Nakusp students get results at Junior Dragons’ Den Championships

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp Secondary students placed first and third in the senior division (grades 11-12) in the Junior Dragons’ Den championships on May 7 in Trail.

The school’s outdoor education and entrepreneurship academy program is the incubator for these winning businesses. The students who developed the E-Z Lite Tinder Block this year came in first place and won $1,500. The third place prize of $500 went to the Rollyblade fishing flashers team.

Students Sam Zerrath and Bill Gao presented the E-Z Lite Tinder Block to the judges and answered their questions. Zerrath explained that the students manufacture the fire starter block at school. This waterproof and very durable fire starter block has sold well at the three shows where the students exhibited this year – the Vancouver International Boat Show, the Kamloops Gun Show, and the Vernon Boat Show. With an investment of $7,000 to start the business, Zerrath reported that the students have already made $8,000 in sales.

The students plan to put the first place $1,500 prize money towards the purchase of a wax melting pot, to improve the manufacturing process of the block. Other students involved in developing the E-Z Lite Tinder Block are Cailan McQuair and Brianna McCoy.

The Rollyblade fishing flasher was presented to the judges by Rennee Goodman, Abby Boswell, Cameron Olsen, and Bryce Friedenberger. Goodman explained that the NSS outdoor education and entrepreneurship class had partnered with the product inventor, Roland Presseau. The students have been manufacturing and marketing the flasher for three years.

The third place $500 prize money for the Rollyblade flasher will go toward a vinyl cutter, enabling the students to increase production.

Coming in second place in the senior division was Vanessa Ford of Stanley Humphries Secondary in Castlegar, with her Simply Fresh bath and body products.

Junior Dragons’ Den Championship is the crowning achievement for the winners of the three regional qualifying competitions throughout the East and West Kootenay. In the regionals held April 21, the NSS students came in first place with the E-Z Lite Tinder Blocks and second place with their Rollyblades.

Junior Dragons’ Den is a youth based business competition designed to develop entrepreneurial skills in secondary and post secondary students from throughout the Columbia Basin. The competition is the brainchild of Don Freschi, general manager of Community Futures of Greater Trail. “The championship show was fantastic,” said Freschi. “The students were very composed and practiced, and really managed the pressure of being on stage, in front of a live audience, exceptionally well.”
Fort McMurray fire has impact in our West Kootenay communities

by Jan McMurray

The far-reaching impact of the Fort McMurray fire hasn’t missed our West Kootenay communities. Many local people have friends and family who were living there.

Two young people with roots in our area told the Valley Voice about their experience evacuating the city.

Tavish McCuaig from Kaslo says he’s one of the lucky ones. He and his wife, Denise, were both at home on May 3, the day they were evacuated. “It was looking pretty bad outside at about 2 pm, so we looked at the news and saw that the south side of the city had already been evacuated. We are on the north side, across the river, and were on high evacuation alert, so we started loading up our camper trailer. At 3:30, we evacuated,” he said.

The couple started heading to their friend’s house on the other side of the city, which had not yet been evacuated. “It was looking pretty bad outside at about 2 pm, so we looked at the news and saw that the south side of the city had already been evacuated. We are on the north side, across the river, and were on high evacuation alert, so we started loading up our camper trailer. At 3:30, we evacuated,” Tavish said. “It’s normally a five-minute drive, but it took us an hour and a half just to get halfway – and then his got turned around because of the fire. That part of town was being evacuated, too.”

Luckily, they were able to head south to Edmonton, although the usual five-hour drive took them 12 hours because of all the traffic. They stayed in Edmonton for just a few days and then came to Kaslo, where Tavish’s parents live. “Everyone in Edmonton wants to help. It was a humbling experience. We were treated excellently the few days we were there.”

Tavish says he’s very grateful for the situation he is in. He is “99.9% sure” his house is safe, and his company has been re-opened to the public, and will fly in new employees. “The community is strong and will come together at this time.”

Amy Schapowski, who lived in New Denver for her high school years, hasn’t been quite as lucky as Tavish. She was at home in Fort McMurray on May 3, watching the smoke getting thicker and thicker and the flames getting nearer. “It was 40 degrees in the house and I was trying to pack and figure out what to do,” she says. Her husband, Brandon, was at work, 45 minutes north of the city.

When she turned the radio on, the emergency broadcast inspired her to get serious about packing. Then the radio went silent. A friend came over to help her load up the truck, and she headed north to pick up Brandon from work. “I was in gridlock for three hours before I got out of city limits. About 17,000 people went north at the same time. So many had run out of fuel and had abandoned their vehicles – they were just pushed to the sides. I had to pick my bumper to bumper traffic,” Tavish said. “The whole city was on gridlock, bumper to bumper traffic,” Tavish said. “It’s normally a five-minute drive, but it took us an hour and a half just to get halfway – and then his got turned around because of the fire. That part of town was being evacuated, too.”

Luckily, they were able to head south to Edmonton, although the usual five-hour drive took them 12 hours because of all the traffic. They stayed in Edmonton for just a few days and then came to Kaslo, where Tavish’s parents live. “Everyone in Edmonton wants to help. It was a humbling experience. We were treated excellently the few days we were there.”

The couple has registered online with Red Cross, and has received some funding from Red Cross and some from the Alberta government.

Kaslo will be home base for the couple for the foreseeable future, but Tavish feels fortunate to be returning to work very soon. He works for SunCorp, at a site about 30 minutes north of the city. He will live in camp until the city is re-opened to the public, and will fly out to Calgary on his days off and then make his way to Kaslo to see Denise and his family.

Tavish says he’s very grateful for the situation he is in. He is “99.9% sure” his house is safe, and his company has been re-opened to the public, and will fly in new employees. “The community is strong and will come together at this time.”

Amy says most of the information she is getting is on Fort McMurray’s community Facebook page. There has been a town hall meeting by phone every evening, but Amy says they haven’t been able to answer any questions yet. Some people are still there, and have rescued pets and taken pictures of people’s homes. “That’s the only way we can get information – through the people who are still roaming around and the police are trying to find them.”

“We feel like sitting ducks right now. It’s like our lives just hit pause. All we can do is hang tight and wait till we hear.”

Amy and Brandon made it to Lac La Biche, stayed with a friend, and then continued on to Calgary, where they are staying with a family friend. Soon, they will come to New Denver as planned months ago to have a wedding celebration at Amy’s mother’s house. The couple was just married in March.

Both have spoken with their employers, and have received temporary layoffs. Neither company knows if and when they will be re-starting operations in the Fort McMurray area.

“If our house is still standing, we’d like to go back. We had good jobs and good friends there. Now, our friends are scattered across Canada and some don’t have homes to go back to, so that’s going to be sad.”

Parents and preschoolers (ages 3 – 5) are invited to take a tour of the school, Please join us at W.E. Graham Community School on Friday, June 10th, 2016 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION OPEN HOUSE

Hosted by W.E. Graham Community School and Slocan Homelinks

enjoy performances and share a healthy lunch (provided).

You are invited to the 5th annual

SEED PLANTING

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Parents and preschoolers (ages 3 – 5) are invited to take a tour of the school, enjoy performances and share a healthy lunch (provided).

Please contact Hali Raines or Kathryn Rexin for more details @250-355-2212
Winlaw and Jewett Schools up for consideration of closure

by Sheri Walsh and Lori Thompson

The Kootenay Lake Board of Education amended the draft facilities plan at its May 3 meeting, which will be available to school district and community members from throughout the district.

Board Chair Lenora Trenaman began by describing the evening’s meeting process based on legal counsel they had just received. The board would determine which schools would come under “consideration of closure,” but there would be no debate on the merits of each potential closure. This was so that they could maintain open minds during the subsequent 60 days of public consultation.

During the public comment period, Area D Director Aimee Watson urged the board to consider a proposal the Meadow Creek community had recently submitted and to remove Jewett Elementary from the school closure list. “Moving to the community hall is not a solution the community will accept. We wouldn’t take that risk,” she said.

Mann said that although New Denver is a Bear Smart community, the Conservation Officer Service would not use non-lethal tactics on a bear like this. “Our number one priority is safety and community well-being,” he said.

Adams arrived in minutes, honking his horn all the way up the driveway, and beat the bear up and off. When he got out of the truck and walked onto the back porch, however, the bear reappeared. Adams gave him a good whack with pepper spray and the bear took off.

Two of the local RCMP officers, Constables Herder and Nickerson, arrived and searched the woods surrounding Conklin’s house. “Eventually, we decided the bear was not going to come back, probably because of the pepper spray,” Conklin said.

The RCMP called the Conservation Officer Service in Castlegar, and Conservation Officer Blair Thin came and set up a trap on Conklin’s property the next day. “Hats off to both the RCMP and the Conservation Officer Service. They were both very professional and very competent, and made me feel much more at ease,” Conklin said, adding that Constable Hender has been checking in with him on a daily basis since the incident.

Sergeant Mann from the Conservation Officer Service said this bear has shown behaviour that they wouldn’t expect. “There’s generally an attractant involved, and there just wasn’t in this case,” she said.

Conklin says there was a barbecue on the porch that hadn’t been used in weeks, and a compost pile outside, but the bear wasn’t interested in either of these. There was nothing cooking, and there was no garbage inside or outside the house.

Mann said that although New Denver is a Bear Smart community, the Conservation Officer Service would not use non-lethal tactics on a bear like this. “Our number one priority is safety of the public, and this bear is definitely a threat to public safety, so we won’t do anything but euthanize this bear. We wouldn’t take that risk,” she said.

The bear is a black bear, but medium brown in colour. Conklin said the bear was about three and a half feet high when on all fours, and looked healthy. If the bear harasses anyone else in the community, they are to call Conklin (250-358-7915), and the Conservation Officer will move the trap.

Aggressive bear tries to get into Denver Siding home

by Jan McMurray

A bear trap was set up on a Denver Siding property on Friday, May 13 by the Conservation Officer Service, after resident John Conklin had a “heart pounding experience” with a bear at his home on Thursday night.

“I’ve never encountered a bear like this before,” said Conklin, a long-time resident. “I’ve always just chased them off and it’s been no big deal.”

At about 10 pm Thursday, May 12, Conklin heard a noise out on his porch and saw a bear gnawing at the screen on the sliding glass door. He went out the front door with his dog to investigate, but the dog immediately took off and stayed away until later, after the bear had cleared out.

Meanwhile, Conklin says, “The bear came around the corner of the house and walked straight for me. I picked up a boot on the porch and threw it at him, and then I ran for the house and locked the door behind me – just in the nick of time.

The bear stood up and put his paws on the window of the front door, shaking his head back and forth with his mouth open, making lots of noise. Conklin’s dog immediately flopped down on the lid and started bashing them together, but this didn’t seem to faze the bear.

The bear moved from window to window around the house, mangling the screens and gnawing at the vinyl moldings. “I kept banging, and then he pulled on a vinyl strip and the window buckled and cracked. I realized there was nothing I could do to make him go away, so I called my neighbour, Mark Adams, and asked him to come over in his truck with bear spray. Then I called the RCMP.”

Adams arrived in minutes, honking his horn all the way up the driveway, and beat the bear up and off. When he got out of the truck and walked onto the back porch, however, the bear reappeared. Adams gave him a good whack with pepper spray and the bear took off.

The Kootenay Lake Board of Education amended the draft facilities plan at its May 3 meeting, which will be available to school district and community members from throughout the district.
Forestry operations kill toads

There were thousands of toadlets on the Summit Lake logging road when the grader went in and graded it last Wednesday.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations writes on about their ‘best practices plan.’ They say the claim that road building and logging put toads at risk is unsubstantiated.

Ah, no. Running a grader, a D8 cat, or an excavator over thousands of toadlets doesn’t put them at risk. It just kills them.

Elke de Boer Faugier

Climate change and health

Recently, in the United States, nearly 200 concerned and committed physicians, nurses and public health professionals from across the country came together in Washington, DC for an intensive, two-day, action-oriented Climate Health Summit.

Beyond the latest research and data findings on the increasing threats to health posed by climate change, many doctors spoke out from personal experience. One allergist told of epidemic asthma and the contribution of climate change of rising pollen counts, mould from flooding and to some extent the intensity of storms.

We are learning that many medical problems are part of that future. Why would anyone today choose to invest in a sinking ship? Apparently Christy Clark wants to do this.

The ministry of forests, lands and natural resources has not answered a single question on the logging road near Winlaw.

There were thousands of toadlets killed toads.

It just kills them.

Nakusp Art Party raises funds for public art

On April 30, we set out to raise money for our public sculpture project, ‘Looking At’, by creating an event that we, ourselves, wanted to attend. Very quickly, the Nakusp Art Party realized a greater purpose and became a vehicle to make art of all shapes, genres and sizes more accessible for the people of Nakusp and beyond.

Art has a very weird currency at Art Party. We are openly operating on an exploitation system – exploit many artists (they share their work for free) and the public (we take their money) in order to fund the projects we want to see. Many talented artists may not have the schooling, writing skills, or experience to solidify their project dreams through grants. Now the major art funders don’t get to be the only ones making decisions about what we experience as art on a daily basis in Nakusp.

In my artist statement for ‘Looking At’, I reference teamwork. It has taken a lot of teamwork to keep pushing this project. Now that we have tied up an idea, the Nakusp Art Party realizes a hand in the public art we want to see. Everyone who helped build Art Party by contributing and/or presence, has now a hand in the public art we want to give to you. It’s a fitting circle. We have an Art Party... you bring us your money… we melt your brains. We take that money, commission an artist and pay them properly to produce a work for the public that melts your brains. We have an Art Party... you bring us your money… We can only benefit from a raised awareness and a new approach to the arts.

Everyone who helped build Art Party, by contributions and/or presence, has now a hand in the public art we want to give to you. It’s a fitting circle. We have an Art Party… you bring us your money… We can only benefit from a raised awareness and a new approach to the arts.

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currently Jumbo

The Ktunaxa First Nation has petitioned the Supreme Court of Canada for a Judicial Review, requesting no resort development in their sacred place, Qut Muk, keeping the Jumbo Valley naturally wild. This is an appeal, as the BC Supreme Court decided the Jumbo Glacier resort development would not impact the area negatively. The federal court has agreed to take the case.

The proponents of the resort development have petitioned the BC courts for a Judicial Review, claiming that BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak’s October 4, 2014 decision that no “substantial staff” had been made was erroneous. That result of Polak’s decision was that resort proponents did not receive their permanent certificate.

Eco-Justice, part of the Jumbo Wild team, has asked the BC government how the cancellation of the environmental certificate for the resort will affect tenures previously given to the resort proponents like “licenses of occupation,” etc.

So far, neither the federal nor the provincial governments have made known in any way their decisions regarding the above.

The current word about JUMBO WILD, the movie is that it is being shown widely internationally with thousands of signatures on the petition. The on-the-ground results of all this fling interest is that the valley saw many more back country recreationalists, mainly skiers, this winter.

Rovenia Eloise, Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild Argenta

Got those Hills mailboxes blues

Regarding the letter protesting the placement of the Hills mailboxes and the decision noticing the board. Consider the 12-bar blues... picture the Highways folks singing: Got those lowdown Hills mailboxes blues Can’t put ‘em anywhere, don’t know what to do

 accordingly, the bus. Regular routes were from Washington State. Say instead: Got those lowdown Hills mailboxes blues Banonza Road just wouldn’t do Too far to walk, too tight for getting out.

Local folks say that location’s a route Move ‘em to central Hills is what we’ll do

Got those lowdown Hills mailboxes blues Seems folks don’t know whose land is whose That spot on Hills Upper Road Got too tight when it snowed Got those can’t turn around at the mailboxes blues

Winlaw School closure would have far-reaching impacts

In the face of funding cuts and decreasing enrolment, our school board (SD8) is considering some drastic decisions regarding school closures. The consideration of closing Winlaw Elementary School has far-reaching impacts that go beyond the scope of measuring assets and liabilities. And yet, our children and communities could be torn apart by the drop of the board’s gavel for the sake of fiscal management.

Many underutilized schools across the province are slated for closure as districts aim for utilization over 85%. I asked the school board on April 19 if they would research impacts of rural school closures, and additionally look into any schools that were closed which were fully utilized or resulted in children being migrated to a more remote location away from the urban hubs. Results of that research would pertain to the consequences of closing Winlaw Elementary School.

Winlaw Elementary is currently operating at near capacity with a growing school culture and incredibly diverse programming. The school has great parent volunteer and PAC involvement, active fundraising for a plethora of programming and excellent staff. All of these attributes, and many more, would dissolve and not be carried over into another facility should the school close.

Families move to the Winlaw area because of the quality of learning, accessibility and culture in the local school.

The draft plan assumes that if Winlaw closes, the children of the Winlaw catchment will be assimilated into the same catchment as WEG in Slocan, and that Winlaw students will migrate north to increase enrolment at WEG. That would result in young children in the south end of the Winlaw catchment travelling up to 40 kilometres each way and spending hours a day on the bus.

Winlaw PAC conducted community surveys to acquire realistic results in cases of closure of either WEG or Winlaw Elementary. The completed surveys represent 97 children in the Slocan Valley, 59 who go to Winlaw Elementary and 18 who go to the Winlaw Strong Start program. Here are some of the results collected as of April 25, 2016.

Should Winlaw Elementary close, 40% of the Winlaw students would choose to go south to Brent Kennedy Elementary School; 33% of the Winlaw students would north to WEG in Slocan; 44% of the student population in the Slocan Valley would choose private or independent education outside of SD8.

Also, the top three reasons influencing their school choices are: proximity to home (scored 40 marks); school programming (scored 33.5 marks); school staffing (scored 32 marks).

Brent Kennedy is also at full capacity, so how would they accommodate the students migrating there? First, they would have to expel the out-of-district students from Glade and Shoreacres to make room for the influx of new students. However, that would not support the extra space and staffing needed. The school district would need to invest in creating more classrooms and augmentation of staffing. Those capital costs have not been identified or considered in the weighing of the Winlaw School closure scenario.

The annual operating savings for closing Winlaw would only be $184,742. The deferred maintenance costs are arguable, as not all the identified costs are necessary and some of the costs are for the work deemed necessary. In any case, the deferred maintenance costs for closing Winlaw are lower than WEG. So why was consideration for closure of WEG, which has only 26% utilization with deferred maintenance costs of $1,310,939, considered? The annual operating savings for WEG will never be realized to be competitive with independent and private education. According to surveys, closure of Winlaw Elementary School would result in a significant increase in enrollment at WEG.

BC Seniors Advocate launches survey

Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie has launched a province-wide survey of 27,000 residents living in 303 publicly-subsidized care facilities in BC.

“For the first time in this province we are going to every care facility and we are asking every resident and their most frequent visitor, a number of questions about the quality of life in the care facility,” said Mackenzie.

The survey will explore a range of questions on privacy, food; safety and security; comfort; respect and responsiveness of staff; personal relationships; medications; and activities in the facility. Residents of 19 care facilities, and their family members, in person and their most frequent visitor, who is usually a family member, will be sent a mail-out survey.

“This through comprehensive and standardized approach, we will be able to learn from the people who call residential care their home what impacts their quality of life, and whether we are meeting their needs,” said Mackenzie.

Volunteers from all over the province, from diverse backgrounds, are invited to take part in this important task. Mackenzie says she also welcomes people who speak languages other than English. A week has been developed for survey volunteers, www.surveycbseniors.org. Volunteers can apply online or by calling the Office of the Seniors Advocate at 1-877-952-3181. They will be screened and, if suitable, will participate in a one-day training session and be asked for a commitment of at least 30 hours over the survey period. Each volunteer will be assigned to a facility and will be responsible for surveying a certain number of residents in that facility. Administrative support will be provided.

The Office of the Seniors Advocate is an independent office of the provincial government with a mandate of monitoring seniors’ services and reporting on systemic issues affecting seniors. The office also provides information and referral to seniors and their caregivers.

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May 18, 2016
The Valley Voice   May 18, 2016

New Denver council, May 10: Village receives $150,000 for trails project

by Katrine Campbell

• Council received word from the Columbia Basin Trust that three New Denver area projects will receive funding under the Recreation Infrastructure grant program. The Village itself will get $150,000 for its Trail Network Connections project. The money will be used to connect existing non-motorized transportation and pedestrian movement between popular local recreation destinations.”

• The Silvery Slocan Historical Society was deemed eligible to rent the Knox Hall for periodic use for a community group rate of $350 a year. “The 2015 drift audited financial statements from the Village’s auditor were received and approved. The report showed net financial assets of $1,240,681, and tangible capital assets of $3,364,524. "The Village of New Denver Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw #701 was given each given three readings. A special meeting was scheduled for May 13 to consider final adoption of both the Bylaw and the Tax Rates Bylaw #702. Each given three readings. A special meeting was scheduled for May 13 to consider final adoption of both the Bylaw and the Tax Rates Bylaw #702. The Village needed a signed original document electronically, the CAO said there had to be on paper and not sent via email and had to be a lot of cost to the Village and social justice. She was fierce in her championed worker’s rights and a strong supporter of KCDS job training."

Slocan emergency volunteers host annual fishing derby

by Jesse╚╝

Slocan emergency volunteers host annual fishing derby

Slocan River Streamkeepers Society Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 26 at Passmore Hall (3856 Old Passmore Rd.) at 7:00 pm. Slocan River Streamkeepers have worked with the community for over 13 years to promote stewardship through education, monitoring and restoration. We are calling for Board of Director nominations and new members. Please feel free to contact us prior to the AGM with questions or expressed interest at info@slocanriverstreamkeepers.com.

Refreshments available.

The Slocan River Community Legacy Society is holding its AGM on Monday, May 30 at 7:00 pm at W.E. Graham Community School in Slocan. Join us as we celebrate the past year and announce this year’s grant recipients.

Slocan River Streamkeepers

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Silvery Slocan Historical Society solicits input for strategic plan

by Jan McMurray

New Denver’s Silvery Slocan Historical Society is doing some strategic planning, and held a meeting at Knox Hall May 3 to gather public input. About a dozen people attended.

Slocan Valley resident Val Mayes chaired the public meeting. Hired to lead the strategic planning process, she will also facilitate a day-long session for the society board at the end of the month. A two- to five-year strategic plan will be the result. The society is receiving assistance from CBT’s new Non-profit Advisors Program to do the strategic plan.

The museum has been in existence since 1970, at the bottom of the main street of New Denver in the old Bank of Montreal building. Mayes remarked that the museum is in a beautiful building, and has a wonderful partnership with the Visitor Information Centre, run by the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce.

Assistance puppy charms everyone he meets

by Katrine Campbell

There are few things harder to resist than a puppy, especially one that looks like the four-footed actor in almost every dog food and toilet paper commercial you’ve seen.

Meet Brumby. He lives in New Denver, in the home of Karen Stevens and Katrine Campbell. Brumby is no ordinary puppy; his career has been planned since before his birth.

The Labrador/golden retriever cross belongs to the Pacific Assistance Dog Society (PADS) in Burnaby, and during his 14-month stint in the Kootenays, he will receive the basic training he needs so that he can go on to advanced training. In the long run, he will be a devoted helper to a hearing-impaired person, or one who is physically or emotionally disabled. He might end up with a police Victim Assistance unit, comforting and reassuring victims or witnesses to crimes.

Stevens and Campbell are volunteering their time to teach Brumby the basics through clicker training, and Heather Fox (proudofmydog.ca) is volunteering her time to teach them – training the trainers. Veterinarians Laurie Page and Bill Sones are also on board, providing free care.

It takes a village to raise a child, and equally so to raise such a special pup. You can help by ignoring Brumby at first, then asking his handler when it’s okay to pet him. As PADS is a registered charity, you can also help by making a donation towards his care. Larger donations will get a tax receipt.

All the money raised here will go directly to PADS, earmarked for Brumby’s care and expenses.

Fox, Stevens, and Campbell will be at the May Days Market in New Denver; stop by to buy some goodies, make a donation, talk about PADS’ work, learn about training your dog, and make a fuss over so much furry cuteness. We’ll even tell you what a ‘brumby’ is!

For more information, visit pads.ca and proudofmydog.ca.

Energy at work

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We add that distinct sulphur scent to natural gas so it’s easier to tell if there’s a leak. If you smell natural gas, stop what you’re doing, go outside and call our 24-hour Emergency Line at 1-800-663-9911 or 911.

For more information, visit fortisbc.com/safetypartners.
Kaslo council, May 10: City Hall main floor to be restored

by Jan McMurray

The Municipal Buildings Committee will be the principal forum for determining the approach to restoring the main floor of City Hall in 2016-17. This $250,000-300,000 project will be paid for by Community Works (gas tax) and City Hall reserve funds.

The Village will submit a proposal to the Rural Dividend program for a comprehensive analysis and appraisal of municipal lands, and a strategy for developable vacant Village properties that will generate revenue and sustainability for the municipality. Council agreed to allocate $5,000-$10,000 of its Community Development funds to cover the Village's share of the cost.

The CAO explained that the intent of the policy was to make advertising costs predictable for the Village.

KASLO & DISTRICT

• The sandwich board application of the new Outdoor Adventure shop was approved.

• Kaslo’s waterfront park will soon be clearly under the jurisdiction of the Village. City staff are looking for parks planning and consultation work to be done by the Village, with lines of jurisdiction and accountability being made clear. There had been some confusion about the jurisdiction of the SS Moyie Beach Park, as it began as an RDCK park.

• Councillors Lang and Knoll reported on the AKIBLG (Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments) conference. The two big topics were baby boomers and marijuana issues. Aging baby boomers are creating a need for seniors housing and health care workers. Lang said Golden Life Ventures out of Fruitvale has built several assisted living facilities and is the fifth largest employer in the Kootenays. He also said a problem faced by boomers is the difficulty finding buyers for their businesses. Knoll said that marijuana laws are in a “grey area” at the moment, until the new federal legislation is introduced next year. He said municipalities are tolerating marijuana dispensaries that are operating without business licences at this point, and details of the laws would be known at the next SEDS committee meeting, when the Community Energy Association would present the energy saving project proposal.

• Councillors Lang and Knoll recommended that the public be known at the next SEDS committee meeting, when the Community Energy Association would present the energy saving project proposal.
Overflow campgrounds arranged for Kaslo Jazz Fest

by Jan McMurray

With Michael Franti and Spearhead headlining the Kaslo Jazz Festival again this year, organizers are arranging for extra campgrounds. Plans are similar to the same band headlined in 2006; there were not enough camping and accommodations options to accommodate the crowd, and they accepted 1,000 camping space reservations.

Chinese poetry and Asian masks at the Langham

submitted by Randy Morris

Five years ago several residents of Kaslo got together around the idea of a Kaslo and West Kootenay celebration of Asian Canadian Heritage Month. We all enjoy spring celebrations, and perhaps more so when they bring the possibility of expanding one’s understanding of neighbours and cultures that are growing more significant in our lives – and especially when the culture includes food. From its first year this event has been extremely successful, and now the Steep Langham continues its new tradition with the author Red Pine and an exhibition of Asian masks.

On Friday May 27 from 7 – 8:30 pm, the highly acclaimed translator of Chinese poetry and travel writer Red Pine (Bill Porter) will read some of his favourite poetry and excerpts from his latest book, Finding Them Gone, a pilgrimage to the homes and resting places of more than 40 famous Chinese poets. His consideration of people, places, and traditions of East and Southeast Asia, including in China, are particularly attractive by his direct and pithy rendering of the poetry and ability to express ancient sentiments and insights that also reflect and interpret our contemporary condition. In both his translations and travel writing we are treated to a deep knowledge of Chinese culture. After the reading, Asian desserts and teas will be served.

On Saturday May 28, 10 – 11:30 am, Red Pine will give a talk on the Heart Sutra. Since this text appeared 1,500 years ago, it is chanted daily at Buddhist temples throughout East Asia. Wrapped inside its three dozen lines are the teachings of all major sects of Buddhism. Red Pine will explain its teachings line by line, with handout copies of the text for everyone to follow along. A luncheon of Asian food and teas will follow. Tickets for this Saturday event and lunch are $18. All other events are free.

Come a half-hour early either day and enjoy the exhibition of Asian masks in the Langham theatre. And on Saturday from 12:30 pm the Kaslo Riding Club will assist in managing the ‘Lovers’ campground. These two societies will each be given the net proceeds from the campground they manage. The society will provide portappotties and hand sanitizing stations at each campground. No fires will be allowed in the overflow campgrounds. Festival representatives have spoken to the fire chief, and have confirmed that with the society’s insurance company that the campgrounds are covered under the existing policy. Overnight security at the campgrounds will be provided by the security company hired for the festival.

The society will run two shuttle buses this year, with one servicing the overflow campgrounds. The Jazz Etc. Society will be approaching residents of Arena Road who may be inconvenienced by the campgrounds to discuss any concerns they may have.

Council also agreed to refer this information to the Sustainable Economic Development Select Committee (SEDS), to consider the development of another campground in Kaslo on a more permanent basis.

Student performance of Twelfth Night was astonishing

submitted by Randy Morris

This is going to be the easiest review I’ve ever written. The recent JV Humphries student performance of Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night was astonishingly brilliant, funny, surprising. It was, hands down, the best play I’ve seen at the school in the last decade. Which happens to be how long I’ve been attending them. Seriously, five minutes after the curtain raised, I’d forgotten I was sitting in a gym-like school theatre watching a bunch of kids. They had me.

If you missed it, trust me – big mistake. This is the Bard, after all. I was so astounded by the production, I forget I was watching a bunch of kids. They had me.

It’s so cool the kids got to hoof it down to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival on the heels of their performance to take in…Twelfth Night. I’m glad I didn’t go. I’m afraid I might have crossed a line where I’d have found it…lacking. Foolish of me, I know. But then, “Better a witty fool, than a foolish wit.”

Shona McDougall pulled off Olivia, Lady of Illyria, with aplomb. Christopher Embery-Cullen as Lady Olivia’s Fool was astonishing. The kid has a look, a presence, a charisma that makes you think you’ve seen him in the movies. Which is where, with that face and all that obvious talent he should consider heading.

Brooke Robertson was a sweet and suave success as shyish maidervis to Olivia, Maria, the perfect foil for the hilarious antics of her partners in prink, Sir Toby Belch (well played by Naia Shine) and – in a wonderful turn by the uber-talented Ethan Early, the hopelessly forbidden Andrew Aguecheek. Ah, but I’m saving the best (did I mention the entire cast was great?) for last. My personal favourite was the star turn delivered by Sam Cuel as the emotionally constipated Malvolio, Olivia’s manservant. In a bravura Addams Family-gone-all-Globe Theatre performance, Sam stole the show for this audience member. I’d love to see him, Christopher, and Ethan in a three-man show. Anyone out there have Seth Rogen on your speed dial?
submitted

Eighteen job seekers across the province will gain valuable work experience and contribute to the success of five local festivals, sports and community events, thanks to almost $110,000 in provincial funding from the Community and Employer Partnerships program.

Nakusp Medieval Days has received $31,465 to provide three people from the area with 23 weeks of work experience and skills enhancement. Participants will learn about event planning and production, including administration, marketing and project management. They will also complete a certification program to increase their skills in graphic design. The festival, which runs July 23-24, attracted more than 1,800 participants last year and provided important economic impacts for the community and the region, which is increasingly focused on tourism as a key sector.

“Our Job Creation Partnership is an integral part, not only of our planning efforts, but also for the long-term community plan of creating jobs and opportunity for skill development,” says Nakusp Medieval Society president Daniel Abraham. “We are thrilled to be a part of that process and look forward to positive outcomes for our participants and our community.”

Taghum Hall, a community space in Nelson, will receive $16,814. One person will receive 23 weeks of work experience and skills enhancement in administration, research and planning for community events and programs. Taghum Hall has recently re-opened after a large renovation project and the participant will help revitalize the space by conducting a community survey and creating a plan for recurring seasonal events to be held at the hall.

Job Creation Partnerships are part of the Employment Program of BC’s Community and Employer Partnerships, which fund projects that increase employability and share labour market information. The Community and Employer Partnerships program provides more support to people who are struggling to gain a foothold in the job market. It helps build stronger partnerships with industry and labour to connect British Columbians with classroom and on-the-job training, while making it easier for employers to hire the skilled workers they need, when and where they need them.

To date, more than 1,000 job seekers benefited from Job Creation Partnerships, which fund projects that increase employability and share labour market information. The Community and Employer Partnerships program provides more support to people who are struggling to gain a foothold in the job market. It helps build stronger partnerships with industry and labour to connect British Columbians with classroom and on-the-job training, while making it easier for employers to hire the skilled workers they need, when and where they need them.

Nakusp Trails Society revises mission statement and voting rules at AGM

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Come celebrate May Days in New Denver May 19 - 23

by Jan McMurray

Come to New Denver for the May long weekend to join the family fun of May Days, a long-standing tradition in the village.

The weekend always kicks off with another long-standing tradition – the royalty’s pageant on Thursday evening, followed by the naming on Friday evening. The sole ambassador candidate this year is River Fantuz, and his entourage consists of the flower girl, Jasmin Schuff. Both events start at 7 pm at Bosun Hall.

The teen dance will be held at the Outlet Youth Centre from 9 pm to midnight on Friday night, by donation (suggested $4). The annual May Days fish derby gets underway at 8 am on Saturday morning, with final weigh-in at noon on Monday. Fishers can register with the Centennial Park campground attendants for $25.

Take a step back into the past at the Silvery Slocan Museum on New Denver’s main street, open 10 am - 4 pm on Saturday. Members of the historical society will be on hand to show you around and answer any questions.

Golfers will want to be up at the golf course on Saturday for the May Days tournament 10:30-11:30 am. Saturday night’s entertainment will be Movie Night at Bosun Hall, starting at 8 pm.

A delicious pancake breakfast in the park awaits you Sunday morning, 7:30-10 am. Fortify yourself for the day’s activities: the soapbox derby, the annual Tholminton bocce tournament, the baking contest, and the beach volleyball tournament.

Soapbox derby registration starts at 10 am and gets underway at 10:30. Entry fee of $5 includes a hot dog and drink, and What’s in Store offers free ice cream from 10 am to 1 pm.

The Tholminton bocce tournament, named after the first official fire chief in New Denver, starts at noon and continues through Monday. Baking contestants are to drop off their pie, cookies and bread at the silent auction tent at 12:30 pm. Volleyball, anyone? The beach volleyball tournament starts up at 1 pm. The hot and cold booth is open from 11 am to 5 pm on Saturday, and the Bavarian Gardens open at noon. A pulled pork barbecue will be on offer for $15 per person at 5 pm at the park. Tickets available at New Market Foods, Mountainberry Foods, and Frenchie’s Burger Stand.

Bingo at the Bosun starts at 7 pm on Saturday evening. The highlight of the weekend for many is the May Days Parade, starting at Lucerne School at 10 am and finishing at the park, where a full day of fun awaits. At 10:30 am, don’t miss the crowning of Mr. May Day, the Citizen of the Year Award, and the May Days awards presentations. The kids races start at noon, with the ever popular Treasure in the Haystack at 12:30 pm. The games of chance, fish pond and Bouncey Castle open at 1 pm. Adults can get in on the fun at 3 pm when the adult races get underway.

Monday will also see a cribbage tournament and a table decorating competition, both starting at 1 pm.

The hot and cold booth will be open 9 am - 6 pm, and the Bavarian Garden will be open noon - 6 pm.

Shop at the artisan and garden market, and check out the silent auction (11 am - 3 pm). Silent auction items are to be claimed at 3:15 pm.
Steampunk is creative. Many Steampunks will take bland items, and transform them into items that maintain the original functionality, yet are adorned with rich woods and brass, dials and gauges. “The resourcefulness, craftsmanship, and inventiveness of the people in this valley make it an ideal location for a Steampunk event,” said Donna Cormie, one of the co-founders of Kaslo Steampunk. Steampunk is associated with the Victorian era. The ‘punk’ in ‘Steampunk’ comes from ‘punk’ in ‘Punk’.” (Jeff Mach) In other parts of North America, Steampunk is associated with the Mini-Maker Fair, which is a cross between a science fair and craft fair. Mini-Maker Fairs bring out craftsmanship and inventiveness that often people never knew were in their community. Cormie says future Kaslo events will include a Mini-Maker Fair. “This validates people that tinker with things, and incredibly talented people. We think they deserve a showcase, and Kaslo Steampunk can provide that kind of platform.”

Nestled in the incredible natural beauty of North Kootenay Lake, Kaslo is full of Victorian-style craftsmanship and inventiveness that often people never knew were in their community. Cormie says future Kaslo events will include a Mini-Maker Fair. “This validates people that tinker with things, and incredibly talented people. We think they deserve a showcase, and Kaslo Steampunk can provide that kind of platform.”

The Victorian era is heavily associated with the advent of the industrial revolution, when steam was what petroleum is for us today – the power source behind an explosion in human ingenuity. Steampunk is a wonderful metaphor for the re-invention our society and communities need.”

There will be two Kaslo Steampunk events this year. The first event is a variety show held at the Langham on Saturday evening, May 21. The event will feature performers, craftspeople, dealers and vendors. Dance, music and food. Doors open at 7 pm. Admission is by donation. Game cards will be available at the variety show on Saturday night, or you can get your cards on the morning of the event.

The second event is a community-wide ‘Quest Game’. This will begin on Sunday, May 22 at 9 am at the top of Front Street. ‘Quest Game’ is an immersive, experiential game designed to create fun learning experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds. People assume a character role, called an ‘archetype’ and join the adventure of completing quests and attaining ‘mastery’ of the archetypes. The game can be played for just a few hours or the entire day.

Jaeden Woodland, the inventor of the game, said, “Think treasure hunt, scavenger hunt, and some role-playing thrown in. The game is great family fun, but people of all sorts really get into this game.”

This promises to be one of the most talked about events to occur in the valley this year. To participate, simply show up after 9 am on Sunday morning and join the fun. Admission is by donation. Game cards will be available at the variety show on Saturday night, or you can get your cards on the morning of the event. Costumes are encouraged but not necessary; there will be spot-prizes for costumes during the game.

To get in on the fun, or find out more you can visit KasloSteampunk.com or visit our Facebook event page https://goo.gl/V05EiT
Celebrity to compete at Kaslo Logger Sports 2016

May long weekend is always worth checking out, but this year, it’s absolutely a must see.

The documentary TV series ‘Tougher than it Looks’ is coming to Kaslo and the star, Andrew Younghusband, will be competing in eight events at the logger sports show. Andrew should be a formidable competitor, as he has just set a Guinness Book of World Records for opening the most bottles of beer (23) in one minute with a chainsaw. And he’s going to show us how he does it!

Let’s all get out to the show to meet Andrew and his production crew – and you might just get your smiling face on national TV this fall.

Kaslo is preparing to host its annual May Days celebrations, May 21 – 23. Each year the village offers something a little different from the year before, but it always proves to be fun-filled, unique and memorable. This is an invitation to join in the festivities, a celebration of heritage with logger sports, May Pole dance and the parade.

Along with vendors selling everything from hula hoops to hot sauce to pillows there will be a great variety of food stands to satisfy even the pickiest of eaters. Live music will keep you entertained throughout the day at the park’s gazebo.

The school’s Parent Advisory Council is organizing a silent auction as a fundraiser for new playground equipment. The auction choices are seemingly endless, from one-of-a-kind art to locally written books, from handmade soaps to unique gift ideas. Many services to bid on include plumbing, landscaping, massage, fitness classes, car maintenance and even a romantic dinner for two cooked by Betty Gutierrez of Taqueria El Corazon.

There are golf passes, ski passes and accommodation. Some of the items up for bid were created by artists who do not sell their creations, so this is your one chance to own a piece of their collection.

So, pack your sunscreen and get ready to check out the hot rods at the 19th annual Show ‘n’ Shine, watch the horse show, cheer for the loggers and eat some delicious Mexican, Indian or authentic Canadian foods. Then, when the sun goes down, enjoy live music performances at the Blue Belle Bistro or the Kaslo Hotel. Stay for the day or all weekend long. It’s worth the drive to Kaslo.

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Passmore Volunteer Fire Department members were recognized and celebrated on May 3 at the fire hall.

The members did a short march around the room to start off the event. Fire Chief Gord Ihlen thanked three retiring members for their service: Lance Hall, Grant Harding, and Dave Halliday. Hall served for 10 years, and spent the last year as an auxiliary member. Harding, “the grease behind the wheels,” has been maintaining the trucks, and is retiring after seven years. Halliday was a volunteer firefighter on the department for 16 years, and served as deputy chief for the last three.

Ihlen then announced four promotions. Peter Kabel was promoted to deputy chief, Bill Hillary to assistant chief, Mark Van Giesel to captain, and Krista Nenn to lieutenant.

Area H Director Walter Popoff took the floor. “I really want to show my appreciation to the firefighters here,” he said, acknowledging that they put their lives in danger when attending incidents. He also thanked the families of the fire department members for the sacrifices they make when the department is called out to protect the community.

He congratulated the four officers who were promoted and the members who were about to be recognized with long service awards.

Regional Chief Andrew Bellerby also thanked the members “for all you do” and pledged his help and support. Chief Bellerby presented the 10-year medals to Krista Nenn, William Hillary, Derek Murphy, Denise LeMoyne deMartigny, Lt. Krista Nenn, Lt. Derek Murphy, and Retiring Auxiliary Lt. Lance Hall.

### Unity Festival announces 2016 lineup

The Slocan Valley Cultural Alliance has announced the lineup for Unity Music Festival 2016, July 15-17 on the shores of Slocan Lake in Slocan City.

Featuring world-renowned artists and local talent alike, this year’s lineup is sure to please with an eclectic mix of world music, trip hop, hiphop, electro house, Latin jazz, reggae, rockabilly, traditional funky blues and more.

Coming to the beach in Slocan village are: The West African Summit, Freestylers (UK), Wilderness Crew (Vancouver), Adham Shaikh & The Outworld Orkestra, Moontricks, the Eisenhauers, Kytami, M3 & Gisto, Gabriel Palatchi (Argentina), Test Their Logik (Toronto), Buckman Coe (Vancouver), Bill Bourne (Edmonton), the Ronnie Hayward Trio, Intersect, Val Kilmer & The New Coke, Red Eyed Soul, Dazza, Li’l Dave and the Big Blues Wave, Wolfpack, Al Woodman and more... See the full lineup and more info at www.unitymusicfestival.ca

This is a sweet family festival in a small mountain village. Early bird weekend tickets are $75 till June 15. Youth (13-17) and Senior (65+) tickets are only $50 for the weekend and Children (12 and under) are free.

Tickets are for sale online at www.unitymusicfestival.ca and at Mountain Valley Station in Slocan, Gaia Tree in Winlaw, Packrat Annie’s in Nelson, and Evergreen Natural Foods in Crescent Valley.

Unity is still accepting volunteers (applications online or at Fullabeans Coffee Shop in Slocan), sponsorships, and craft vendors.
**Slocan council decides on Community Initiatives grants**

by Barbara Curdy Maluchy

The Slocan Valley Council held its meeting to decide on CBT Community Initiatives grants on May 9. Mayor Jessica Lunn asked council to “help as many groups” as possible, saying that she “lost a bit of sleep” after last year’s allocations. In 2015, two-thirds of funds went to two groups and the remaining funds to five others.

This year, the pot was a bit bigger – $34,419 – with requests totalling $47,674.29. In the end, grants were dispersed to 13 groups. The combined amount of the grants was $25,814.60.

As in past years, council debated the Slocan Valley Cultural Alliance request. This year, the request was for $3,200 to provide power at a beach site and for electrician fees for the Unity Music Festival. The festival’s electricity bill is very high and the site is not detailed as a beach site near the beach. Council will look at the request for power to the beach site and every year a temporary hookup must be created. The temporary hookup is necessary because the council does not want to pay for power poles to the site (estimated cost $30,000) until the Village has a waterfront plan. The waterfront plan is on hold until the Village knows what is going to be done with the former mill site and the CP land surrounding the Village beach.

At the mayor’s suggestion, council held off making a decision on the Unity Fest grant until the end of the meeting. At that point, the request for new energy was allocated what remained in the pot: $3,419. This was quite a bit more than the $1,500 the group got last year.

The Slocan Valley Royal Canadian Legion asked for $15,000 to go towards a kitchen fire suppression system and kitchen cabinets. Mayor Lunn suggested that the Village only partially fund the request from the Community Initiatives Fund. She said the Village had budget funds that could top up the request from the Community Initiatives Fund. She said the Village made the proposal public, the grant and also that the Village’s Financial Plan could be amended to allocate additional funds for the project. Council agreed and decided on $12,000 for the Legion.

Slocan-based groups that were allocated full funding for their requests were: Slocan Lake Seniors Housing Society – $10,000; Slocan & District Technical Rescue Society – $2,000; Slocan Fitness Center – $1,800; Slocan Community Library – $1,200; and Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society – $750.

Groups from farther afield that were granted partial funding were: Slocan Lake Stewardship Society – $1,000; White Pines Aikido Association – $750; Kootenay Animal Assistance Program – $750; and Nelson Branch – $300. The World Sign Communication Society – $250; and Health Arts Society – $100.

**Touchstone hosts sculptor Lou Lynn’s exhibit**

submitted

Touchstones Nelson Museum of Art and History will host the free opening event for Winlaw artist Lou Lynn’s “Out of the Ordinary” on June 3, 7 to 9 pm, and an artist talk June 23 at 7 pm, admission by donation.

Lynn works with glass and bronze, reinterpreting tools and artifacts that once held a prominent place in industrial and domestic environments. Her credentials are extensive, having been a student of the Pilchuck Glass School (founded by Dale Chihuly). She has twice been nominated for the Governor General’s Award in Visual and Media Arts. From 2007 to 2010 she was inducted into the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (RCA), and she has exhibited nationally and internationally.

The most recent evidence of this legacy, Out of the Ordinary, combines the variables of a practice which is almost exclusively raised bar by bringing disparate and symbolic elements into unexpected symbioses.
Mountains, rocks, and ancient history: a look at the region

submitted

Everyone interested in the geological history of the area is invited to the Seniors Association in Nakusp on May 29 at 1 pm for a presentation by Lesley Anderton.

The Geological History of the Slocan and Kootenay Basins reaches back millions of years, covering the formation of continents and, in particular, teaches about the various rock formations and mountains in the area. It explains what these rocks tell us about the history of the mountains, water, and land formations. This presentation deepens our connection to this place and our knowledge of the landscape that surrounds us, supports our survival, and provides a significant portion of hydroelectric power to the rest of the province.

Lesley Anderton grew up in Lancashire in the north of England, where she came to love the outdoors. Having earned a BA (Hons) degree in Geology and Geography from Keele, she won a Commonwealth Scholarship to study at UBC. After completing her master’s degree, she returned to work in England at Malham Tarn Field Centre in the Yorkshire Dales.

In 1969 Anderton began her 35-year career at Selkirk College, where she taught first- and second-year geology and geography courses and developed the ‘Geology, Landforms and Soils’ course for renewable resources technology students. In addition she developed a first-year Environmental Science Course for non-science majors. In the summers she frequently worked on terrain analysis mapping with Dr. June Ryder, who wrote ‘Geological Hazards of the Perry Ridge Benchlands’ citing her grave concerns about the potential effects of logging the Perry Ridge uplands.

Anderton shares her love of the natural environment with non-geologists and enjoys giving talks on local geology and leading field trips. As a much-loved geology instructor at Selkirk College her knowledge is extensive, and irreplaceable.

Those attending this presentation are invited to bring their field equipment so it may be recorded for future reference.

School District 10: May 10 superintendent’s report

by Jan Murray

• Lucerne School’s grades 7-9 math class has been monitoring the solar system at the school. Students have found that the system has produced 68.29 kWh per day on average since December. On a number of days in the past few weeks, the daily electricity production has been over 200 kWh, which is equivalent to the energy needed to run 10-20 households.

• The subdivision process has started for the Faququier School property. The plan is to subdivide the property into two lots – the one with the school on it to be sold to the community at a modest price, and the other to be sold at market value. BC Hydro has granted a sewer connection for the second lot, thanks to Area K Director Paul Peterson’s advocacy. The application for exclusion of the property from the Agricultural Land Reserve has been submitted.

• The Lucerne School principal position was declined by the chosen candidate after the April 26 interviews of the three short-listed applicants. The job was re-posted, with a closing date of May 19. “Qualified and experienced principals are difficult to recruit across the province; compensation for principals in rural areas is far below that of urban counterparts,” states the superintendent’s report.

• Two candidates were interviewed for the Edgewood Elementary vice-principal/interim teacher position.

CORRECTION –

The report in the May 4 edition of the Valley Voice, ‘School District 10 Arrow Lakes, April 26: 2016-17 budget adopted’ had some errors. The report indicated that $40,000 has been budgeted for hands-on learning equipment and $45,600 for a Kubota tractor. The 2016-17 budget does not include any amounts in the operating budget for equipment. The 2015-16 budget included $140,000 for hands-on learning, fine arts, shop and outdoor education equipment and $45,600 for a Kubota tractor. This equipment will be purchased in the 2015-16 year.

Funding for the 2016-17 budget will be based on 438 full-time equivalents, not 438 students as reported. Full-time equivalents are calculated by the Ministry of Education based on the number of courses that a student takes at the grades 10-12 level and full-time K-9 students.

There has been no announcement of a salary increase of two percent for exempt staff on July 1 as reported. Principals and vice-principals received an increase of two percent on January 1 2016 and two percent retroactive to July 1, 2015. Salaries for all exempt staff, as well as self-employment assistance, as yet allowed by the exempt staff as yet allowed by the SD 10 is $10,000 less than in other Kootenay-Boundary districts or around the province, making recruitment more of an issue,” states the superintendent’s report.

School District 10 budget

staff have been frozen since 2009. There has been no increase for other schools.

After 105 years serving Burton and area, St. Andrew’s United Church is disbanding due to dwindling membership and low attendance. A special service will be held May 29 at 2 pm to commemorate the church’s long history and its closing. Everyone is invited.

While congregants say they are heavy-hearted at the closure, they will attend services at another United Church. Membership can be transferred by contacting Gale Detta, but those who wish to leave their membership with St. Andrew’s can do so and still belong to the United Church of Canada. The original church building was built by volunteers in 1911 in old Burton; in the 1960s volunteers also built the newer one in present-day Burton.

Community Futures Volunteer of the Year

Community Futures Central Kootenay has named Nakusp’s Ulli Mueller as its 2016 Volunteer of the Year.

Mueller has been a volunteer member of CFCK’s loans committee since 2005. In that role, she provides input on the dozens of loans approved each year in the Central Kootenay offices.

“We rely on community-minded people like Ulli to understand the impact a prospective loan might have in an area,” loans manager Don McCulloch explained.

Community Futures is not a formula lender, which means every loan application is assessed on its own merit. Of particular importance is evaluating whether a business venture will create and/or maintain jobs in a community and help to diversify the rural economy.

“Ulli is very invested in the community of Nakusp, and she has kept us informed on what’s going on there,” McCulloch added. “She has been a valuable asset over the past 11 years and we want to thank her for her dedication, commitment and leadership.”

Mueller has lived in Nakusp for 35 years. She is in her fourth term as a town councillor and volunteers with numerous community groups. She is also the Continuing Education Coordinator for Selkirk College Nakusp.

Community Futures Central Kootenay is a not-for-profit community economic development organization with offices in Nelson, Nakusp and Creston. Its services and tools are designed to help entrepreneurs and small business owners achieve their goals through business planning advice and loans, as well as self-employment assistance.

For more information, visit futures.bc.ca.
Nakusp council, May 9: Arena roof project approved for CBT funds

by Katrine Campbell

The Village of Nakusp was successful in getting $350,000 from the CBT Recreation Infrastructure Grants to go towards replacing the arena roof.

The Village wants to borrow up to $425,000 for a water tender fire apparatus. Council directed the CAO to undertake an alternative approval process if 10 percent (115) of electors pick up and return an election response form disagreeing with the borrowing, it will go to referendum. Otherwise the Village will deem the borrowing has been approved.

CAO Laurie Taylor reported on a number of outstanding actions staff is still working on.

- There will be a meeting May 30 re: grant applications for the biomass project analysis.
- Staff is sending out notices re: unsightly premises.
- A review of the OCP/Zoning bylaw relating to the R5 zone will be done in conjunction with the review of subdivision parking requirements.
- The subdivision bylaw is 21 years old and outdated. Taylor suggested it be put to tender for review, but as the estimated $30,000 cost is not in the budget, she offered to look into it and bring her findings to the next meeting.
- An amended development variance permit application from Shon’s Bike and Ski was approved.

Double treble: sister choirs come to Nakusp submitted

Come join sister choirs Harmony and Buncha Divas for a gala evening of music and fun on Saturday, June 11 at 7:30 pm at the Bonnington in Nakusp. Tickets are available at Bon Marche.

The choirs are sisters in more ways than one. Simone Josephson in Harmony and Lynette Parent in Buncha Divas are sisters – the daughters of Rosemarie and Milton Parent.

Lynette’s daughter also sings in Buncha Divas, and her son will be playing flute.

Both choirs are self directed, and perform songs from many music genres – spirituals, ballads, show tunes, and more. They will sing four songs together, and evening songs each. Harmony performed in Nakusp in 2000, and finally returns after 16 long years. Harmony is from Vancouver, and Buncha Divas is from Calgary.

“Our goal is to entertain you and we promise you will not be disappointed,” says Simone. “Come along with us on a journey through our varied repertoire.”

The shop scaled down its plans for expansion to a six-seat café / snack service, reducing the number of required parking spaces from 20 to seven. Council agreed to allow the five existing stalls instead of seven. Plans for a residence/hostel on the upper floor and the licensed food service facility have been postponed.

Council supported a request from the Canadian Vintage Motorcycle Group to host a Motogiro event on the Hot Springs Road, subject to two conditions: that the organizers work with Village staff to ensure there is adequate advertising to the public and suitable signage in place during the closure indicating the Hot Springs remain open; and event advertising locally be reviewed and approved by the Village before printing. The ads must indicate that on September 18 the road will be closed for 20-minute intervals and a pilot car will escort traffic.

Council approved Sufferfest’s request for a road closure for the criterium event May 15 subject to the Village being named as additional insured on a $2 million insurance certificate.

Council will allow the Nakusp Medieval Society to dump waste from porta-potties from the July Medieval Festival into the wastewater treatment plant lagoon, free of charge.

The forecasts for lake levels have improved; BC Hydro is expecting a peak of 1,438 feet in early July and expects it to remain above 1,430 feet through Labour Day. There will be an Operations Update Open House on June 15 in Nakusp.

Mayor Karen Hamling reported on RDCK business.

May 5-21 is Local Government Awareness week. Public Works will take the grade class 8 on a watershed tour. May 20 from 2 to 4 pm is coffee time we will provide support care and a more stable paramedic presence for emergency response in rural and remote communities.

The dog control contract was signed for Nakusp and Area K and the base rate of $1,000 raised to $1,500.

Director Leah Main will represent RDCK and stand for re-election to the BC Caucus at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities meeting in Edmonton in June.

The board passed a resolution to support the private member’s bill in the BC Legislature to amend the Worker’s Compensation Act to recognize post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a presumed workplace injury for first responders.

Councillor Mueller submitted her activity report. A new doctor starts work in Nakusp August 15. The doctor’s house, funded through the hospital foundation and health care auxiliary thrift shop, will be made ready.

“The library board met April 21 and issued a 2017 calendar, ‘A Reader’s Landscape’ to raise funds. The library’s website has details on photo submissions.

- She attended the AKBLG AGM; she was impressed by “excellent sessions… especially the legal sessions on not providing assistance to businesses.”

- Common Agenda CBT pilot project meetings of the Community Development and Economic Development committees have continued; on May 11 both will share what they’ve learned, and move forward.

- The Better at Home one-year pilot project was extended. This provincially funded project identifies what non-health services seniors require to allow them to stay in their homes. The steering committee identified transportation, light housekeeping and maintenance.

- The ALFA Guild’s plans for Artwalk are progressing; the opening event will be at Selkirk College on J24, 7 pm.

- Council received the Village of Nakusp draft 2015 audited financial statements. The CAO noted the auditors were there for two days and commended Treasurer Rhonda Bouillet for the work she did. There is a deficit in the general operating fund of $17,217; a deficit of $25,363 in the sewer utility operating fund; and a surplus in the water utility operating fund of $26,209.

- Council reviewed and approved NACFOR’s 2015 financial statements; the Village is the sole shareholder of the community forest.


VILLAGE OF NAKUSP JOB POSTING

HOT SPRINGS CASHIER/ATTENDANT

Casual Part-time

(2 Positions Available 28 to 35 Hrs Per Week)

The Village of Nakusp is currently seeking two Hot Springs Cashier/Attendants on a part-time basis for approximately 28 to 35 hours per week for days, evenings, and weekend shifts. Duties include superior customer service, electronic admissions and reservations, maintaining facility hygiene and cleanliness standards, monitoring aquatic activities, operating the concession, and janitor/labour work.

Minimum requirements are a High School Diploma, a Class 5 Drivers license, and a dependable vehicle.

Please forward your resume to the Village of Nakusp – Box 280, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0. E-mail twelsh@nakusp.com. Further information is available through the Village Office.

The Village thanks all who apply, however only those chosen for interviews will be contacted.

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Nakusp Legion Lounge

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Offers will be considered.

JOB POSTING

Village of Nakusp

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Silvertown council, May 10: Five-year financial plan adopted

by Dan Richmond

Council has agreed to a student demonstration project on Silvertown Creek, proposed by Lucerne teacher Sydney Frederickson, environmental educator Marcy Morris and students Molly Fry and Charlotte Farrell. The group is planning planting days June 1 and 2 along the creek bank in the Fingland Cabin area.

Chief Financial Officer Colin McClure presented the 2016-2020 financial plan, which was discussed and adopted by council. The objectives are to maximize grant funding for infrastructure and service upgrades, whilst maintaining the current tax distribution with exemptions for not-for-profit organizations that benefit the community. The annual tax rate bylaw was approved and adopted by council.

The consolidated financial statement for the village and audit report was also presented by CFO McClure. The statement indicates that the village will be debt free by the end of 2016. Despite having recently purchased a lawnmower and trailer for the public works department, council will be looking at leasing options for future equipment in a continuing drive to keep the Village finances strong.

Council passed a resolution to support the Slocan Valley Economic Development Strategy project, and discussed the joint application to the BC Rural Dividend program to be made by the Village of New Denver on behalf of the communities in the Slocan Valley. The objective is to hire a qualified consultant and a local liaison officer to create and deliver an economic strategy for the valley.

The Village will apply for funding through the Columbia Basin Trust Recreation program for new play equipment for the Village playground. A proposal for equipment valued at $109,062 was approved. The grant application is due in July. The application requires ongoing support for up to 70% of a project.

Councillor Bell called attention to National Tourism Week, May 29-June 4, to highlight the benefits that 18 million overnight visitors to BC bring each year and to encourage communities to show support for their tourism industry.

Quarterly crime statistics for the Slocan Lake RCMP detachment were released and indicate a drop in violent crimes from the same period last year from five to one. However, thefts through break and entry and from vehicles have increased.

The Village renewed its agreement to support the New Denver Royalty Committee and have donated Silverton pins for the Royalty Ambassadors to exchange.

Councillor Leah Main was endorsed for candidacy for re-election to the Board of Directors of Canadian Municipalities and spoke on behalf of the communities in the Slocan Valley area in support of this economic strategy for the valley.

The Village of New Denver was presented by CFO McClure. The community. The annual tax rate bylaw for-profit organizations that benefit the infrastructure and service upgrades, are to maximize grant funding for the financial plan, which was discussed by Dan Rixon.

Clogged Marine a headache for boaters and New Denver council

Clogged Marine a headache for boaters and New Denver council

The badly clogged, slit-up entrance to the marina in New Denver might get cleaned out this summer, but only if the provincial authorities can issue a permit faster than the usual three to four months.

The delay is due to a difference in interpretation of Ministry of Environment regulations: is removing silt from the entrance “routine maintenance,” which only requires notifying the ministry of your intentions, or “dredging,” which requires a permit?

The marina in New Denver is on Crown land, leased to the Village of New Denver. The facility is maintained by the Slocan Lake Boating Association.

The association asked the Village in September 2015 to apply for a permit to conduct maintenance and improvements to the entrance. Council told staff to proceed with the application. In March, Comoxke Ken Smith asked for permission for the association to apply, since the Village had yet to do so. Council said no; the Village holds the lease and is responsible for anything that happens on the land.

Smith says the plan is to use a vacuum truck to suck up the silt and deposit it on dry land well away from the water, with regulation silt curtains in place at both ends of the channel to prevent any material from moving into the lake. Since dredging involves floating a device on a platform and scooping up the mud, Smith says, and the SLBA isn’t proposing to do that, the operation is routine maintenance, not dredging.

Several years ago the SLBA replaced the docks after it filed a complaint with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, with Village support. This time, Smith says, they expected the same support and he “supplied them with the appropriate request, along with supporting documents.”

The SLBA disagrees with Smith’s assessment of routine maintenance. He talked to the province and was told a permit is needed for doing physical work within a body of water.

“The ministry wants much more information than they’re going to do and how they will do it to prevent siltation from fouling fish-bearing waters.”

The application hasn’t gone in yet, he says, because “it has taken a little bit of time to draft an application that the ministry would be comfortable with.”

As to the length of time it took to start working on the application, Woodbury says the document the SLBA had prepared was a notification, not a permit application.

“They had difficulty understanding [what was required] was not a notification; it took them some months to understand it was required,” Smith says.

Woodbury says the document the SLBA had prepared was a notification, not a permit application.

“When the time came to actually submit the application, Woodbury says the document the SLBA had prepared was a notification, not a permit application.

“They had difficulty understanding [what was required] was not a notification; it took them some months to understand it was required,” Smith says.

Another program I offer, with more in-depth learning about the subject is called the Gatekeeper training program. Gatekeeper covers more about the types of abuse and the situation that you are dealing with, and includes a manual for each participant.

The increase in elder abuse cases, mostly financial, is the sad part. The program has expanded a lot over the years and is forward for help and information. Seniors, and their support people, are wanting more information on elder abuse, choosing proactive, learning about it so we can, together, make a difference.”

McCreight can be contacted at soscastlegar@hotmail.com or at 250-365-3104, ext. 23.

• Investigation of damage to the tennis court confirmed the primary cause as tree root growth. Repairs and remedial work are due to be carried out this summer at a cost of $15,000. CAO Darrell Garreau also announced the reopening of the public toilets and the near completion of repairs to the counters at the campground.

• Discussion of the recommended swing has been lost in transit.

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THANK YOU! To our sponsors and to the wonderful audience who came out for the radio show and contributed $1205 to the Refugee Coalition!

COMING EVENTS
Nakusp Cancer Society - Annual General Meeting. Saturday, June 4 from 2-4 pm. To meet, conduct business, and elect new board members. Refreshments will be served.

Nakusp Canvas Poster Auction Sale - 10 am noon, Saturday, May 28, 2016 at the Threads Guild Hall. For sale by donation: artwork, materials, tools, and other basketry supplies. Proceeds to W. Kootenay Women’s Association, per Jane’s request. Although not for sale, a Private Collection of Jane’s and others work will also be on display. Invite your basket-making buddies!

SLOCAN VALLEY THREADS GUILD thanks everyone who donated or participated to make Yard and Yarndale 2016 a record-breaking success!

THANK YOU! To our sponsors and to the wonderful audience who came out for the radio show and contributed $1205 to the Refugee Coalition!

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work your dream job and be your own boss with help from the Self Employment program at Community Futures! Through this program you will receive business plan instruction and ongoing business training and coaching while you start your business. And if you’re eligible you will usually also receive financial support for the first year. To learn more call 265-3674 ext. 201 or email nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

If so, call Community Futures office to discuss your plans - 265-3674 ext. 201 or email nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

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the valley voice May 18, 2016

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May 18, 2016

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The Valley Voice May 18, 2016

Arrow Lakes historical photos now online

The Arrow Lakes Historical Society website has an exciting new addition. A searchable database of the first 1,500 of the society’s collection of more than 20,000 historical photographs is now available for public viewing. An image search bar at the top of the website home page (alsa-archives.com) allows access to the photos. From Arrowhead to Edgewood, Saddle Mountain to St. Leon, or sack race to pack train, there’s something of interest to everyone. Copies of photographs can be ordered from the historical society office, located in the addition to the Centennial Building, behind the library and museum. The office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 3 pm. The Arrow Lakes Historical Society acknowledges the support of Library and Archives Canada for the funding that made this project possible, through the Documentary Heritage Communities Program.
Argenta dances: a vibrant tradition continues

submitted

Have you ever wanted to travel to a far-off village where a vibrant culture of traditional music and dance lives on, but where the locals welcome you to join in? There are places like that in the world. One of them is Argenta. Far off, but right here in the Kootenays.

“We call it a square dance,” says long-time Argenta resident Rik Valentine, “but it’s really a little-bit-of-everything dance.” Valentine happens to be talking about the Argenta Square Dance planned for May 28, but he could be talking about any dance in the last...well, at least 60 years.

“When I came to this valley in 1954, the dances were already happening. Dick Pollard, a newcomer and a teenager then, joined some old-timers who played in schoolhouses around the valley. Let’s see...some names I remember are Doc Besseecker on the fiddle, and Ernie Alexander, who played a beat-up guitar. He had great rhythm...there was an old timer who actually made violins.

“At first there were six pump-up kerosene lamps in our one-room school. Later there was a gas generator and some time during the night the gas would run out and the lights would go out, and that’s when you could sneak a little kiss from your girlfriend. People contributed refreshments. Musicians contributed on different instruments. Other people tried their hand at ‘calling’ the square dances, including my father who had learned some calls in Arizona.”

Certainly, the musicians and callers have changed over the years; all the earliest players are long dead. Dick Pollard moved to Victoria a few years ago, and Roger Luckey moved to Nelson’s North Shore — but they’ll both be back in Argenta for the dance on May 28, along with all the people who continue to play at these dances. So, at least 60 years later, Argenta people — and their friends — continue to dance.

Each evening’s dance does indeed include some square dances. Four couples form themselves into a square, and a caller first talks everyone through the steps then continues the instructions after the music starts.

At these Argenta dances, though, squares aren’t the only thing. There are scads of other traditional dances as well — traditional, that is, to Argenta. They could originally have come from anywhere: at almost every dance there’s a schottische (originally from Bohemia via Montreal, though the name is German for ‘Scottish’), and the Gay Gordons (from Scotland). There’s usually a French minuet (probably Canadian, certainly not a minuet) and a Virginia reel. Almost always, there are waltzes, jigs and a polka or two.

Argenta’s particular twist is its own, traditional combination of dances and music.

Another Kootenay twist is that when the band plays, say, a Jesse polka, the few hearty souls who remember the dance will form a couple of lines on the dance floor. Within a few minutes the whole hall will be filled with radiating lines of dancers attempting to remember: Left forward! Right back! Right forward! Left forward! Left-dedada, right-dedada, left-dedada, right-dedada... amid gales of laughter. Energetic. And fun.

Who goes to these dances? An amazing variety of types and ages. Lots of younger adults. Lots of kids. Middle-aged people. All are welcome. A few of the very oldest people just watch, but mostly, everyone dances.

The next Argenta ‘Square’ Dance is Saturday, May 28. The Lardeau Valley’s own expert Japanese chefs, Taka and Yukika, will offer food starting at 7 pm. The musicians this time will include Gail, Dick, Roger, Yvonne, Maggie, Richard, Eric and Sara; they start at 8 pm. Admission is $10 at the door for adults, $5 for youth and free for kids. The locals will welcome you!
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CBT announces round two of recreation grants

CBT’s Recreation Infrastructure Grants, 42 projects around the region are getting more than $3.5 million in support. The granting program’s next intake is now open. The deadline to apply is Monday, July 11, 2016. Learn more and download the guidelines at cbt.org/recreationapply.

The Trust announced the $9 million, three-year program in January 2016. It provides financial support to help communities and groups build new or upgrade existing recreation infrastructure.

“We’re pleased to provide grants to such a wide range of projects that will help people stay fit and enjoy where we live,” said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. “Supporting residents to lead active, healthy lifestyles is one of our strategic priorities, and developing the amenities that help them do so is an important step.

One of the recipients is the Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club. It will construct three kilometres of cross-country ski trails for both classic and skate-skiing techniques, half-way between New Denver and Nakusp at Summit Lake.

“From many years we’ve run programs on private land and the Rail Trail in Hills, but we found we needed to offer more challenging terrain and be more easily accessible,” said Tim Sander, Club Secretary. “We’ve selected a location with good public access, normally deep snow, diverse terrain and outstanding scenery. The expanded network will provide an opportunity for all ages to engage in an outdoor winter activity that promotes beautiful exercise, physical well-being and enhanced confidence.”

To go along with the winter trails, two others in New Denver received funding. The Village of New Denver will use its grant to connect existing trail networks to encourage non-motorized transportation and pedestrian movement between popular local recreation destinations.

The Valhalla Wilderness Society will build two new ‘ancient trees’ trails from existing access roads “so that people of all ages and abilities can access and safely view these beautiful interpretive sites.”

In Kaslo, the Kootenay Sufferfest Society received $7,180 to build a route on the 10-km traverse between Milford Peak and Mount Buchanan for beginner hikers, mountain bikers and snowshoers, as well as intermediate cross-country skiers.

School District #8 will get $82,900 for the Kaslo school and community playground project at JV Humphries “allowing students and children in the community and surrounding areas to play and be active.”

School District #8 will get $82,900 for the Kaslo school and community playground project at JV Humphries “allowing students and children in the community and surrounding areas to play and be active.”