011, West Vancouver MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert raised the issue of motorcycle noise in the BC legislature. The matter was ultimately referred to the Ministry of Transportation, which in turn looked to the BC Association of the Chiefs of Police for their recommendation.

On November 16, 2011, a resolution passed by the BC Association of Police Chiefs recommended that the Province adopt: “A Society of Automotive Engineers standard known as J2825, developed through Transport Canada outlining the testing procedure of motorcycle exhaust noise [which] has been accepted and is in use in other jurisdictions in Ontario, New Brunswick, Alberta and the State of Maine.”

According to the Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council, this procedure was developed in consultation with major motorcycle manufacturers, and it allows law enforcement officers to measure the noise level of motorcycles accurately, and to arrest, or to lay a charge, if the noise laws easily enforceable.

In January 2012, the BC Association of Police Chiefs, or Blair Lekstrom, then BC Minister of Transportation, for consideration. To date we’ve seen no results.

The Ship of State – a survey

According to the Kootenay petition requesting enforcement of speed limits and muffler regulations was presented to the BC Legislature by the Hon. Katrine Conroy, MLA, and referred to Minister of Transportation, Hon. Todd Stone.

January 2016 - The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) agreed to support the petitioners with a letter asking for enforcement of regulations in regard to mufflers on motorcycles; also to put forward a similar request by the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG); and further, to lay a charge if the noise laws easily enforceable.

The current feedback process to SDH is to email them before April 30 at facilities@sd8.bc.ca and I strongly encourage you to do so. They would like responses from the community to these 6 questions: Does the draft plan add value to learning? How does your scenario (scored or un-scored) or status quo add value to learning? If the Board moves forward with the draft plan, what decision(s) would you make for your family? If the draft plan is unacceptable to you, what would make it workable for you? If the draft plan is unacceptable to you, what would you do as a trustee to ensure revenue isn’t being spent on capital needs, and is directed towards learning and environment for learning? If the draft plan moved forward, what are your suggested uses for the $5 savings?

But why limit your feedback to SDH when there are so many other stakeholders involved? Why not contact RDCK, our MLA, media, Ministry of Education, the premier? In fact, Christy Clark stated, “The issue, though, in British Columbia, for smaller communities, is not a shortage of funding, but a shortage of students. What the Province can do is try and grow the economy, attract more people to the province, and then we’ll see our enrolment growth.”

We have a thriving and growing community in Winlaw, and Slocan recovering from its industrial loss. Let’s see Christy Clark be accountable by pouring some money into the economic development of the Slocan and the growth utilization of WEG will follow.

In an effort to provide resources about who to contact, where to access SDH data, and ways to campaign, we have started a Facebook group page: Slocan Valley Schools. All efforts will be made to update this page with current information and findings. If you are not able to access this page then contact your MLA, or another source. Stand up for our communities, advocate for our children and – keep our schools!

Shauna Robertson
Winlaw

Keep our schools

Many questions are arising throughout our communities about the SDH proposal to close either WEG or WES. What would you do as a trustee to make it workable for you? If the draft plan is unacceptable to you, what decision(s) would you make for your family? If the draft plan is unacceptable to you, what would make it workable for you? If the draft plan is unacceptable to you, what would you do as a trustee to ensure revenue isn’t being spent on capital needs, and is directed towards learning and environment for learning? If the draft plan moved forward, what are your suggested uses for the $5 savings?

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Shauna Robertson
Winlaw

A Huge Thank You!

Hospice Volunteers are Angels disguised as ordinary people, living ordinary lives...

The New Denver Hospice Society

For Relocation

May 1 through June – Watch the Valley Voice for Re-opening and New Location details!

Thank you and sorry for any inconvenience

358-7769

AVA'S

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358-7769
The BCCFA says the first change was basically done to correct an oversight in the original community forest agreements (CFA) under the Forest Act. Budget 2015 rectifies this gap in legislation, providing the statutory support for the expansion of CFA licenses. BCCFA was involved in high-level negotiations with the minister’s office in the drafting of this section of the legislation.

However, BCCFA Executive Director Jennifer Gunter says the second amendment was opposed by the association. This clause was designed to “give the minister another ‘tool in the toolbox,’” that ensures BCTS “access to a sufficient supply of timber to provide credible cost and price benchmarks for BC’s timber pricing system.” BCCFA supported last year’s amendments in Bill 25-2015, designed to make it easier for BCTS to collaborate with the holders of community forest agreements and First Nations wood licences.

“However, we did not support the new discretionary authority granted to the minister to include a volume reservation for BCTS within a new community forest. We saw this change as an attempt to create area-based ‘licences’ of the community forest tenure.”

This new amendment will allow the minister to issue a new CFA with the condition that the licence is issued by a specified amount of volume to be made available for BCTS. In return, the CFA holder will receive payment. It is basic income, in order to encourage the formation of new CFAs and First Nations agreements, these new allocations have to come from somewhere.

The second involvement changes to support for the expansion of Community Forest tenures (CFTs), FLs, FN Woodlands Licences and Woodlot Licences. “This can be seen like a mandatory timber disposition agreement,” states the BCCFA media release.

Erik Leslie, forest manager for Harrop-Procter Community Forest and a board member with BCCFA, was on record suggesting that it is supposed to be community control over the defined area. You can’t go and plot a volume-based tenure over an area-based tenure, or it’s not truly an area-based tenure anymore.”

The problem appears to have arisen due to the fact that all of the timber licences have already been allocated by the minister, therefore in order to encourage the formation of new CFAs and First Nations agreements, these new allocations have to come from somewhere.

The Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society is seeking a dynamic individual for the position of Co-ordinator/Fundraiser. Reporting to the Board of Directors, this exciting position is central to the success of the society’s planned Slocan affordable housing project for seniors; the job involves strategic planning, grant writing, working with funders and community organizations, promoting community awareness, developing partnerships, and fundraising.

**Background:**

The Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society exists to provide affordable rental housing for seniors and to offer outreach programs. After 16 years of operating the 10-unit Passmore House, we plan to build three fourplexes in the heart of the Village of Slocan. We have completed our Need and Demand Study, and are finalizing costs. We have the donation of many professional hours in design and engineering skills, leased land from the Village of Slocan and the support of our community. Our 12-member volunteer board is stable, strong and experienced. Now we need to raise funds before seeking a mortgage.

**Duties and Responsibilities Include:**

- Prepare a detailed fundraising plan
- Build key relationships across community, government, foundation and private sectors
- Prepare initial marketing materials
- Develop and initiate fund raising efforts
- Apply to funding agencies and prepare reports
- Manage finances and administrative details
- Maintain clear and regular communication with the Board

**Salary:**

To be negotiated. Flexible hours possible.

**Start Date:**

Early May

**Requirements:**

- Experience in housing development and a passion about the cause would be an advantage

**Application:**

The closing date for this position is April 21. Please send applications by email to: sallymackenzie367@gmail.com

We thank all those who apply, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

**Medical marijuana laws haven’t changed yet**

by Kaitrine Campbell

Slocan, Kaslo, and Area D have a high 2015 turnout (77 percent) but placed poorly in the challenge because it had such a good turnout in 2011 (70 percent). Kaslo and Area D ended up on the bottom in the challenge with its 7.2 percent increase.

“Turnout in the South Okanagan West-Kootenay and Kootenay Columbia ridings combined was 73 percent.”


“This was civic engagement at its very best,” said Chapman.

**75-cent BC Rural Dividend helps small communities**

by Kaitrine Campbell

Official Opposition Critic for Rural Communities, Mike Chapman, and Kootenay West MLA, Erik Leslie, forest manager for Harrop-Procter Community Forest and a board member with BCCFA, were on record suggesting that it is supposed to be community control over the defined area. You can’t go and plot a volume-based tenure over an area-based tenure, or it’s not truly an area-based tenure anymore.”

The problem appears to have arisen due to the fact that all of the timber licences have already been allocated by the minister, therefore in order to encourage the formation of new CFAs and First Nations agreements, these new allocations have to come from somewhere.

For more information visit http://bcca.ca/bill-12-introduced-in-the-legislature.

**Community Voice**

April 6, 2016

**Minister introduces bill to amend Community Forest tenures**

by Art Joyce

Steve Thomson, the Minister of Forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, introduced Bill 12-2016 in the legislature on March 10. According to the BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA), the bill proposes legislative amendments that affect community forests in two key areas: The first will allow for the expansion of existing community forest tenures. The second involves changes to support for BC Timber Sales (BCTS) by reserving for itself part of the timber in new Community Forest tenures.

The BCCFA says the first change was basically done to correct an oversight in the original community forest agreements (CFA) under the Forest Act. Budget 2015 rectifies this gap in legislation, providing the statutory support for the expansion of CFA licenses. BCCFA was involved in high-level negotiations with the minister’s office in the drafting of this section of the legislation.

However, BCCFA Executive Director Jennifer Gunter says the second amendment was opposed by the association. This clause was designed to “give the minister another ‘tool in the toolbox,’” that ensures BCTS “access to a sufficient supply of timber to provide credible cost and price benchmarks for BC’s timber pricing system.” BCCFA supported last year’s amendments in Bill 25-2015, designed to make it easier for BCTS to collaborate with the holders of community forest agreements and First Nations wood licences.

“This new amendment will allow the minister to issue a new CFA with the condition that the licence is issued by a specified amount of volume to be made available for BCTS. In return, the CFA holder will receive payment. It is basic income, in order to encourage the formation of new CFAs and First Nations agreements, these new allocations have to come from somewhere.”

Salary:

Until that happens, “marijuana is a controlled substance outside the law,” says Mike Chapman, one of the organizers of the challenge. All nine participating Kootenay communities topped the national voter turnout of 68 percent and the provincial turnout of 70 percent in the 2015 election. According to the recently released Elections Canada’s poll by poll results, Rossland had a voter turnout of 81 percent, New Denver a voter turnout of 78 percent, Kaslo and Area D had a voter turnout of over 80 percent. “Given that the national level was 68 percent – itself a marked increase from 2011 – this is extremely impressive,” Chapman says.

Ranking the nine participating communities by voter turnout in the 2015 election, Slocan came first with 84 percent, Rossland placed second with 81 percent, New Denver came third with 78 percent and Kaslo and Area D placed fourth with 77 percent.

Although Slocan’s 84 percent turnout was the highest of all nine participating communities, it placed seventh in the challenge because of its high voter turnout of 73 percent in 2011. Its increase between the two elections was the lowest of any community. “Like Slocan, Kaslo and Area D had a high 2015 turnout (77 percent) but placed poorly in the challenge because it had such a good turnout in 2011 (70 percent). Kaslo and Area D ended up on the bottom in the challenge with its 7.2 percent increase.”
Slocan’s draft budget presented March 21

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

Slocan Chief Financial Officer Colin McClure presented the draft 2016 budget and the draft 2015 financial statement at a public consultation meeting held in council chambers on March 21.

With no members of the public attending, McClure said “we’ll figure we’ve done our due diligence’’ and council can proceed to enact the budget bylaw without amendments. Slocan is on schedule to complete this before the Province’s deadline of May 15.

In 2016, McClure expects the Village to have a revenue of about $727,000 and expenses of about $562,000. Excess funds will be used to pay down debt, to fund capital purchases, and also will be stored in operational and capital reserves.

The Village receives about $162,00 from taxation. McClure said not much is expected in the way of new market construction. McClure recommended the Village increase overall property taxes by three percent. He said this would yield about an extra $4,340 to cover inflationary increases to the Village’s expenses.

“We’re not gouging,’’ McClure said. “Taxation is the only way to fund the Village.’’

The Village will get 89 percent of its tax revenue from residential taxes, six percent from business, two percent from light industry and three percent from utilities – this is the same as last year. Water rates will be increased by 2.75 percent ($1 per home). For another year, the Village has been able to keep garbage fees unchanged.

Only 45 percent of the taxes collected by the Village are kept by the Village. The other 55 percent are collected on behalf of others: school, RDCK, police, regional hospital, BC Assessment Authority & Municipal Finance Authority. This means that total taxes charged may increase by more (or less) than three percent, depending on whether the other entities raise or lower their taxes.

On the taxes the Village does control, though, “council’s clear – we want to minimize tax rate increases,’’ said McClure. Council has directed that additional budget priorities are to: maintain municipal services, look for ways to increase efficiencies and reduce costs, generate new revenue from green power, focus on long-term planning especially of storm sewers and waterlines, improve infrastructure, and implement sustainability principles.

Village finances look good. CFO McClure said Slocan was “pretty much the only municipality’’ he serves that doesn’t have debt to speak of and that this “speaks to the manner in which council living within their means.’’ He did point out that “debt is not a bad thing,’’ that the Village “shouldn’t be afraid of it’’ as “it can serve its purpose.’’ He used the proposed microhydro project as an example. If it provides a good return on investment, then in the long run the Village would benefit.

McClure called the 2016 capital budget of $204,000 “ambitious.’’ It will include projects carried over from 2015: the uncompleted Wellness Centre sign, the delayed seniors housing project, and the new tractor not purchased last year as the weather was too dry. Public Works “didn’t need to cut the lawn.’’ New projects for 2016 are: campground improvements; microhydro; equipment and attachments; Legion Hall roofing; waterline replacement; SCADA Computer software (a “significant upgrade’’ at “significant cost’’ for water provision); and storm sewer and drainage upgrades.

CFO McClure said that there was “a lot of water work to be done,’’ Councillor Perriere expressed her support, saying if infrastructure wasn’t maintained “it just comes back and bites you.’’ The Village will look for project grants to supplement Village funds.

Public consultation is step 6 in an eight-part financial planning process. (The first five steps involve preparing, reviewing, and adjusting the budget, followed by presenting it to council and council debating it and proposing a tax rate.) Step 7 is a review of input and potential subsequent changes and Step 8 is the introduction and adoption of the budget bylaw. Council will introduce the budget bylaw at the April 11 regular meeting.

CFO McClure also went over the 2015 financial statement, saying that “in most cases the numbers are pretty much what was expected.’’ He noted that the JCP (Screech Owl Walk project) and SHAC grants were a “pleasant surprise.’’ He described the Village as “a very ambitious group… wanting to get things done.’’ He also said, “You are good stewards.’’ The only debt ($16,784) the Village had at the end of 2015 was for a truck that will be paid off in 2018, a situation the CFO called “pretty fantastic for a small community.’’

McClure pointed out a new change in accounting: the adoption of a section with standards on how to account for and report a liability associated with the remediation of contaminated sites on municipally owned property. McClure said that though this new standard “creates some sort of angst when you see it, there’s no liability for the Village.’’ He said the new standard eliminates any potential for a municipality to hide contamination on any land it owns. He said, “When we looked at property owned by the Village… we don’t see any concern.’’

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Kaslo and New Denver get publicity in rider friendly contest
by Jan McMurray

Two Hills, Alberta won the semi-final round against Kaslo and New Denver in Canada’s Most Rider Friendly Community contest, and now goes on to the final round against Moncton, New Brunswick.

“It was a horse race between Two Hills, Alberta and Kaslo,” said Butter, who organized the event. “The program not only prioritizes sourcing regional products for the store, but also offers local food producers support through marketing, and makes it possible to expand their reach to local businesses and more people.”

Kaslo physicians are all working part-time, said Butter. “They’re dying. They need support and we’re here to provide that support.”

There will be a radio show on Hog Radio online radio station, and promotion in the Busted Knuckle online newspaper, on co-op’s website at Kootenayfood.com and on the co-op’s Facebook page. People with questions can reach out at dustin.east@gmail.com. Supports for Kaslo and New Denver were furnished by the Kaslo Food Hub, and assistant to Dustin East in the event’s coordination, “I would love to see these events happen regularly, where we can have communities around the region.”

The event was part of the ‘Farm Food Fork’ series, a project of the West Kootenay Permaculture Co-op. The goal of the event series is to strengthen the local food movement by making the West Kootenay’s food system more community-based, self-reliant and sustainable. The event series hopes to host a ‘Farm Food Fork’ event in their community can learn more through the co-op’s website at Kootenayfood.com and on the co-op’s Facebook page. People with questions can reach out at dustin.east@gmail.com.

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The Mountain Caribou Initiative: a visual journey into the world of an endangered species submitted

In the summer of 2015, a team of outdoor adventurers and naturalists began a journey to learn about the beautiful and imperiled world of the mountain caribou in Washington, Idaho, and British Columbia – the southernmost population of caribou found anywhere on earth. The team set out to explore the collapse of this magnificent species. What they quickly realized is that this story encompasses a much larger and more complex conservation conundrum involving the decline of the largest remaining inland temperate rainforest on the planet.

The Mountain Caribou Initiative is raising awareness of the plight of these elusive animals and the globally unique ecosystem they call home. This initiative provides a compelling window into the world of mountain caribou and how we can work together to protect these magnificent creatures.

The team aims to capture a variety of perspectives on the subject through fieldwork with mountain caribou biologists, conservation groups, First Nations, members of the forestry industry, and other individuals and groups that are resilient, they are also highly vulnerable to these human-caused stressors. Currently, less than 20 caribou remain in the last mountain caribou country.

Mountain caribou have long depended on the rugged and remote habitat that humans now use for lumber, hydropower, energy extraction, and winter recreation. While these creatures are resilient, they are also highly vulnerable to these human-caused stressors. Currently, less than 20 caribou remain in the last mountain caribou country.

Students plan to work alongside community members, food bank clients, staff, and parent volunteers to grow healthy food and offer an education space about permaculture by leading tours and workshops for community members and other schools.

“Earth Day is an important celebration for the students and the focus this year will be on food systems and designing the garden,” teacher Rosanne Mackay says.

Students and teachers will develop their garden design in consultation with local certified permaculture experts. The vision for the garden is to provide food for the school’s weekly hot lunch program and to help prepare. Additionally, the garden will give the children experience with permaculture design, the lifecycle of plants, and an opportunity to share their knowledge and skills in the

The Whole School hosts Earth Day open house submitted

The Whole School welcomes interested parents and their children to its Earth Day celebration April 21 from 2 to 5 pm at the school, 5614 Hwy 6 in Winlaw. This is an opportunity to learn more about the school, sustainability, food systems, and growing plants through interactive activities for children.

This year, the students are exploring how the permaculture garden will help them reach their healthy living goals. Last year, with Columbia Basin Trust’s support, the school fenced the garden; this year the students will learn the principles of permaculture design. They will use compost generated in the past few years through the bokashi composting system to start edible plants and herbs.

“Earth Day is an important window into the world of mountain caribou and how we can work together to protect these magnificent creatures.”

Mackay says.

For more information, contact the school at 250 226-7737 or email the school at wholeschool@gmail.com or see if our school would be a good fit for their family.” says school board member Tara Harvey.

The school strives to create a nurturing and safe environment for Kindergarten and elementary level students.

As team member Marcus Reynerson points out, “We have an opportunity to learn about the beautiful and complex conservation challenges. We need to step away from efforts focusing just on individual species and instead look at entire ecosystems, which is the real scope of what is endangered here. Unfortunately, it is a scenario we are going to see more and more of across the planet in the years to come,” says Moskowitz.

The Mountain Caribou Initiative is a collaborative team of photographes, writers, conservationists, and naturalists telling a compelling story through visual media.

David Moskowitz, the team leader, is a biologist, photographer and the author of two books, Wildfire of the Pacific Northwest and Wolves in the Land of Salmon. David has contributed his technical expertise to a wide variety of wildlife studies in western North America.

Marcus Reynerson has worked in wilderness education and conservation for numerous organizations across the United States for the last 15 years. Marcus is currently the coordinator for the Anake program, a year-long college-level naturalist and wildlife tracking immersion program for adults, at Wilderness Awareness School in Duvall, Washington.

Kim Shelton is an avid naturalist, wildlife tracker and educator. Her family ties to the L�ech Lake Band of Ojibwe inspire the creation of cultural connections to tribal and First Nations peoples in mountain caribou country.

Colin Arisman is an environmental and adventure filmmaker and the co-founder of Wild Confluence Films. His work has been shown at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, and has won numerous awards.

The Mountain Caribou Initiative is sponsored by Sculpt the Future Foundation and Blue Earth Alliance, and supported by numerous other organizations working to serve wildlife and wild places.
Backwoods Solar opens outlet in Cooper Creek north of Kaslo
by Jan McMurray

Backwoods Solar, a company based in Sandpoint, Idaho, has been designing and helping customers all over the world with their customized renewable energy systems for over 30 years. In 2014, the company opened a Canadian outlet in Cooper Creek, north of Kaslo.

Cooper Creek resident Cheryl Sinclair is the company’s sales rep. “It’s an amazing industry to be in,” she says. “I’m learning so much!”

So far, Backwoods Solar in Cooper Creek has helped set up about 80 systems, mostly solar, and most in the West Kootenay.

Backwoods Solar offers solar, microhydro, and wind power system design, equipment, and support. Most of their business is in solar. “It’s probably the most universally viable,” says CEO Sequoya Cross. “Everyone has sunshine some part of the year, but not everyone has wind or a stream on their property.”

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Cheryl operated the business out of her Cooper Creek home for the first year and a half, and then moved it to the 28-acre property next door in December 2015. It’s located right on the highway on the northeast side of the Cooper Creek bridge.

Backwoods Solar found its way to Cooper Creek via Bob Watters of Tucson, Arizona. Some Quaker friends of his in Tucson had been to the area in the 1950s and recommended it to him. Watters came up, liked it, and bought a place at Cooper Creek. He’s been here seven years now.

Before he retired, Watters was a research assistant and instructor of alternative energy systems at the University of Arizona. His career took him all over the world, including to Micronesia in the early 1980s to install over 100 solar-powered wells and to work as energy research coordinator for the University of Guam Water and Energy Research Institute. When he installed a solar system at his house in Cooper Creek, he quickly found himself helping several of his neighbours do the same. One of those people was Cheryl Sinclair.

Cheryl was looking for work. When they approached me to be the sales rep for Backwoods Solar in Canada, I was ecstatic,” says Cheryl. “Bob has taken me under his wing and is teaching me all about the industry. It’s so much fun!”

Anyone in the West Kootenay who is interested in an alternative energy system at their home or business can call the Cooper Creek office for a free site survey. They will come to your property with a piece of equipment called a solar pathfinder, which measures approximately how much sun exposure the property has over a year. With this information, they can provide an estimate of the investment required.

“Bob is interested in people, making sure we design and plan to host more in future at the new Backwoods Solar location.

Backwoods CEO Sequoya Cross explains that the company’s West Kootenay connection goes way back. The company’s founders, Steve and Elizabeth Willey, were Quakers, and they travelled to Argenta when they got waylaid in Sandpoint. They ended up settling in Sandpoint, never making it to Argenta. When Sequoya came to Cooper Creek to see about opening a Canadian outlet, she says she was thrilled to “visit the place that our founders held so near and dear to their hearts. It was great to start up a Backwoods location there and see it come full circle.”

The company’s founders started up a catalogue of solar equipment in 1978, after installing a solar system at their house in Sandpoint and getting more and more interest from people about it.

“The company has grown significantly since then, but we try to stay true to our roots, working one on one with people, making sure we design the right system for their situation,” said Sequoya. “We’ve designed 35,000 off-grid systems over the last 40 years.”
by Jan McMurray

Gritco Professional Cleaning Services is a new business in New Denver, serving Nakusp and area, the Slocan Valley, and Kaslo.

Carolina Gritco offers residential and business cleaning services at affordable rates. “I clean like it’s my own home or business,” she says. Carolina has her own cleaning supplies and some equipment. She is also happy to use supplies and equipment provided by her customers.

“It’s always satisfying to finish a cleaning job – it’s a real sense of accomplishment,” she says. “I’m happy when my customers are happy.”

Carolina is originally from Moldova, Russia, where she grew up on a farm. She’s been in New Denver on and off since 2008, and is now here to stay. She says New Denver reminds her of Moldova, with its mild weather and rural lifestyle.

“I love the clean air, clean water, beautiful mountains, and good people here,” she says.

A speaker of Moldovan, Russian and English, Carolina studied English for two years in Russia before arriving in Canada, and took an English as a second language course at Selkirk in 2013. Carolina is a hard worker and is very motivated to make her cleaning business a success.

Carolina Gritco, the West Kootenay’s own Rosie the Riveter, is offering professional cleaning services in the Valley Voice coverage area.

Yard & Yardage: more than just a Sunday drive

submitted

Come to the annual Yard & Yardage event, a once-a-year opportunity to celebrate spring with neighbours and others who share a passion for community, gardening and fibre arts. It takes place on Sunday, April 17 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Slocan Valley Threads Guild in Perry’s Siding, five minutes north of Winlaw, just off Hwy 6.

Would your garden benefit from a new perennial or two? Is your fabric stash depleted after the winter? During this event, the yard at the Threads Guild becomes a garden centre. You will find plants at reasonable prices, as well as answers to your gardening questions.

Inside, you can expect nourishment and treats from soups to sweets. In the heart of the hall are bargains on more fabric than ever, yarn, ribbon, buttons, patterns, craft magazines and boutique items. Members’ work will be on display to inspire you, and many of the 113 current members will be on hand to visit. For $10 you can join the Guild, or renew your membership, good to June 2017. Admission is free. No dogs please. Proceeds support the Threads Guild and donations of fabric, notions and plants are being accepted now, before the event. Call Sharon at 226-7703, Lyndal at 355-2267, Jasmine at 352-7152 or Burgin 358-2241 to arrange pick-up or drop-off. See you there!
Slocan Valley students learn about the life cycle of the bees

When bees are mentioned, most people think of ‘busy’ and ‘honey,’ a few think of ‘stings.’ But the major contribution of bees to man is pollination of his food supply. Without bees and other pollinators such as insects, butterflies and birds, we would lose 25 percent of our food products. Can the world afford this?

To help bring ‘bee awareness’ to students and others in the West Kootenay, Keith Sletsko dusted off an observation bee hive he designed, built and installed at a Castlegar elementary school 45 years ago. Together with fellow bee keeper Sharon Myers, he installed the hive at WE Graham school in Slocan last May, then at the Four Nations Coalition of Indigenous Medicines in Vallican, where it was part of the Indigenous Earth Studies for Kids program.

The hive, with its glass sides, allows daily observation of various stages of the bees’ lives from the queen laying eggs, to care of the eggs by workers, to seeing baby bees emerge from the capped cells. The bees also gather and store nectar and pollen, clean the hive, and build new honeycomb. The directional dances the bees do to locate food sources fascinate observers.

At an assembly held the first day the hive was installed at each school, students learned the anatomy of a bee, their life cycles and their culture. They also learned how to care for the bees holistically using natural products. A key part of this discussion revolved around how the students can assist in creating a healthy environment in their communities and home gardens that will benefit bees, other pollinators and by extension, the whole planet.

They learned that it’s not just neonicotinoid based products used in agriculture that are detrimental to pollinators; just as toxic are the chemical cocktails we mix in our backyards with various insect eradication sprays and cleaning compounds, even shampoos. Not all flowering plants are pollinated in the same way. Students learned which ones to plant to attract bees, butterflies and birds.

The project was so successful that nine schools in the Kootenays have asked to participate in a similar program with an observation hive in 2016. Seven are slated to be fulfilled this year, with more planned for 2017. Sure to add to awareness of the importance of bees is one community’s plan to participate in a community ‘art project’ involving the hive. Other requests to display the observation hive include: Nelson Apitherapy Conference, Castlegar Garden Festival, Winlaw Water Festival, National Bee Day and a Bee Awareness Festival in the Slocan Valley November 2016.

To make all this happen the not-for-profit group registered as ‘Bee Awareness Society’ is asking for donations of money, materials, bees. For more information contact: Sharon Myers sharonbeehappy@gmail.com, Linda Martin 250-226-7758 or Keith Sletsko 250-359-7810. Some donations have already been received and the group would like to thank these donors for their generosity.

RUBY HOLLAND
1942 – 2016

Our very dearest and very much loved Ruby slipped peacefully away in the arms of her husband Peter on the first day of March, 2016 after a long and arduous fight with Cancer.

She leaves behind daughters Jacqueline and Jennifer and son James as well as six grandchildren. She will be remembered for her participation in the Arrow Lakes Choir and her story-telling workshops at the Nakusp Pioneer Pageant at the Bonnington Arts theatre.

Ruby lived most of her teenage years in the picturesque village of Weobley in rural Herefordshire, England and was the second eldest daughter of Elizabeth and Joseph Stocker. She leaves behind in England her sisters Doreen, Margaret, Gillian, Linda and her brothers Tommy, Edgar, Douglas and Roy. There is also her much loved 94-year-old Auntie Dill.

She travelled extensively in Canada with her husband and family and eventually made the village of Nakusp in British Columbia her home. She took particular pride in her flower gardens and her magnificent view of mountains, lake and forest. She will be remembered for her many English Style garden tea parties for her friends and neighbours.

Donations in memory of Ruby may be sent to the “Canadian Cancer Society”

Canadian Cancer Society
Southern Interior Rotary Lodge
2251 Abbott Street
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1E2
CANADA

A note can be written on the cheque “In Memory of Ruby Holland.”

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Valley Funeral Home Online condolences may be expressed at www.valleyfh.ca

The Rotary Club of Nakusp has applied for CBT Community Initiatives/Affected Area Program funds for the Light Up Our Waterfront project.

Gwendolyn and Jasmine Pusey are fascinated by the bees in the observation hive installed at WE Graham school last spring by local beekeepers.

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Public support of Rotary’s 2016 Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) application is critical, she says. “If we cannot secure this year’s grant, we cannot light up our waterfront.” The Rotary Club is hoping for your vote on April 17. Voting time is from noon to 4 pm at the arena auditorium.
Logger training provides gainful employment outcomes

Building community through sharing the harvest

The inaugural Logger Training Program in the West Kootenay was successfully completed at the end of February, opening up opportunities for employment in the regional forestry sector for the graduates.

The objective of the training was to introduce individuals to the logging industry, preparing the participants to begin a career as a logger. The program was developed through a partnership with Selkirk College, the Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFORT), the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS), and local logging contractors and forest industry employers.

“Before we moved ahead with the program, we met with many of the local logging contractors from the Nelson, Nakusp, and Kaslo area,” says Gregg Neelin, the manager of Selkirk College’s Community Education & Workplace Training. “The contractors fully supported the program [which] was built on logging contractors’ input and their needs, and this is why the program was such a success.”

The 11-week program was a combination of certification training with a focus on safety (first aid, chain saw use and maintenance, tree identification and log merchandising, wire rope splicing, saw milling, and more) and on-site logging work experience with local logging contractors. Job coaches worked with students to support their training throughout.

“Our focus was on cable harvesting operations, because cable logging is very labour intensive, and taught the basic goal of logging – getting the wood to the landing safely and efficiently,” says Bill Kestell, KDUCFS manager.

The participants were introduced to a wide range of logging practices that included setting chokers, rigging the back line, hand backing on the landing, chasing at the landing, and helping to move the yarder. They were also able to spend some time on a skidder and a log loader on several conventional logging operations.

The training program stressed the importance of safe logging practices for all phases of conventional and cable yarding log harvesting operations. Participants were also introduced to the importance of following logging plans, emergency management systems, and the use of iPads as a growing tool used in the logging industry.

The training program began with nine participants and ended with eight. Two of the individuals have jobs with local logging contractors, and a third has a mechanic’s position with a logging contractor. Two participants have scheduled job interviews with a logging contractor and a stand tending contractor. Another individual is interviewing with a local forestry development contractor. The remaining two individuals, although they do not have an insight on a position today, are very interested in pursuing a logging career.

Although the program was focused on participants becoming loggers, it introduced them to other logging industry careers such as fuel management, stand tending, milling operations, and layout opportunities.

“We believe there is a real benefit for individuals going through this program to enter the world of logging and technical forestry development, especially as pertains to cable logging,” says NACFORT Manager Hugh Watt.

The goal now is to make the logger training program into a regular program to encourage new employees into the logging industry.

“We believe we faced many of the same obstacles as others who have encountered in developing their training programs – program start-up delays and restrictive eligibility criteria being the two biggest hurdles,” says Neelin.

Selkirk College, NACFORT and KDCFS, and the local loggers who participated are scheduled to meet soon to see if they would like to form a local logging training centre in the Selkirk College region. We welcome all comments or questions regarding this training program.

Funding for the Logger Training program was provided by the Government of Canada through the Canada-British Columbia Job Fund.
Parents helping parents in School District 8
by Sheri Walsh and Lori Thompson

Sometimes our children face difficult problems or situations at school that they are unable to cope with. It could be a problem with a teacher, inadequate support, bullying, or a rule that seems unfair. Many parents find these issues challenging to deal with, feel intimidated by school officials or fear if they speak out their child might suffer. They feel frustrated because they’re not sure how to support their children in these situations, yet know that they should. Sometimes district staff see families that need support to advocate effectively for their children.

That’s when a parent advocate can help.

SD8 used to have a number of trained volunteer parent advocates. This number has dwindled over the past few years to just one. In an effort to share the load and be proactive in helping parents resolve their concerns or complaints, the Kootenay Lake School District Parents’ Advisory Council provided the opportunity for nine parents from the Slocan Valley, Kaslo, Salmo, and Nelson to spend a morning receiving parent advocacy training from Winlaw resident Susan Wilson, a pioneer of the advocacy program and provincially recognized parent advocate. The Kootenay Lake School District strongly supports the role of parent advocates, and Superintendent Jeff Jones, Independent Learning Director Ben Eaton and several student support staff added their expertise and provided resources.

The advocate trainees learned what advocacy is (helping parents navigate the public education system through established policies and procedures and achieving a resolution) and isn’t (winning, punishing or firing someone), as well as how to support parents to prepare for and participate in meetings with staff; the role of an advocate at such meetings; communications and record keeping. They role-played common scenarios and asked many questions. Participants left the training session with a commitment to continue to build their skills to provide parents with this confidential, supportive and empowering service.

The British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) Advocacy Project trained parent advocates throughout the province between 1994 and 2009 with funding from the Ministry of Education. Because of that program, thousands of parents in BC were helped to speak up for their children.

The training is intended to provide – BCAA service from New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work, Salvage, and restoration of old vehicles. The service is run by Kevin Gil, who has been in the business for over 20 years. Kevin Gil says, “I will continue the same high quality service that my grandfather established.” Kevin has lived in Winlaw for about seven years, and was in Nelson before that. He is an avid outdoorsman. Check out his Slocan Towing Ltd. Facebook page.

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Jean Mary Desilets

August 15, 1936 to March 29, 2016

Jean passed away peacefully at her home on March 29, 2016 surrounded by her family. She leaves behind her husband of 60 years, Charles Eugene Desilets, her daughters: Deborah Desilets (Perry Mulak), Barbara Nicoll (Leonard Nicoll), Ariah Desilets (Brenda Ja- cob), and Jackie Desilets (Liz Kunkle) and her grandchildren: Dylan, Dallas, Jesse, Samara, Emily, Aaron, Levi, Matthew, Cayley, Cody, Janne, Carley and Taylor, and her great grandchildren: Kaiie, Trista, Ellie, Tavin, Makena, Tylan, and Ryan.

We feel so deeply grateful for Jean’s powerful sense of self, her love of family, for creating and gifting beautiful things through her sewing and gardening, and for her amazing ability to cheerlead and promote everything done by anyone she loved. Jean was a loving and devoted wife, a caring and connected mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was a very good friend to Jean was a loving and devoted wife, a caring and connected mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was a very good friend to everyone who knew Jean and her family are warmly invited.

Jean’s funeral mass will be at the Catholic Church of Mary immaculate Parish, 813 Ward St., Nelson, on Tuesday April 4th at 11:00. A luncheon will be held after the mass at the Catholic centre. Everyone who knows Jean and her family are warmly invited.

The Kootenay Dance Beat hosts social dance submitted

Coming this April 23 to an Eagles Hall near you (641 Baker Street in Nelson, to be exact), the Kootenay Dance Beat Society presents the Eagles Hall is an outdoor dance venue that has hosted parties, dance parties, and community events.

Aside from all the physical and psychological benefits of partner dancing, it’s just plain fun. Not a fan of partner dancing? No problem! Dance club live band makes sure to request different genres of music from the band ahead of time.

Doors open at 8 pm, snacks and refreshments will be available. Tickets at Otter Books and Dulux Paint, or at the door.

Lakes ATV club, this is a grey area. The new regulations “still need a lot of time.” Knecht said. “The vehicle has to be registered from Winlaw resident Susan Wilson, receiving parent advocacy training for nine parents from the Slocan Valley, Kaslo, Salmo, and Nelson to spend a morning receiving parent advocacy training from Winlaw resident Susan Wilson, a pioneer of the advocacy program and provincially recognized parent advocate. The Kootenay Lake School District strongly supports the role of parent advocates, and Superintendent Jeff Jones, Independent Learning Director Ben Eaton and several student support staff added their expertise and provided resources.

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**SAME GREAT SERVICE**

Kevin Gil
250-226-7084
Cell: 250-551-7369
bseriesdiesel@gmail.com

Kevin will come and help if you’ve got a flat tire, need a jump start, have run out of gas, or have broken down for any reason. “If I can, I’ll get the vehicle running as opposed to towing it. Everyone is usually happy when that happens,” he says.

He describes his Winlaw location as “handy and central to the service area.” Kevin is a welder, and offers a portable welding service, as well. “I can provide a portable welding service to undertake repair work in the field or on the road.”

He also has a background as a truck driver and heavy equipment operator. He owns a 4,000-gallon water truck that is ready to go into service at any moment to help with forest fires, livestock watering during drought, or whatever the need may be. Originally from Osoyoos, Kevin has lived in Winlaw for about seven years, and was in Nelson before that. He is an avid outdoorsman.

Check out his Slocan Towing Ltd. Facebook page.
Global News features Silverton, Fauquier on ‘Small Town BC’ segment

by Art Joyce

Global News broadcasts a ‘Small Town BC’ weekend news feature that recently profiled Silverton, Fauquier, and Edgewood in several two-minute segments. The news anchor Kate Gajdosik and meteorologist Michael Kuss, the features use photos sent in by residents and a brief overview of the community’s history. Some of the smaller BC small towns also managed to rally a group shot of residents.

Two segments on Silverton, first aired on March 19, featured a photo of the mining equipment at the former museum, stunning images of Slocan Lake, Wilson Creek Falls, Idaho Peak, the Gustafson farm, and others. The Cup and Saucer particularly caught the broadcaster’s attention and she features a photo of the local favourite in the segment.

“There’s a campground right on Slocan Lake, making it the ideal destination for outdoor recreation,” says Gajdosik. “The annual Canada Day celebration put on by the Silverton Community Club is a highlight for the community for its well-attended parade.”

Silverton, with just 195 residents – “I couldn’t believe this – is BC’s second smallest municipality.” Leah Main, Brandon Gustafson, Tamara Claxton, Mike Hicks, Doug Dorstom, Kathy Provan, Abby McMillan and others had their photos featured. Although it hasn’t been held for a few years now, the Polar Bear Swim was also featured in submitted photos.

The Fauquier segments hosted by Michael Kuss on March 5 featured photos of Arrow Lake, horses and horseriding, and several views of the Faquier Golf Course – including a photo of a fairway and the greens. Featured images were from Luna King, Sheila McInnes, and others.

The most recent installment in the series profiled Edgewood in three segments broadcast April 2. Photos from Linda McGrath show the old Edgewood schoolhouse, along with images of huckleberries – misidentified by Kuss as cherries. Other photos show the Edgewood General Store, various shots taken at low water on Lower Arrow Lake beaches and the new covered stage at the ballpark. The beautiful Innsikwun River and falls are also shown.

In an email Kuss said, “We’ve had a good response for pictures from the area and I think coming together in while the show was on this morning from Edgewood.”

To suggest a small town to be featured in “Small Town BC,” or to send photos, contact workweekend@globnews.ca. To view the segments online visit the website: http://globnews.ca/video/2559782/small-town-bc-fauquier-2 http://globnews.ca/video/2614663/small-town-bc-edgewood-8 http://globnews.ca/video/2614650/small-town-bc-edgewood-7 http://globnews.ca/video/2614649/small-town-bc-edgewood-9

Three villages opt to streamline small business paperwork

by Katrine Campbell

New Denver, Silverton and Slocan have all recently signed up for BizPaL,...
 oportunely to hatch out of your shell on May 7. We invite short performances: Seeking acts for our coffee house SLGS COMMUNITY COFFEE on April 21 (1:30-3 pm) at Bosun Hall in Advisors Program will teach you what you starting a business? The Basin Business ME INC. WORKSHOP. Thinking about April 14 - May 19, 6 pm - 8 pm at Mt. Basin Alliance for Literacy program. Bring ADULT COMPUTER CLASS – Improve yahoo.ca. to register 250-358-2645 or ana_inanna@ slocanlakemountaincottage.com. New Denver May 1. Workshop fee is $50, of new slide show featuring Fauquier & April 6, 2016 Highland Creek Contracting • Excavating • Dump truck • Premium garden soil • Lawn installation • Landscaping Call for a estimate Pete Schwartz 250-358-2199 cell: 250-505-4347 highlandcrkcontracting@gmail.com
Hello Valley

Kootenay Sufferfest and JCP are looking for you! Learn skills on the job working with a great organization. For more information please contact Margaret at 250-265-3318 ext 218 or email: mdriscoll@adams. Com

Summer student position available at the Visitor Centre in New Denver for 2016 season. Must be currently attending school and returning to school in the fall. Ideal candidate is friendly, outgoing, helpful and knowledgeable about the area’s amenities and attractions. The Visitor Centre is open from the May long weekend to Labour Day, 7 days a week in July and August and fewer hours in May and June. The position is expected to work 35-40 hours per week July and August. To apply send a resume and cover letter by May 1 to the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce, Box 448, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0 or email chamber@slocanvalley.ca.

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For education on preplanning funerals. Carpenter Creek Last Wishess Society. www.carpentercreeklastwishesociety.ca

OA, ACOA OR ALANON MEETINGS
FOR INFORMATION ON AA, NA, OA, ACOA OR ALANON MEETINGS, call the Vernon Street, Nelson. Nelson and District Seniors Coordinating Society.

A full series from the basics to hands on. The intro workshop is a pre-requisite to the hands on workshops. Intro Workshop, Thurs May 5, 7-9pm, $25. Pickering Asparagus, Sat May 14, 1-4pm, $45. Freezing & Juicing, Sat Jun 4, 1-4pm, $35. Jams & Jellies, Sat Jul 9, 1-4pm, $35. Pasmore Hall. Take the full series and receive a 10% discount.

It pays to advertise in the Valley Voice
Hot and Bothered in the Kootenays: free forum in Nelson

submitted

The West Kootenay region experienced record-breaking high temperatures in spring and summer 2015. By early July, wildfire burned at Nelson’s doorstep and the city was on stage 4 water restrictions for two months. Outside Nelson, rural residents dependent on surface water faced lower water levels in the streams they rely on. Some residents were completely without water at times during the summer.

“If there had been a significant wildfire closer to the city, we don’t even know if the city would’ve had the water resources to fight it and keep the taps running,” said city councillor Valerie Warmington.

That’s why a group of citizens have organized the first Water, Drought and Climate Change Forum – dubbed Hot and Bothered in the Kootenays – in Nelson, on Saturday, April 23 at the Prestige Lakeside Resort. Register now at www.hotandbotheredinthekoots.org. This event, including lunch, is free to all but space is limited to the first 150 people who pre-register.

“Anyone who drinks water, wants to know more about climate change, what we can expect here in the Kootenays, and wants to be part of creating local solutions to these emerging issues, should join us on Saturday, April 23 at the free forum,” says Ian Inglis, a member of the planning committee.

“We want a way to share information about our common concern about the future of water in the region,” says Ramona Faust, RDCK Area E director.

“We want to share this information with others,” says Jan Inglis, a member of the planning committee.

“We want a way to share information about our common concern about the future of water in the region,” says Ramona Faust, RDCK Area E director.

“A series of short, mini-workshops are planned on topics including conserving water in the home, garden xeriscaping, fire-smarting your home, energy conservation, alternative energy, and climate despair and hope.”

Forum organizers thank the many event sponsors who’ve come forward to support this free, grass-roots initiative. Join the discussion on Facebook at ‘Hot and Bothered in the Kootenays’ and share this information with others.

Food for Thought: retro travelogues at the HGG

submitted

The Hidden Garden Gallery presents Vintage Footage, a Food for Thought talk by Silverton resident Lori McMillan at Knox Hall in New Denver, Sunday April 10 at 7:30 pm.

McMillan shares some quality films made by her great-grandfather in the 1940s with his three-lens Bolex camera. From his extensive travels in Canada, the USA and Mexico, Charles Cowles Slocan Lake Gallery Society seeks acts for coffee house

submitted

The Slocan Lake Gallery Society is looking for talent for a community coffee house to be held Saturday May 7 at Silverton Memorial Hall. This event is modelled after the ‘Coming out of the Closet’ coffee house, in the sense that SLGS encourages new acts and new people to take the stage. All performers, both young and old, produced many hours of travelogues. In The Great Divide he captures wildlife scenes from the parks of the Rocky Mountains, Banff Indian Days, and early ski lifts. Learn about the birth of the Paracutin Volcano in Mexico and his adventures by car, horse and foot near the active mountain in 1946.

Keeping to the spirit of showing his films to raise money for the Red Cross and various community organizations, are welcome to this community coffee house, whether they have performed previously or will hatch out of their shells and onto a live stage with a friendly and supportive audience.

If you have a song, a piece of music, a dance, a skit, or some creative act to perform alone or with a partner or group, please contact Sue at 250-358-2167.

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Youth Sports Camp fills spring break with fun

submitted

Parkour, Aikido, squash, mountain biking, soccer, and climbing – heaps of fun! It was another action-packed week at the Nakusp Spring Break Youth Sports Camp this year. Hosted by Kootenay Sufferfest, 27 kids ran, jumped, biked, climbed and played for four days of full-on activities March 21-24.

More than two dozen kids had the unique opportunity to get out and get active, doing something fun for spring break. Taught by professional instructors from Nakusp, New Denver, Revelstoke and beyond, the high-quality classes gave kids lots of new skills and plenty of time to practice them.

Rolling, swinging, leaping and playing, the gang from Red Path Movement had the kids challenging themselves, learning new ways to move and navigate around obstacles. Slocan’s White Pines Dojo brought martial arts magic to Nakusp and taught the kids how to go with the Aikido flow. Also on the same day, the Nakusp Squash Club’s Shane Douglas tore up the court with the kids.

Tuesday brought out the pros from Wandering Wheels, and got the kids riding trails out at Box Lake like pros. Soccer Quest spent the day tightening up skills then letting them loose on the field – and the weather cooperated. The final day was a field trip to The Cube in Nelson where the kids got vertical. Can’t beat a week like that!

Kootenay Sufferfest thanks its sponsors for making sure no child was turned away for lack of funds and that each and every one had a great time. Many thanks also to quick-acting Overwaitea for the snacks that kept them running and smiling all day long.

Thanks also to all the volunteers who gave their time and enthusiasm to make sure it happened, all the participants and all the parents.

President Pat Ashton (centre) of Slocan Valley Legion Branch 276 presented a cheque for $2,000 to Sandy Hetherington (right) and Stephanie Boivin of the W.E.G. Community Services Society to help with the monthly seniors’ luncheon program. At the same time a cheque for $1,000 was presented to them for the food bank.

PHOTO CREDIT: JULIA BURGER

LIBRARY DONATIONS

President Pat Ashton presented a cheque for $500 to Dick Kelly of the Slocan Community Library to be used to fund materials for their story-time program.

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