by Sheri Walsh

After an hour and a half of discussion, the SD8 Kootenay Lake board of education decided to apply to the Rural Education Enhancement Fund (REEF) for Jewett, Winlaw, Salmo Elementary and WE Graham Schools at a special public board meeting on Wednesday, June 22 at Salmo Elementary. In the audience was a card of parents from each of Winlaw and Jewett Schools along with one parent from Salmo and the DPAC chair.

The premier announced the $2.5 million REEF unexpectedly in a media release on June 15, “to help rural schools in British Columbia stay open.” School districts received information about the fund from the Ministry of Education late on Monday, June 20. Funding applications were due by 4 pm on June 24.

The REEF information from the Ministry of Education listed three criteria schools must meet to be eligible for the funds. First, they must be in a rural community with a population less than 15,000. Second, they must be at risk of closure, where the result would be loss of grades within that community or where the closure would threaten the ongoing viability of the community. Third, facility condition issues, extremely low enrolment (or extreme enrolment decline) are not the primary drivers for school closure. The ministry also stipulated that funds can be used for operating costs only, not capital costs, and that the school district would have to demonstrate that the schools are at risk of closure in 2016-17.

Confusion and uncertainty were apparent among board and staff members at the special meeting. With limited information available on the REEF there were many questions and minimal time to obtain answers before the application deadline.

The news release listed schools eligible for the funding: Yahk Elementary was on the list, but has zero students enrolled for 2016-17. Winlaw was also on the list, but it is not being considered for closure until September 2017. Jewett was not on the list, but appeared to meet the criteria while Yahk didn’t, although Jewett is not being considered for closure until September 2017 either. Seeing Winlaw on the list created jubilation in Winlaw, but Jewett’s exclusion caused grave concern in Meadow Creek.

Forwarded correspondence between Winlaw PAC member Shanna Robertson and the government REEF contact clearly stated that Winlaw would not be eligible for funding until the 2017-18 school year. Because there was little confidence in government assurances of ongoing funding, staff recommended that the board submit applications now.

There was disagreement among trustees about whether to submit applications for all schools under consideration of closure, or just the ones that appeared to best meet the criteria. Trustees Beebe and Sattler suggested “casting the net broadly,” while trustees Huscroft and Lang expressed concern that this was an isolated incident. The investigation is “active and ongoing.”

The update posted on the school’s website on Monday, June 27 said the school would re-open to staff on Tuesday, and to students on Wednesday. When staff returned on Tuesday, they would “focus their efforts on planning for graduation and the completion of the year,” and on Wednesday, “school administration will be working with the grad planning committee to plan a graduation event.”

The annual year-end Silverwood trip, scheduled for Tuesday, was cancelled. Wednesday is the last day of school, so students who choose to attend that day can “clean out their lockers and say their farewells.” Superintendent Jones ended his Monday update with: “Thank you to everyone for your understanding regarding the closure of our school and postponement of our graduation ceremony as we worked with the RCMP. Nelson Police, police, our district trauma response team, provincial safety experts and the Ministry of Children and Family Development to address the threat to students and staff in our school community.”
NACFOR will not log in western toad habitat at Summit Lake this summer.

The company made this decision June 1, after a site visit on May 31 with Jim Guido of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO). Guido reported that “numerous” yearling toads were observed in certain areas on the field trip. He also reported that NACFOR will likely reschedule the logging for next winter.

Guido’s visit came in the wake of letters from members of the local group, with video evidence of toads in the proposed development area. The video, available on YouTube, was produced by iCandy Films of New Denver and co-sponsored by the Valhalla Wilderness Society, the Wilderness Committee, and public donors.

This past winter, logging operations at Summit Lake had to be suspended because a protest camp blocked the logging road. Soon after the RCMP cleared the campers off the road, the mild weather set in.

“At least we were able to get another reprieve for the toads,” says Eloise Charet, one of the local citizens defending the blue-listed western toad. “Thank goodness the important person from the ministry came out to see for himself. It was our letters that did it, and of course the video.”

Guido’s visit came in the wake of letters from members of the local group, with video evidence of toads in the proposed development area. The video, available on YouTube, was produced by iCandy Films of New Denver and co-sponsored by the Valhalla Wilderness Society, the Wilderness Committee, and public donors.

The local group started making regular field trips to the logging area in mid-May, when they became aware of NACFOR’s plans. At a NACFOR open house May 19, managers Frances Swan and Hugh Watt said that if conditions were right, NACFOR would log the higher elevation blocks at Summit Lake this summer, explaining that the toads typically move to lower elevations and the lake in the summertime.

However, the local group observed many toads in the proposed development area during their May field trips, and notified FLNRO and the Conservation Officer Service. The Valhalla Wilderness Society also filed a complaint with the Forest Practices Board, requesting an investigation into whether knowingly killing the toads would violate BC wildlife laws.

Craig Pettitt of VWS received a response to his emails to FLNRO from Jim Guido on June 2. Guido gives a summary of the May 31 field review with NACFOR, and of the subsequent meeting June 1 with NACFOR and FLNRO staff to review forestry and wildlife legislation, the best management practices document, and to discuss the economic, social and environmental factors at play.

“In the review of the legislation we did not uncover anything we believe is or could have been a contravention of the legislation however we will leave it to the Conservation Officer Service and the Forest Practices Board to conduct their independent investigations and provide findings,” he said.

Frances Swan of NACFOR explained in an email on June 3 that earlier field work by an environmental monitor did not indicate a large population of juvenile toads in the vicinity of the higher elevation cutblocks. “However, more recent observations showed higher numbers of juvenile toads emerging, possibly due to the large cohort of 2015 toadlets. We understand that it may not be possible to mitigate impacts to this larger number of toads so at this time NACFOR will not proceed with summer logging,” she said, adding that the Summit logging plan on the website would be updated soon.

The local group and VWS would like to see this part of NACFOR’s tenure added to Summit Lake Provincial Park. The government already has an expansion proposal on the books for the park. “It would be a very easy thing for the government to adjust the proposed park, addition to include the core terrestrial habitat where Summit Lake toads spend 95% of their lifetimes,” says Wayne McCrory, professional wildlife biologist and VWS director. “This would require an addition to the reserve of only about 670 hectares to protect this species at risk. The government bend over backwards to revise park boundaries for industry such as oil and gas pipelines, but for the lack of a 670-hectare park expansion, when winter comes, these toads may yet have significant additional mortalities heaped on them from logging. That would be a travesty.”

Pettitt says that logging in winter may reduce the damage, but hibernating toads will still be killed, and clearcut logging in any season will degrade toad habitat. “With the forest overstory removed by clearcutting, these areas will be exposed to the sun and dry out in summer, making them uninhabitable for the toads.”
Winlaw keeps on fighting for their school

by Sheri Watch and Lori Thompson

“Help us keep our school and don’t let us down. We have to have a school to discuss a mistake you haven’t made yet!” former MLA Corky Evans told five Kootenay Lake School Board trustees in front of a crowd of at least 300 people spilling out through the gym doors at the Winlaw school closure public consultation meeting on July 5.

Corky’s presentation was one of several delivered to the board of education that evening.

In the final presentation, former Winlaw PAC Chair Jo Buckland gave a brief summary of the 2010 attempt to close the Jewett school. She added that Winlaw Elementary is the only accessible public building in the central valley and that about 80% of families with children five years and under live in the Winlaw-Placemore area, with the remainder in the Stocan area.

In his presentation entitled “Effective Measurement Tools for Decision Making,” Jerome Liborion challenged the data analysis methodology used to score and rank the scenarios included in the draft facilities plan. A social science researcher at Memorial University in St. John’s, concurred, stating that the majority of the weighting was based on economic and not educational factors. Concluding that the school district’s methodology lacked validity and reliability as a decision-making tool, Liborion told trustees they were now “free to vote with their conscience.”

Former WEGCSS Executive Director Joanne Ellis gave a lengthy presentation combining her many years of experience working with youth in the Stocan Valley with her extensive research about local demographics, school closures, district data analysis and current government school utilization policy. She urged those present to financially support the newly-formed “Winlaw School Legal Defence Fund.” She concluded by asking the board to vote “to keep the school open, and until they have heard all the options for keeping it open.”

Since the Jewett meeting, the board has had a meeting to discuss the FCI and deferred maintenance costs. At that meeting, they decided to apply for funding for Winlaw, WE Graham and Salmo Elementary. The government had indicated that the results will be announced on June 30.

The community has been asking over and over for the real costs of keeping the school, and at that meeting we even talk about closing Jewett, we should fully understand the real costs associated with operating Jewett. If and only if those real costs indicate that there is no other way why should we seriously consider any other plan [than keeping it open],” said Underwood.

The “deferred maintenance cost” or “facility condition index” (FCI) of the Jewett building brings up many questions for the community. “We were shocked when we saw it would cost $1 million just to keep the school open for the next ten years,” Underwood told the SD8 representatives. He made it clear that the more detailed breakdown of the building’s maintenance needs and costs, such as $8,431 for signage and $159,628 for cabinets, are simply not credible to the community.

Secretary-treasurer Kim Morris said that the board considered the community’s complaint about the FCI “an attack on one of our family members.” He described two decisions that he continues to regret, explaining that he was sharing these embarrassing personal stories “as a gift, as a cautionary tale.” He counselled trustees not to be “intimidated by the bullying of a higher authority” so that each could make the best use of public service with your head held high and without regrets.”

In the final presentation, former Winlaw PAC Chair Eden DuPont presented a case study of the community’s complaint about the FCI “an attack on one of our family members.” He described two decisions that he continues to regret, explaining that he was sharing these embarrassing personal stories “as a gift, as a cautionary tale.” He counselled trustees not to be “intimidated by the bullying of a higher authority” so that each could make the best use of public service with your head held high and without regrets.”

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year after year, in order to be deemed eligible. We need a long-term solution, and one that provides some stability for our children and their education in this region. If your strategy with rural education funding is truly to seek a long-term solution to keeping rural BC schools open, our education system needs stable, sustainable and adequate funding, not haphazard campaign announcements or political tactics.

Eden DuPont
Chair - Parent Advisory Council
Winlaw Elementary School

Renee Feight
Office of Education Enhancement Funding

Winlaw Elementary School

Half of new generating capacity in 2015 was in clean energy; in coming years we will see that percentage grow even higher. Granted, there is still a way to go before renewable energy sources are dominant in generating our electricity. Across the world, electricity generation is still largely dominated by fossil fuels.

While renewable energy can indeed power industrial societies, science fellow Heinberg at Post Carbon Institute tells us: there is no credible future scenario in which humanity will maintain current levels of energy use (on either a per capita or total basis). Therefore current levels of resource extraction, industrial production, and consumption cannot be sustained. Getting to an optimal all-renewable energy future will require hard work, investment, adaptation, and innovation on an unprecedented scale. We’ll be changing more than our energy sources; we’ll be transforming both the ways we use energy and the amounts we use.

Meanwhile the need for the energy transition is urgent, and the longer it is delayed, the less desirable the outcome. It is no exaggeration to say that the transition from climate-damaging and depleting fossil fuels to renewable energy sources is the central cause of our times. It demands action from each of us.

Yvonne James
Nakusp

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY
The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.

Open letter to Premier Clark

Re: Rural Education Enhancement Funding for Winlaw Elementary

Dear Premier Clark,

The Winlaw community’s reaction to last week’s press release for Rural Education Enhancement Funding (REEF) was nothing less than jubilant. We have spent the past several months collaborating and working hard to lobby our local School District trustees to refrain from making an irreversible decision that would catapult our rural community into decline.

Our argument stood that closing a thriving school with growing enrolment would be unprecedented! We questioned, with some incredulous timelines that have been imposed on our District to apply for this funding for Winlaw Elementary School.

Despite having been identified as one of the nine eligible schools on the initial press release from the Office of the Premier, Winlaw Elementary has been told that our school is now too good to be true. The lack of providing long-term financial assistance will devastate our District.

We have worked incredibly hard for many months; interpreting the data for a proposed long-term Facilities Draft Plan, cast & collated numerous parent surveys, developed and delivered professional and well-articulated presentations at multiple public consultation meetings, and vigorously campaigned and petitioned our cause.

You can only imagine how thrilled and relieved we were to hear of the funding announcement that would secure the future of our school!

However, it appears that the news was too good to be true. The lack of clarity, obfuscation communication and incredulous timelines that have been imposed on our District to apply for this funding on our behalf is infuriating.

Despite having been identified as one of the nine eligible schools on the initial press release from the Office of the Premier, Winlaw Elementary has been told that our school is now perhaps further at risk for closure due to the details surrounding timing between application and receipt of funds.

Our community cannot endure such a shortighted, short term funding decision that requires us to maintain a continuous risk of closure status – year after year, in order to be deemed eligible.

The Valley Voice June 29, 2016

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Firefighters are more than just another village service

I recently received a survey from the Village of Nakusp. Question number 6 asks me how satisfied I am with the following Village services. Of the seven services, six are operated by paid employees and managed by new Director of Operation Positions. The Nakusp Fire Department is a volunteer service! These are community members who volunteer their time, gas, and vehicles to attend not only fires, motor vehicle accidents but their time, gas, and vehicles to attend not just another service! Only fires, motor vehicle accidents but their time, gas, and vehicles to attend not just another service! Community members who volunteer for the that matter of the members of council have done their research. We should finish what was started in Kaslo Bay before adding any more costs on the taxpayers.

I note, without prejudice, there is only one member of council with capital costs and user fees when spread out to a one-third share over 25 years at 2%. I know that rents will go up and I wonder if the Legion will survive. I don’t think the general public will be affected by a tax increase in lower Kaslo, and that member has it up for sale.

Kim Reich
Nakusp

Winlaw closure based on bad data

I’m new to the area and was curious why the local school board was planning to close Winlaw elementary school. From what I had read it was a growing school at near capacity (seemingly opposite to that often cited case for closing schools – school demographics: age, enrolment in an aging population).

Neither of the public consultations I attended at WE Graham elementary school in Slocan on May 17th or Winlaw elementary school on June 13th provided any answers – or did they.

The school board trustees weren’t talking. They were sitting in silence, muzzled by their legal counsel, as dozens of concerned parents, community members and children made presentations on the harmful effects that closing Winlaw elementary would have on the community and its children. It didn’t seem like any solutions were actually being sought in this process, that they were setting a trap for those of us who wanted to see what effect, if any, closing Winlaw would have on the community and its children. It had the uncomfortable feeling that I was watching some sort of dog and pony show unfolding. After reviewing the data on their website (www.adk.bc.ca), my trepidation only got stronger.

Each scenario the school board was considering had been graded against 16 different criteria such that each scenario was given a point score out of 100 and then the top scoring scenarios were selected. Keeping Winlaw open (scenario SV-9) had scored 41 out of 100 while closing Winlaw and bussing all the kids to WE Graham in Slocan (scenario SV-5) had scored 48 out of 100.

What I was unaware of, until a few weeks ago, was that the kayaking, which had caused much stir when my kayak had caused much stir when I claimed my kayak – a major factor in evaluating the different scenarios!

Criteria 10 & 11 (improve the safety, quality and sustainability of facilities) were allotted 19 of the 100 points in the evaluation. Keeping Winlaw open scored a disastrous 0 points out of 19 in these criteria. How is this possible? Is the building about to fall over? Pertinent to this is a previous evaluation on deferred maintenance costs for Winlaw pegged at 1.3 million over the next 8 years! (50% of the cost of rebuilding the whole school!).

But as was pointed out in the Winlaw “consultation,” this assessment is heavily inflated and includes many items that are just not required, like around $10,000 to pave the driveway and parking area.

Criteria 7 (provide schools within preferred capacity ranges) – if you thought keeping Winlaw open would score well in this criteria because it’s at nearly 100% enrollment (what the school board wants, right)? you would be wrong – keeping the school open scores 0 out of 4 points in this category, same as a school that is only 10% full.

And so on…

Many of these flaws in the data were pointed out to the trustees at the Winlaw “consultation.” Is the data going to be the trustees at the Winlaw “consultation.” Is the data going to be changed to correct these inconsistencies? Of course not, there are no plans to do this.

So the question is: will the trustees listen to their electorate or capitulate to the biased data?

Kevin Shaw
Winlaw

Liquid Waste Management Plan needs work

A few observations:

There is no documented evidence of any system currently in place to contain or control the systems contaminating the lake and there are very few failures of septic systems. Most systems in lower Kaslo have been upgraded in the last 20 years.

There was no upgrade for six Kaslo in the last 20 years (page 52) and the sewer system was installed Kaslo 20 years ago from the marina around the bay to the loggers sports area to promote development. Hasn’t happened and in fact has gone into reverse.

There are 182 dwellings in lower Kaslo to be added. The area is 10 blocks. The projected costs for doing the minimum upgrade to the sewer plant and installation of underground piping is $5,400,000. Page 53. The pipes alone cost $4,650,000 to install and that means it costs $465,000 per block.

It cost approximately $3 million dollars to build new dock in 1996 and the projected cost for 2016 is $5 million dollars for 10 blocks so the cost at half a million dollars per block hasn’t changed.

Neil said the the sharing of costs by federal, provincial and municipal governments is done differently now. He said that one time grants are available that can be used. I was informed that if available before but at $500,000 per block it works out to at least $600 per household for municipal to federal, to deny the Sinixt their unceded rights. There is only the continued pretense that either the Sinixt don’t exist, and if they did, it wasn’t in Kaslo.

They are community members who volunteer their time, gas, and vehicles to attend not just another service! Only fires, motor vehicle accidents but their time, gas, and vehicles to attend not just another service! Community members who volunteer for the that matter of the members of council have done their research. We should finish what was started in Kaslo Bay before adding any more costs on the taxpayers.

I note, without prejudice, there is only one member of council with capital costs and user fees when spread out to a one-third share over 25 years at 2%. I know that rents will go up and I wonder if the Legion will survive. I don’t think the general public will be affected by a tax increase in lower Kaslo, and that member has it up for sale.

Patrick Mackle
Kasco

Time to recognize the Sinixt

If truth is the first step toward reconciliation, then in 2016 on the 60th anniversary of Declaration of Extinction of the Sinixt/Arrow Lakes People for the purposes of Canada’s Indian Act, we in the West Kootenay are still far from our goals.

Can we recognize multiple anthropologists – Dawson (1892), Teit (1909), Boas (1928), Ray(1936), etc. – ‘Nelson sits squarely in the Sinixt / Arrow Lakes’ house.” And that An’lance of Nelson’s recent aboriginal protocol, they acknowledge “all Indigenous peoples on whose traditional territories we stand.”

This evaluation process has nothing to do with truth. Instead, it’s about colonial whitewashing under the pretense of being a progressive community. It’s Nelson doing the Truth and Reconciliation dance without actually addressing our ongoing occupation of Sinixt unceded territory.

Extinction means “total destruction or obliteration (OED).” We perpetuate this destruction by reducing once thriving and unique people into the vague category of “indigenous.”

There are many unmarked graves on university land with a specific culture which emerged from this land, in response to this land. And they still live here, still hunt and gather, still carry out the responsibilities to their ancestors. By refusing to speak their name, we re-erect their bureaucratic obfuscation and our complicity in this ethnic genocide.

The second sentence of the protocol reads, “We honour our connection to the land and rivers and respect the importance of the environment to our strength as a community.” What does the City of Nelson actually do to “honour” their connection? Are they suggesting that if the City respects “the importance of the environment” this translates into respect for indigenous people? And that this amounts to strength for a community that fails to acknowledge the people who have lived here for millennia?

There is little in the City of Nelson aboriginal protocol that reflects any truth except the ongoing process of ideological control. There is no acknowledgement of the brutality that brought about the bureaucratic genocide of the Sinixt Nation. There is no acknowledgement of the ongoing machinations of government, from social media, so that the information of the search mission could quickly spread throughout the community and identified without delay of several days.

This entire episode brings me to wondering how other small lakeshore communities deal with this situation? Which is why I am also sending this to Richard Canning, our current MP, as waterways are federal jurisdiction.

I am attaching a cheque for $150 to go towards the much appreciated work of the local Search and rescue volunteers which comes nowhere near, I am sure, to compensating them for their time and the stress.

Everyone involved was relieved to bring the matter to closure without tragedy – when I claimed my kayak – which is now securely identified and tethered. Is yours?

Fran Wallis
Silverton

Solar misinformation?

Judging by his letter in the Valley Voice of June 15, Norm Yanee needs to take a trip to Germany, or possibly to any of the other more northern European countries to get a better notion of solar energy.

I just spent two months there, from the North Sea right to the Alps. And what struck me most? Solar panels everywhere – on the roofs of schools, churches, schools, halls of factories, barns, haysheds, in the fields (sheep grazing underneath), literally everywhere, mostly by private initiatives. Yes, the state subsidizes investments in solar power (already considerably less than a few years ago), and it still pays producers of solar energy, that feed into the public networks, twice the price per kWh as what you have to pay for on their electric bill.

So do they throw out their money just to have fun with solar installation? No, they put their money to where it makes sense – long term. 30% of German energy needs are now covered by alternative means, mostly wind and solar. They are trying to quit nuclear power, because they realize the danger of it – long term. How can the state afford to subsidize so much alternative energy?

Germany is an industrial powerhouse with a population of around 90 million, three times the size of Canada. The state revenues seem big enough to afford that kind of far sighted environmental policy. Does it make sense to tax the payers or do they feel they are being ripped off? Or how do they know for sure that putting a little money into solar power (already considerably less than a few years ago), pays off? That is the second question. Does it make sense to transport a human body of 150 or 180 lbs by getting a two-ton vehicle moving? Not really, do we throw millions out of expenditure – short term.

Mighty rivers start in little creeks; let solar panels on the roofs of schools be samples of times to come. By the way, contrary to what was said in the first, so to the second question. Does it make sense to transport a human body of 150 or 180 lbs by getting a two-ton vehicle moving? Not really, do we throw millions out of expenditure – short term.

Richard Eichenauer
Fauquier

LETTERS/COMMUNITY

LETTERS/COMMUNITY

LETTERS/COMMUNITY

LETTERS/COMMUNITY
Slocan council, June 13: Spirit of Slocan plans Show and Shine and Labour Day events

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

• The Spirit of Slocan Committee and the Slocan Artisan/Farmers Saturday Market are planning two events during the Labour Day weekend. Slocan curling, and Shine and Labour Day events will apply for a Canada 150 grant to help to assist in the purchase of a new Legion roof during the Labour Day celebrations.

• The Village and the Slocan Legion will apply for a Canada 150 grant to help to assist in the purchase of a new Legion roof during the Labour Day celebrations.

The second request was from the Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society for help to reduce construction and future operating costs for the housing complex. The Village agreed that the water connection fee of $1,200 would be charged per building, not per unit. Water and garbage fees could not be reduced as they cover the cost of service.

New Denver council, June 14: Village wants presentation on community energy planning

by Katrina Campbell

• Council asked the staff to request a presentation at its July 12 or July 26 meeting from Trish Dehnel, Community Relations Manager for the Community Energy Association, regarding community energy planning.

• Council granted the Healthy Community Society’s development permit application to install a shipping container medical waste storage shed at Rory’s On Main, for the new restaurant the society will open on that site in the fall, when Rory’s closes. The storage unit will be insulated, roofed and painted to match the main building.

• Council granted a development permit application from The Beach Shop, at the bottom of New Denver’s main street, to put up two signs.

• Council received the draft minutes of the June 2 Fire Department Community Relations meeting. The staff will prepare a draft Service Level Policy as well as a draft revised Fire Department Bylaw.

New Denver has withdrawn from the RDCK’s Community Sustainable Living Service, established to provide research, analytical, development and management services relating to the social and economic development of the Regional District of Central Kootenay.” An Slocan Valley RDCK have withdrawn from the service except Silverton, Kaslo, Slocan and Salmo. All electoral areas remain in the service. A new group, Silver Valley/Rossland Karate group was turned down. The group is again holding a karate camp in New Denver

Slocan Curling Club leases vacates curling rink lease

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

At a Committee of the Whole meeting held at the Civic Centre on Monday, June 13, the Council met with members of the curling club executive committee to discuss the future of the facility. The architectural assessment of the building was completed and the recommendations are written. The building would need to be totally rebuilt. Even using the same footprint, a new building would require a zoning bylaw to change from multiple to single family home and garage at 1119 Arthur St. to reduce the setback by 3 feet so that the building wouldn’t encroach on an arterial street.

A letter received from Dave Bouliane requesting to be put on the agenda to discuss “Bylaw enforcement, a neighbour’s campground, dog control, small business support, and lack of action from the town” was received for information. Mayor Lunn noted that staff had responded to all Bouliane’s concerns and that she herself had met with him.

Slochon and Slocan curling facilities

The Lands will be leased to the Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society for the development of affordable housing with a focus on seniors. The consideration to be received by the Village of Slocan for the disposition of land is $5,000. Council will give final consideration to the disposition at their regular meeting of July 11th, 2016. Written comments regarding this matter will be received at the Village Office until 4pm on Thursday, July 7th, 2016.
Balfour ferry landing to be moved or improved
by Jan McMurray

**June 29, 2016**  The Valley Voice

Something’s got to give at the Balfour ferry landing.

According to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), the Balfour ferry terminal needs $36-$40 million worth of improvements, or it needs to be moved three kilometres north to Queen’s Bay at a cost of $25-$30 million. A public open house June 15 at the Redfish School gym is a chance to put in your two cents.

MOTI information displayed at the open house explains that the strategic fuel managed zones. The deciduous trees, with low fuel loads in the wildland-urban interface zone, need to be proactive. We need open forests also expect the tree species mix in local, managed zones, and we want those fires will most likely travel and you could be taken apart and moved to any site in as needed.

To Queen’s Bay residents, however, the Queen’s Bay option is “an environmental disaster.” They pointed out that they get their drinking water from the bay, and that the proposed terminal would “destroy 2,000 feet of very popular public beach.”

Outside the entrance to the gym, one Balfour business owner stood banging a drum, telling people to say that moving the ferry terminal would have devastating economic impacts. A dozen businesses at the landing depend on ferry traffic, and the economic spinoff from these businesses is estimated at $7 million.

Inside, Kevin Smith of the Old World Hotel and Inn, and another business owner, addressed the crowd in the midst of the general melee in the gym.

Smith said that all Balfour businesses met with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure representatives that morning. “We discovered great discrepancies in their costs. The cost of the Queen’s Bay option doesn’t include, among other things, $11-$15 million to build a 30-car barge, a wind and wave study, and an environmental assessment of dumping 75,000 cubic metres of fill into ling cod habitat – an environmentally threatened fish. They have yet to consider the First Nations historic cultural sites that are on the beach at Queen’s Bay. Also not included in the cost are improvements to the proposed access directly below a giant cliff slough.”

Smith went on to say that the Balfour option includes $3 million to dredge the West Arm narrows. “What’s not represented is that they have to dredge Queen’s Bay to put the terminal there,” he said.

“It’s clear that the ferry at Balfour to maintain our cultural identity, maintain environmental integrity, honour First Nations archaeology, protect Queen’s Bay from environmental destruction, and maintain over 40 individuals’ livelihoods,” he concluded.

Handrahan said that both the current site and the Queen’s Bay site are feasible. “Either way, we have to spend lots of money. We can quibble about the figures, but the operating costs would be lower at Queen’s Bay.” He added that dredging at Queen’s Bay would be needed only once, during construction of the new terminal, where it would be needed on an ongoing basis at Balfour. The main reason the operating costs would be lower at Queen’s Bay is that the shorter run time and the need for one ferry only. “There’s one run every 50 minutes at Balfour, and there would be two runs every hour at Queen’s Bay,” said Handrahan. “That’s a benefit from our perspective – less travel time on a ferry.”

Balfour businesspeople and others, however, point out that the Balfour ferry is a tourist attraction as “the longest free ferry ride in the world.”

“Having one vessel is cheaper than having two,” said Handrahan. “That makes it attractive to us, but it’s not the deciding factor. We’re going to take public comments into account.”

Smith says the community has made it clear that three weeks of public consultation is not enough time. “We’re holding formal stakeholder meetings and putting together a legal petition and getting legal counsel. We will get local and seasonal residents and tourists involved. We’re going to stop it.”

The formal public consultation period ends July 6. A report on the consultation will be available in September. The ministry “prepares for decision” in the fall.


SIFCo develops ground-breaking wildfire protection plan submitted

The Slocan Integrated Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) has just released its wildfire protection plan for the Slocan Valley.

“To effectively protect rural areas in BC we need a landscape-level approach rather than a piecemeal one in order to make a significant difference,” said SIFCo managing director Stephan Martineau. “Strategic fuel management zones are located so that we can create large defendable fuel breaks. These zones need to be strategically located. For the past few years we have been working on a plan to identify these zones and a methodology that can be replicated in other areas.

“As far as we are aware, we are the first tenure holder in the province to create such a plan.”

The wildfire protection plan is multifaceted. It covers identification of major fire movement paths, placement of landscape-level strategic fuel-managed zones, a re-writing of stocking standards in interface areas, a joint crown land and private strategy, and a habitat restoration strategy. It also includes options for unconventional fibre harvesting, a commercial ecosystem-based harvesting strategy, a reduction of hazardous fuel type in areas of high probability of wildfires closer to communities, and a tree species transition strategy.

SIFCo began this approach in 2008 with revised stocking standards in the Slocan Valley, and a tree species transition. The “SF” stands for “Slocan Forestry,” the “I” for “Integrated,” and the “Co” for Cooperative. SIFCo has been working with local partners, and the project is successful to protect municipalities in the Slocan Valley for the past six years.

“We have been instrumental in bringing in more than $2 million dollars to help protect the municipalities. Our local municipalities are now some of the best protected in BC, and unless we add in a landscape-level approach, our investments are at risk with possible out-of-control large fires. Looking at the big picture is crucial at this juncture if we want to take the next proactive step toward protecting rural BC,” says Martineau. “SIFCo took on a collaborative approach, and met with all partners. We drink from because we believe no one would care as much or do a better job of management than those of us who live and work here. It is now clear that climate change adaptation and fire management are key decisions that affect our ecosystem-based management goals.”

Support of is almost of utmost importance for SIFCo to meet its goals of implementing this multifaceted approach.

“By including a commercial fuel component to our strategy we reduce our dependence on funding, but funding is still a key component. What we need is a pilot project in the BC Interior that would demonstrate how all the pieces could come together to make us safe and to start the high priority adaption to climate change that we really need to do. It is ready to go,” says Martineau.

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For help in rural area “A”, contact WVS Bear Smart Coordinator Evelyn Kirkaldy: 250-359-6611. Evelyn Kirkaldy <eeklans@netidea.com>

For help in New Denver and Area K (Arrow Lakes) contact: Bree Lillies, WildSafeBC Community Coordinator.  
**Call:** (250) 354-8120  
Email: newdenver@wildsafebc.com  
Website: www.wildsafebc.com  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/wildsafebc

For help in most areas with electric fencing and bear-proof bins, Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions offers a 50% cost share on the price of electric fencing equipment that benefits both farmers and bears. Also note that there may be 50% cost sharing in some RDCK areas for bear-proof bins.

For cost sharing, electric fence installation advice and assistance contact: Gillian Sanders, 250-353-1137 or email: grizzlyfencingproject@gmail.com

*Local Note: Silverton Building Supplies now stocks electric fence supplies*

*Programs thanks to RDCK, Columbia Basin Trust, BC Conservation Foundation, Valhalla Society donors and others*
Specialist Gillian Kong. Inflows (from Mother Nature, said Engineering Specialist Gillian Kong) of water peaked on June 10 at 1,434. The water could change. They predict the level to be low, due to the smaller snowpack.

Area D Director Aimee Watson and local resident Richard Brenton explained that extra mosquito abatement treatment is needed in years that the Duncar Reservoir has to be discharged in late summer. When this happens, they’d like BC Hydro to pick up the extra abatement costs. The RDCK has submitted a formal proposal to BC Hydro with this request.

Director Watson assured them that she understands they have to operate the reservoir in accordance with the Columbia River Treaty and other agreements, “but at whose cost?” When downstream flooding reoccurs, abatement has to be extended. Right now, the residents are paying for that, and it’s not a cost that residents should pay.

By Art Joyce

As the future of BC Hydro operations on the Lower Arrow Lake moratorium abatement program is the main topic of interest at the BC Hydro Operations Update meeting in Meadow Creek on June 14.

Another concern raised was the amount of water flowing over the border, Walker-Larsen noted the related operations rules were updated every 10 years.

Another concern raised was the number of fish in the lake. Several people said there were “hardly any fish left.” Walker-Larsen said there were no fisheries people at the meeting but she promised to follow up on the issue.

One person said it wasn’t just the fish; the numbers of osprey and herons have dropped because there is less for them to eat.

The Mica reservoir levels are far higher than the Arrow Lakes, and people questioned why some of the water couldn’t be released to fill the lake levels. Tourism is “significantly” affected by the lower water, they said. BC Hydro’s Community Relations Manager Dag Sharram said if someone could get “hard numbers on the loss of tourism dollars, the Province can weigh that against the generation of power and other benefits.”

Engineering Specialist Gillian Kong explained stored water behind the dam was stored energy and it would be released when power costs were higher. The electricity generated does not get sent to the US, the Americans generate their own and pay the entitlement.

Jen Walker-Larsen, manager of the Columbia River Forecast Centre, the West Kootenay has had three straight years of early season snowmelt, after snowmelt are then completely dependent on rainfall to sustain water levels are adjusted every couple of years.

Drought rating (‘dry’). But that could change quickly, as the summer months after snowmelt are then completely dependent on rainfall to sustain water levels. Meteorologists are predicting the current wet weather trend will soon cease.

According to Dave Campbell of the Forest Fire Department, the West Kootenay has had three straight years of lower than normal snowpack. Currently the region has only a fifth of the snow expected for this point in June. An unusually warm spring – the tail end of an El Niño cycle this past year – didn’t help matters any.

“The trend is of an early season and rapid snow melt,” said Campbell. “At measuring stations across the province we’ve lost all but a small portion that remains at low elevations, about 13% of normal. Province wide, stream flows are at a quarter to three-quarters normal for this time of year. It’s reflective of the limited snowpack contribution.”

The Province of BC rates drought conditions from 1 to 4, with 1 being “normal,” 3 “very dry,” and 4 – the highest rating – “extremely dry.” Current drought conditions are set based on stream flow evaluations of water supply. As conditions worsen, the public is asked to voluntarily conserve water, reducing consumption by 10% at level 2, 30% at level 3, and minimal water use at level 4. Conditions persist at level 4, the provisions for water conservation are extended to include water sustainability.

The public is asked to exercise caution while camping or recreating.

“The fine fuels at the surface that ignite easily will dry out very rapidly and these fuels make it easier for fires to spread,” said McConnell. “We need to pay extra attention to smoke and fire abatement this year, as conditions are very dry,” says Meyer. “Once surface fuels dry out, then deeper fuels start to dry out as well and add to the risk, making fires much more difficult to put out, tying up resources for longer periods of time.”

A report in the April 15 Guardian noted that global temperatures for March throughout the Northern Hemisphere were warmer than average. The figures, provided by the Japan Meteorological Agency, were described by scientists as a “shocker,” signalling the end of an “ordinary” year. This has kept the BC government at a heightened state of vigilance in its drought monitoring since 2015.

During the next two weeks very rapid drying is expected, raising the risk of wildfires. The public is urged to exercise caution while camping or recreating.

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RDCK passes resolution in support of getting the right log to the right mill

by Jan McMurray

The RDCK board has passed a resolution encouraging the Province to support value-added wood manufacturing by getting the right log to the right mill. The board was asked to pass a resolution to this effect by the Interior Lumber Manufacturers’ Association (ILMA) at the May RDCK board meeting.

The board passed the resolution at its subsequent June board meeting, but not until after they had heard from BC Timber Sales (BCTS) representatives Russ Larocche and Kathy Howard.

BCTS was founded in 2003, at the time BC forest policy changed. ILMA spokesperson Brian Simpson told the RDCK board in May that the 2003 policy shift has resulted in a large percentage of the timber supply in the hands of a few major corporations, a problem of lumber manufacturing facilities, and souring raw log exports.

In response to questions by Director Kozak at the June meeting, BCTS rep Larocche explained that BCTS was originally set up as the Small Business Program. Since the legislative change in 2003, “we still provide logs to small business, but through an open process. If they can afford them, they can buy them.”

Larocche explained that BCTS is a stand-alone government agency under the Ministry of Forests, and operates similarly to a major forest company. However, it also publicly auctions timber to establish the market price. The market pricing system provides an open competitive market for timber. It also captures the value of the timber for the Crown, and is a critical component of the softwood lumber agreement with the US – it proves that the Province is not subsidizing industry.

Director Kozak asked Larocche if he had any insight into why there is a problem getting the right log to the right mill.

Larocche said it was because of “the control issue.” He said BCTS only controls 20% of the annual allowable cut (AAC) across the province. “We act like a licensor, and the rest of the AAC is controlled by the other licencers,” he said. He explained that Kaleninkoff and Porcupine have control over their own tenures and often buy wood from each other, but Interfor has the largest tenure in the area. “It’s a bit touchy and I don’t have the answer. Is there room for improvement? I’m sure there is.”

Kozak concluded that in order to address the issue, “we need a whole scale review and revision of how we view lumber, so I guess the job for us is at the legislative level.”

In the presentation, Larocche said the RDCK board is apprised of BCTS activities through its Forest Stewardship Plan, and highlighted a document that explains how BCTS will operate within the regulations, and also through its operational plans. Director Davidoff asked about this, as he has been told that forestry companies are not required to share their operational plans. Kathy Howard replied that BCTS has recently made the commitment to make its operational plans available to communities.

The report on forest stewardship plans found that special management practices required in community watersheds need to be coordinated with all activities in the watershed, and indicated that this was the mining industry. As a result of the report, Larocche said, BCTS is revising its policy. “We hope to see the result soon,” said Ryan.

Ryan also commented on resource roads in the province. “600,000 kilometres of roads exist, and 10,000 kilometres are added every year. Who is managing this inventory – the building, maintenance and deactivation? The government said the Natural Resource Road Act will deal with it, but that legislation is eight years in the making. Sooner or later, we have to deal with this.”

Ryan explained that the FPB is an entity of government, but not directed by government. Its funding comes from the Province ($38.6 million annually) and the FPB is accountable to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, “but after that, that’s it. We report to the public and legislature. The board determines our own work.”

Seven members make up the FPB. The chair is full-time, while the other members are part-time. A staff of 21 consists of foresters, biologists, engineers, accountants, lawyers, and communications people. Over the board’s 10 years, it has produced 500 reports and more than 300 recommendations.

Forest Practices Board makes presentation to RDCK board

by Jan McMurray

A presentation about the Forest Practices Board (FPB) by FPB Chair Tim Ryan was made to the RDCK board at its June meeting.

“There’s no other body like it in Canada and it’s unique in many respects in the world,” Ryan said. “We act as the forestry auditor general – we’re like the Ministry of Finance for forestry.”

The FPB was established in 1995, after the “war in the woods,” to ensure that BCTS (the corporation that controls 20% of the annual allowable cut across the province) is accountable to the Ministry of Forests, and operates under the laws of the province.

The RDCK board had just heard from a delegation from BC Timber Sales, which has responded to the FPB report by committing to sharing its operational plans with stakeholders. “I commend BCTS for sharing their operational plans with you,” said Ryan. “There are not many licencers that do that.”

The FPB report on community watersheds found that special management practices required in community watersheds need to be coordinated with all activities in the watershed, and indicated that this was the mining industry. As a result of the report, Larocche said, BCTS is revising its policy. “We hope to see the result soon,” said Ryan.

Ryan and other members of the FPB are responsible for its complaint investigations. Ryan said they receive 70-80 concerns annually, and report on only 5-10. “Some of these go out of hand, and some are resolved without an investigation,” he said. Investigations each take 10-18 months.

During question period, Director Faust told Ryan that some residents in her area feel the FPB’s mandate is too narrow. Ryan replied that the FPB can’t be seen as lobbying to broaden its mandate, but he encourages people to bring concerns like this one forward to government. He also commented that the ministry has become very large, with perhaps only 15% of its time spent on forestry, “so I think what we find and report on gets lost in the large ministry.”

The FPB also does special investigations and reports on findings during their annual audits. Ryan spoke briefly about two special reports of particular interest to local government – one on forest stewardship plans and the other on community watersheds.

The report on forest stewardship plans concludes that most of these plans do not meet the public’s needs. It also concludes that most are not enforceable by government because they do not include commitments that are measurable. “It’s so important that they describe who will do what, where and when,” said Ryan. “If you don’t say this, you can’t enforce it. It’s critical in Forest Stewardship Plans that the commitments are clear and verifiable – who will do what, where and when.”

The FPB is recommending that the government not renew or approve any forest stewardship plans that don’t meet the standards set out in the Forest and Range Practices Act, and that the public consultation process be improved.

The RDCK board determined that its complaint investigations be improved. The board determined their own work.

ALT Fest’s first year a success

submitted

On Saturday, June 18 the Vallican Whole hosted ALT Fest, a special little multi-faceted cultural event.

Featuring a wide range of musical styles, spoken word, workshops, beautiful art, and lots of visiting amongst people of all ages, ALT Fest was a celebration of alternative culture in the Shuswap Valley and beyond. Despite rainy weather, an injured musician, and a band that got lost on the way there, the energy was positive and cheerful, all kinds of people said it was “a sweet little festival” and everyone commended the brand new organizers on a job well done.

Anyone interfering with firefighting activities could be fined $100,000 and face jail time of up to one year.

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BCWildfire.ca

Local metal band ‘Hound’ brought their energetic music to the Vallican Whole for ALT Fest. June 18. This was their second public performance ever, and three of its members were key organizers of the event, as well as.
The Valley Voice   June 29, 2016

Kootenay Lake fishery recovery plan presented to the public

by Jan McMurray

The Kootenay Lake Action Plan – the plan the Province is using to guide recovery of the Kootenay Lake fishery – was presented to the public on June 16 at Redfish Consulting in Kaslo.

The plan was completed last month by RedFish Consulting, working with an advisory team of experts from around the province. The advisory team was set up in October 2014.

The information presented at the meeting was similar to information presented at public meetings on this topic a year ago. Experts still feel that predator (Gerrard rainbow and bull trout) abundance in the lake from 2008 to 2014 is the primary cause of the collapse of the kokanee. Many fishermen still disagree.

“Tears the concern – is there another cause? We don’t think so,” said Jeff Burrows, government fish biologist.

“We think the predator abundance is the primary cause. This lines up well in the scientific literature and evidence.”

Kokanee numbers declined rapidly from 2009 to 2012, and have remained low since, although there is a slight rise this year. The bull trout and Gerrard rainbow populations have not yet recovered, and this year’s numbers are even lower.

“Where did all the big fish go?” asked one fisherman. Burrows explained that the big fish (bull trout and Gerrards) have declined over the last four years with the collapse of the kokanee, their main food source, “We believe this is malnourishment and in poor condition, they don’t survive spawing.” he said. “We think the recovery of the kokanee should bring them back.”

Burrows said the kokanee population is expected to show significant improvement by 2017.

“The best available kokanee population predictions show significant improvement by 2017 and full recovery of all cohorts in 6-12 years – some earlier improvement by 2017 and full recovery population is expected to show should bring them back.”

“We think the recovery of the kokanee main food source, “When they are from 2009 to 2012, and have remained

The recovery tools identified in the plan are: kokanee supplementation, the nutrient program, and the continued closure of kokanee fishing.

Burrows said that kokanee supplementation occurred in fall 2015 and spring 2016, and will carry on in fall 2016 and spring 2017. Genetic analysis and feasibility assessments done at all available locations in the province have shown that the best places to collect kokanee eggs and fry for transplantaing into Kootenay Lake are Lussier River, Whitewater Reservoir, and Kinbasket Reservoir. The eggs and fry are transplanted at Meadow Creek and Lander Creek. Burrows said Meadow Creek is a good location for the transplants because the spawning channel offers optimum conditions. The area of the breeding site need to be closed, with signs posted around the lake to alert anglers. Kokanee fishing has been closed since April 1, 2015. The nutrient program will continue, and Burrows said they would extend the nutrient program in the fall again, this year, if environmental conditions permit.

One long-time Kootenay Lake fisherman thinks the fishery collapse is due to algae bloom caused by the nutrient program. Another asked why they are adding nutrients to the lake if there are no kokanee.

“We don’t exactly know when the kokanee will start to recover but when they do, they are going to need food,” replied Burrows.

It was noted that many fish caught are full of worms. Burrows explained that the fish get infected with the larval worms by copepods (small crustaceans in the lake), “Malnourished fish will be susceptible to sickness and infection,” he said.

Water temperature was suggested as a possible cause of the collapse. Merle Bassett, coordinator of the nutrient program, said the extensive 20-year data set they have for the program shows a very small, very reliable increase in temperature.

Burrows said the plan contains that there is uncertainty, and actions can be modified based on the results of monitoring efforts. The monitoring program has been beefed up, as well, to better inform recovery efforts.

Holger Bohm and Mike Ramsay, government officials from Victoria, were at the meeting and assured the crowd that the Kootenay Lake fishery is very important to the Province. “We see this as an extended, ongoing plan and we will put aside funds for this as long as the team recommends.”

Kaslo infoNet Society bringing its fiberoptic network to upper Kaslo

submitted

Kaslo infoNet Society has broken ground on bringing its fiberoptic network to upper Kaslo. Connections began in a month or two, after a power backup site is constructed.

Follow-up on KiN’s earlier success installing fiberoptic cable in Kaslo’s downtown core and the upper district, the society has expanded eastwards to Abbey Manor, served Balltour Crescent, and jumped across Kaslo Bay to the Larch Drive subdivisions using an underwater fiberoptic cable.

More recently, Kaslo infoNet has expanded service to Kaslo West Road and the beginning of the Back Road. Because buried fiberoptic cable has nearly unlimited bandwidth capacity and is not limited by line of sight the way wireless is, the KiN board of directors decided that it is the best way to provide true urban-quality internet service to communities throughout the north arm of Kootenay Lake. With help from Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC), a subsidiary of Columbia Basin Trust, the society applied for funding through Northern Development Initiative Program and provincial Basin Trust, the society applied for funding through Northern Development Initiative Program and provincial Basin Trust.

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As KiN’s network takes on more subscribers, it will be necessary to access sufficient bandwidth to prevent KiN, said Corporal Brian Hromadnik. “We do not have a system in place to measure the position of the vehicle. starts the system from getting overloaded.

The system has set up a high capacity wireless bridge that brings 225 Mbps 350 kilometers from CBBC’s network link to Kaslo, and another 35 kilometers to the Claypit tower in Meadow Creek. In order to manage this ambitious project, KiN has hired two new workers who are now able to proceed with construction with less dependence on volunteer labour from board members. To handle the many accounts of managing the society’s extensive list of funds and inventory, they have set up a new accounting system and are developing a versatile subscription management system to improve the society’s efficiency.

During the past year, two members have left the board – Cathy Madden and Rhonda Rasten. Rhonda was recruited to be a board member and now works for KiN able to proceed with construction with less dependence on volunteer labour from board members. To handle the many accounts of managing the society’s extensive list of funds and inventory, they have set up a new accounting system and are developing a versatile subscription management system to improve the society’s efficiency.

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Between noon and 4 pm, 54 percent of these were motorcycles, and the exhaust system was checked on each. All had the manufacturer’s exhaust system in place but most of the owners were not able to proceed with construction with less dependence on volunteer labour from board members. To handle the many accounts of managing the society’s extensive list of funds and inventory, they have set up a new accounting system and are developing a versatile subscription management system to improve the society’s efficiency.

Two vehicles were issued Notice to appear in court for failing to pass a safety inspection. These three miscellaneous Notice and Orders were issued for various deficiencies; and one no drivers license ticket was issued.

Survey asks what matters most for Kootenay Lake’s future

The survey is spearheaded by the Friends of Kootenay Lake. The survey is being conducted by the Kaslo and District Community Stewardship Society. For more information on the project please visit www.fishoffkootenaylake.ca.

Kaslo bike skills park open

More trails are planned for the area with added features to help develop mountain bike riding skills. This project is forging ahead with many hours of volunteer work time, including participation of kids from both Kaslo and North Kootenay lakeshore schools, donations of machine time and some trail-building materials, and with the financial support from the Village of Kaslo, CBH Community Initiatives, the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake, and private donations.

If you want more information or would like to participate in some way, please contact project manager Doug Roberts at 250-353-2600.

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Valhalla Fine Arts summer kids camps in dance, theatre and music

submitted

Valhalla Fine Arts has announced changes to its dance, theatre and music camps this July. The same quality children’s programs are back with new (and returning) instructors bringing incredible talent and knowledge to the Valhalla Fine Arts School of Theatre Arts (VISTA) for their summer camp. Camps are open to all ages 4 to 16. Kelly, a professional singer and music educator, as well as mother to two young children plans a theme of music and theatre for Music Explorers’ 2016 summer camp. Her experience with ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance has developed a unique methodology combining story, imagination, and choreography that led to her being named the 2015 Emerging Artist by Calgary Arts Development Authority. Mark was a part of the VFA dance program a few years ago and returns this time as a drama instructor. Current VFA board member Mark Ikeda creates original performances that combine narrative and movement. His training in theatre and dance has developed a unique methodology combining story, imagination, and choreography that led to him being named the 2015 Emerging Artist by Calgary Arts Development Authority. Mark was a part of the VFA dance program a few years ago and returns this time as a drama instructor. Music Explorers’ has a new face with New Denver resident Kelly Coubrough leading this popular introductory music program for children ages 4 to 6. Kelly, a professional singer and music educator, as well as mother to two young children plans a theme of music and theatre. Kelly’s style is a fusion of old-world roots and new times sensibility.

Slocan District Chamber of Commerce expands health committee

submitted

The Slocan District Chamber of Commerce board of directors recently voted to expand its long-standing health committee to include valley-wide representation.

“The Chamber feels that a well-managed and efficient valley-wide health and emergency service is vital to the economic survival and well-being of the Slocan Valley,” said Colin Moss, SDCC director and chair of the health committee.

The Chamber represents its many member businesses and non-profit organizations in the valley, and has a long history of promoting tourism and the economic well being of Valley businesses, residents and villages.

The Chamber invited representatives from Slocan Valley local governments and health and emergency services to participate on the committee. At its recent inaugural meeting, the committee decided on terms of reference and general operating rules and procedure.

The committee’s purpose, as written in the terms of reference, is to make recommendations to the Chamber board in regards to helping maintain the health and well-being of Valley residents and villages. The committee’s request for a representative from New Denver Village council will be considered at the June 28 council meeting.

Valhalla Fine Arts summer kids camps in dance, theatre and music

approach to mixing styles. The summer camps run from July 11 to July 22. Space is limited for these programs, so early registration is advised. For online registration and information, visit www.valhallafinearts.org.

‘Your Town’ raffle tickets are on sale again this summer. Tickets are available on June 29, 2016

Community

The committee’s hope that we can work with valley health and emergency services in a constructive and cooperative manner to keep and improve the level of health services we now have,” said Moss.

Present at the committee’s inaugural meeting were: Walter Popoff, RDCK Area H Director; Madeline Penirion, Slocan Village councillor; Jean Patterson, Slocan Village councillor; Carol Bell, Silverton Village councillor; Leonard Casley, New Denver and area fire chief; Erika Beringer, Chamber Visitor Information Centre manager and committee recording secretary; and Colin Moss, Slocan Community Health Centre Hospital Auxiliary member and health committee chair. Unable to attend were Linda Martin, Passmore Seniors branch #116 member and Julie Fry, alternate recording secretary.

The committee’s request for a representative from New Denver Village council will be considered at the June 28 council meeting.

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Valhalla Fine Arts summer kids camps in dance, theatre and music

submitted

Valhalla Fine Arts has announced changes to its dance, theatre and music camps this July. The same quality children’s programs are back with new (and returning) instructors bringing incredible talent and knowledge to the VISTA, Experience and Peak Dance, and Music Explorers programs.

Valhalla School of Theatre Arts (VISTA) is led this year by Julie Mortensen and Mark Ikeda, who are returning after several years away. Julie is a professional actor based in Vancouver, an avid arts educator and has taught for a great range of drama organizations in the valley, and has captured her heart many years ago, to teach such a creative and inspiring group of young actors.

Mark Ikeda creates original performances that combine narrative and movement. His training in theatre and dance has developed a unique methodology combining story, imagination, and choreography that led to him being named the 2015 Emerging Artist by Calgary Arts Development Authority. Mark was a part of the VFA dance program a few years ago and returns this time as a drama instructor.

Music Explorers’ has a new face with New Denver resident Kelly Coubrough leading this popular introductory music program for children ages 4 to 6. Kelly, a professional singer and music educator, as well as mother to two young children plans a theme of music and theatre. Kelly’s style is a fusion of old-world roots and new times sensibility.

Her experience with ballet, jazz, urban styles, bellydance, Balkan, Afro-Colombian, West African, bellydance, flamenco, and contemporary all inform her choreography and her unique presence while exploring the common thread in dances from around the world.

The committee’s request for a representative from New Denver Village council will be considered at the June 28 council meeting.

Community

Valhalla Fine Arts summer kids camps in dance, theatre and music

approach to mixing styles. The summer camps run from July 11 to July 22. Space is limited for these programs, so early registration is advised. For online registration and information, visit www.valhallafinearts.org.

‘Your Town’ raffle tickets are on sale again this summer. Tickets are available from VFA Society Board members and local businesses. This raffle raises funds for Valhalla Fine Arts programs, awards prizes to three lucky recipients, and also supports local merchants by directing the prize money into their businesses. Tickets are $10 each. Prizes are $1,000, $500 and $250. The draw date is August 11.
JV Humphries Valedictorians address the class of 2016

by Lucinda Calder and Liam Patience

Liam: Finally, 13 long years of agony has come to an end. Freedom at last!
Lu: He doesn’t mean that. What he’s trying to say is 13 years of hard work and memorable experiences have brought us to this life-altering day. We-
Liam: Never again will I have to wake up early to see all you horrible- Lu: Lovely human beings. We have known most of you since day one. Kindergarten, and some even before that. If anyone has shaped who we are today, it’s you guys. We have had some good times-
Liam: Woohoo! Grad campout!-
Lu: And some bad times-
Liam: Cat, I’m so sorry for vomiting on you in Mrs. Garnett’s class-
Lu: And all the times in between. Despite our differences we really have grown to become our own little dysfunctional family. Thank you for being so-
Liam: Satisfactory! And how about the people who run this place! Sitting through-

Lu: Valuable educational lessons in not just English or Chemistry but in life, too. The teachers have been our-
Liam: Tor-
Lu: Mentors. They have always had our backs, reminding us when work is due-
Liam: Usually overdue.
Lu: It is the great teachers of this school who have brought us to this point.
Liam: Thank God!
Lu: We want to genuinely thank you for being the best role models a grad could ask for.
(Liam begins to fold his speech and turns to walk away. Lu taps him on the shoulder and softly reminds him)
Lu: The community, Liam!
Liam: Oh yeah, right. Thanks for all the... uh...?
Lu: What he’s trying to say is we as a grad class are very grateful for the opportunities this beautiful community has made possible for us. Growing up in Kaslo has been-
Liam: Bronze- Lu: Paradise. We are so blessed to have had the support of the community. Thank you all.
Liam: Mum no! Put the camera away.
Lu: And that brings us to our last heartfelt thank you. To our parents. Thank you for all the-
Liam: FOOD.
Lu: Love and support. We love you, parents. But now it’s time to leave home-
Liam: Except Ethan-
Lu: Now is our time to make our mark in the world. For those of us who are leaving, we will miss Kaslo and its people. But for those of us who are staying-
Liam: Party at Lover’s tonight! Lu: We hope to join in supporting the younger generations this community and school produces.
Liam: To our class, and I’m being serious now, good luck, and Ethan no hard feelings.
Lu: And to everyone here, thank you from the valedictorians of 2016.

Awards and Scholarships

Alexandra Barker: Aya Higashi/ Catalina Hartland: JV Humphries, Barry Butler Memorial.
Cole Bendis: Columbia Power Corporation, Kaslo Senior’s Organization, Kaslo Community Forest, Kootenay Electrionics, Aboriginal Education Scholarship, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 74.
Lucinda Calder: District Authority, Kootenay Lake Teacher’s Association, North Kootenay Lake Arts and Heritage Council, Howard Green Memorial, Jack McDowell Memorial, Kaslo Golf Club Scholarship, Emily Carr University Scholarship.
Dion Catalano: Kaslo Golf Club, Ede Allen.
Hannah Command: Kootenay Savings and Credit Union, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 74, Cipe Local 748, Howard Green Memorial, Kaslo Community Forest Trades.
Ethan Early: Cipe Local 748.
Christopher Emhry Cullen: Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department.
Catalina Hartland: JV Humphries, Barry Butler Memorial.
Taelor Lay: Western Financial Group, Alan Hoshiizaki Memorial, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 74, Ladies Auxiliary, Howard Green Memorial.
Shona MacDougall: Sinclair Memorial, St. Mark’s Anglican Church, Farmer’s Institute.
Liam Patience: Columbia Basin Trust Youth Community Service Award, Larry McNicol Memorial, Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department, Howard Green Memorial, JV Parents Advisory Council, Kaslo Community Forest, Kootenay Lake Teachers Association, Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake, AF Timber.

Awards and Scholarships

Columbia Basin Trust Youth Community Service Award, Larry McNicol Memorial, Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department, Howard Green Memorial, JV Parents Advisory Council, Kaslo Community Forest, Kootenay Lake Teachers Association, Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake, AF Timber.


Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

May you be guided by your heart, inspired by your dreams and motivated by your knowledge. All the best!
Aimee Watson, Director Area D, RDCK

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The Valley Voice June 29, 2016

The Valley Voice June 29, 2016
by Jan McMurray

The graduation ceremony for the JV Humphries Class of 2016 took place on June 25.

Principal Dan Rude thanked everyone for joining in to celebrate the Grad Class of 2016, and for being “partners in learning.”

Rude, Vice-Principal Victoria McAllister and Meleana Terlingen took turns introducing each grad as they filed onto the stage.

Trustee Dawn Lang congratulated the class, school staff, families and friends on behalf of the board of education.

In his address, Superintendent Jeff Jones said “perfect” is the word to describe the grads. Although graduation is thought of as a milestone, Jones said the real milestone is “you at this very moment – your perfect self is the milestone in this very moment. You will always look back at the you you are today and use it as a reference point. Remember you are perfect and exactly who you should be…. Today is a reminder that will be with you, but treasure who you are right now this moment. Live in the moment.”

MLA Michelle Mungall sent a note with her deep regrets for not being able to attend, and the advice to grads to “set your goals high. You will have good days and bad days, but never doubt it is in you to achieve anything. I wish you huge congratulations and all the very best that life has to offer.”

Brooke Robertson introduced guest speaker Jill Holland as “the biggest and best drama queen we know.”

Ms. Holland told the grads that their ability to learn, their creativity, and their heart were the best “power tools” they have to get them through tough times. She read them a story about the power of wishes, hope and prayers. (Apparently, when put into a coffee can, they are as powerful as a bomb!)

When trying to find answers, Ms. Holland told the grads it is helpful to go to their “happy place,” and gifted each student with an “artifact” representative of that place for each individual. Gifts ranged from a Viking hat, to a toy goat, to a mini cactus garden, to a container of hummus, to a Lego set with a helicopter, to bath toys, and more!

Kelsey Carlson gave Ms. Holland a “huge thank you” on behalf of the class for being “an amazing role model” in their lives and for the tolerance she showed them. “You have done so much to help us excel and to get us to where we want to be. We all love you very much.”

Dion Catalano thanked JVH staff for the time they took to listen and help the grads through school.

Mieszka Weeks thanked Kaslo and area for “creating such a wonderful community for the children of Kaslo.”

Before the scholarships were presented, Tyler Dobie and Hugh Walker announced a new scholarship from the Kaslo Masonic Lodge, made possible by a generous bequest from Paul Bagger and his wife, and Erin and Al Fitchett announced the new AF Timber scholarship for a student who is entering the forestry industry.

Valedictorians Lucinda Calder and Liam Patience gave a very entertaining address, followed by the candle lighting ceremony and the presentation of diplomas. Finally, the students tossed their caps to mark the end of the formal ceremony.
Wild Days offers family nature programs in August

submitted

Wild Days is back this summer! If you are curious about the amazing plants and animals of the Slocan Valley, come on out – there’s outdoor fun and learning to be had in August during Wild Days.

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society offers three family-oriented nature programs in August to explore different habitats within the Slocan Lake watershed. Each day will have local naturalists and scientists on hand to make the day interesting.

The first program, ‘Lakeshore Labyrinth’ is happening Saturday, August 6. Take a stroll along the Hills lakeshore and learn fun facts about geology, insects and other little creatures, and plants from local experts Richard Johnson and Daniel Hellyer. The meeting place is at the pullout on the west side of Highway 6 (approximately 11 kms north of New Denver). Look for the SLSS sign. This event is co-sponsored by Hills Recreation Society and North Slocan Trail Society.

The second program, ‘Creatures Big and Small’ will take place Saturday, August 13. Explore the Bear and Fish lakes pass along Highway 31A and discover fascinating facts about bears, toads, insects, and plants from local scientists Wayne McCoy, Marcy Mahr, and Daniel Hellyer. The meeting place is at Fish Lake Rest Area. This event is co-sponsored by Valhalla Wilderness Society.

August 20 brings us the third and last Wild Days program: ‘ Mysteries of the Not So Deep,’ co-sponsored by the Slocan River Streamkeepers. Focusing on creek and riparian habitat, unravel mysteries of the underwater world of Springer Creek with Shanoon Bennett and Marcy Mahr. The meeting place is at the parking lot at Expo Park in Slocan.

All Wild Days programs run from 9 am to noon. Please save these dates on your family calendar! For further information, contact 250-358-7714 or email tremaineconn@gmail.com.

WildSafeBC season starts up again for the summer

We are now into full summer, and with this comes the emergence of an array of wildlife, and the seasonal startup of the WildSafeBC program. WildSafeBC is a provincial program designed to reduce human-wildlife conflict through education, innovation, and cooperation. The Slocan and Arrow Lakes area has its own dedicated Community Coordinator, Bree Lillies. “I’m looking forward to my fifth season with WildSafeBC,” she says. “In terms of wildlife conflict reduction, it is essential to keep the conversation going. The program offers support to residents so they are equipped with the knowledge and tools to be proactive with their attractant management.”

The motto of WildSafeBC is “keeping wildlife wild and communities safe,” which underscores the belief that if we can keep wildlife unhabituated we can, in turn, make our communities safer lakes pass along Highway 31A and discover fascinating facts about bears, toads, insects, and plants from local experts Wayne McCoy, Marcy Mahr, and Daniel Hellyer. The meeting place is at Fish Lake Rest Area. This event is co-sponsored by Valhalla Wilderness Society.

For more information, contact Lillies at newdenver@wildsafebc.com or 250-354-8120. Check out www.wildsafebc.com and follow the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wildsafebc/newdenver.

Referendums for fire department and Legion hall pass in Edgewood

by Jan McMurray

The results of Edgewood’s June 25 referendums are in, and both the fire department and community hall at the Legion will be supported by tax dollars starting in 2017.

“I’m tickled pink to see these results and the re-confirmation of community support in Edgewood. Congratulations to the fire department and the Legion,” said Area K Director Paul Peterson.

Voter turnout was 52.7% with 153 voters for both referendums. For the community hall at the Legion, there were 109 ‘yes’ votes, 43 ‘no’ votes and one spoiled ballot. For the volunteer fire department, there were 103 ‘yes’ votes, 49 ‘no’ votes and one spoiled ballot. For the volunteer fire department, there were 103 ‘yes’ votes, 49 ‘no’ votes

The additional revenue generated by taxation will allow the fire department to pay for its ongoing operating expenses, such as hydro, insurance, and emergency telephone answering service, and will help the Legion with the costs of operating the upstairs community hall.

Lynda McNutt of the fire department said she was happy with the results, but both puzzled and disappointed with the number of people who voted ‘no’ to the fire department’s request for taxation.

“We welcome input from the community and surrounding areas,” said McNutt. David Le Pine of the Legion was not available for comment before press time.
Nakusp council, June 13: Parking chickens and trails

by Claire Paradis

• The library is in good financial shape, the building not so much. A delegation from the Nakusp Public Library (NPL) reported that the library is in the black after a good year of fundraising in 2015, and was able to put $10,000 into an emergency fund. However, there is work needed on the

building’s exterior, and the library has earmarked $16,000 this year for the repairs.

• The Village of Nakusp now has a license of occupation in place with the Ministry of Transportation for a section of the trailway running parallel to Highway 6. The ten-year cost is $1,500 and makes maintenance of the trailway the Village’s responsibility under their Parks bylaw. The license of occupation does not include the area that is periodically washed out.

• Councillor Bill Tobey brought up the issue of hitches being allowed on the Village’s to-do list for years. “I think they’re gorgeous little animals but they are definitely getting a few of them out there in town running on the loose,” Tobey said. “I don’t see it as becoming an issue, but I can see it becoming an issue. Hopefully we’ll have something that’s reasonable in place soon.”

• A lot of other municipalities do have chicken bylaws in place now,” contributed CAO Laurie Taylor. “It’s something that’s becoming the norm.”

Mayor Hamling commented that all livestock needs to be addressed by a bylaw, and that is why it’s been put on the back burner.

• Renovations have taken place at the Arrow Lakes Hospital, and the staff are happy with the changes to the nurses’ station, said Mayor Hamling in her report to council. There are also more renovations planned for the former nursery and the emergency room.

• Also in the mayor’s report, more medical news: a new doctor from South Africa is coming to Nakusp on a three-year contract; a pandemic program is coming to Nakusp and Edgewood.

Nakusp & the Arrow Lakes

Trail updates from Nakusp and Area Communities Trails Society submitted

The NACFOR-funded spring trail maintenance has been completed to near ridge-top (stopped at snowline). The trailhead is 4.5 km from the Hot Springs Rd, with the very short trail looping through some spectacular old-growth forest. This is great for families with mini-hikers. New signage and kiosk will be erected this summer.

Box Lake Loop maintenance-free.

This is a beautiful short easy trail for the eagles fishing at the lakeshore below trail.

Kuskuskan Mtn. – South Trail (access from 3.5 km only, from Hot Springs Rd at Vicky’s View) has been opened. The trail is 4.5 km by 4x4 vehicle only, from Hot Springs Rd, Vicky’s View lookout is about two km above Hot Springs Rd. This is a relatively steep trail that will give the body a good workout, both physical and mental. The trail is more hilly than flat and will be a challenge for the beginner. Some brushing is still required on the access road below Vicky’s View. New signage will be erected this summer.

Stoney Grove Trail: now maintenance-free, with both sides of access road brushed from the FRS junction (worry-free trails for new vehicles). This beautiful trail is 5.5 km from the Hot Springs Rd, with the very short trail looping through some spectacular old-growth forest. This is great for families with mini-hikers. New signage and kiosk will be erected this summer.

Kimble Lake: Maintenance-free almost to the lake (stopped at snowline). This is a beautiful moderately steep trail through some old-growth forest, 3.5 km length. Some maintenance still required for the old road and roots (need to add stepping stones), and at the top. Trail to be extended to the cabin. All remaining work to be done by volunteer work outings, the first one being held on June 26 in conjunction with hike. New signage to be erected later.

Raid Trail: This trail for both motorized and non-motorized users is basically maintenance-free over the length of the Trail Society’s portion of the trailway the Village’s responsibility under their Parks bylaw. The license of occupation does not include the area that is periodically washed out, to the peak of the mountain and the recently refurbished (exterior only) forestry lookout tower through a beautiful forest of big trees and upper alpine meadow full of flowers in late July/ August. Four days were spent clearing an immense amount of blowdowns up to the snowline at about 1,850 m elevation. The remainder of trail maintenance will consist of volunteer work outings during the summer. All thanks to R & A Logging and Interfor for the new cutfern installed on the 4x4-only access road near the trailhead.

Planning close for Arrow Lakes Hospital Emergency Room upgrade submitted

Stantec Architecture Ltd. has been chosen for architectural and planning services for upgrades to the emergency department at Arrow Lakes Hospital. This is the initial planning stage for a future renovation to the hospital.

“arbage removal has been an issue for years,” said Marguerite Rotvold, West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District (WKBHRD) board chair. “These improvements are a priority for our entire board.”

Through the planning process, the designers will review renovations for a new dedicated triage area; two new trauma bays, one of which can be used for labour and delivery; a new follow-up area; two new trauma bays with improved privacy; and an enclosed multi-purpose meeting room for family consultations or waiting space for family during surgery situations. The goals of the redesign are to improve patient privacy and flow, while also increasing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the space.

Stantec Architecture Ltd. is a well-known and respected international company that has had significant past experience working on health-care projects, several within Interior Health.

During the planning work, the company will review options for the potential renovations and prepare a schematic design. This information will be used to determine the expected cost of the renovations and timelines. The project’s budget is $100,000, which has been funded by the WKBHRD.

“Our hospital plays a vital role,” said Nakusp mayor Karen Hamling. “Having modern health-care facilities is an integral feature that families and businesses look for when considering moving to a community. I’m pleased to see next steps being taken to provide residents with up-to-date, quality emergency department that will match the quality care they’ve been receiving from our physicians and staff. I anticipate the planning stage will take approximately six to nine months to complete. Proceeding with a renovation project will be subject to prioritization of capital projects, both provincially and within Interior Health, and the availability of funding.”

Planning & Slocan Lakes Community Services

TO CONSTRUCT A WEIGH SCALE AT

Nakusp Landfill

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDKC) invites Tenders for the construction of an industrial weigh scale including earthworks, drainage, roadworks, electrical works, and weigh scale foundations.

A MANDATORY SITE INSPECTION is scheduled for 10:00 am, Monday July 4th 2016.

Tenders will be accepted until 2:00 pm PST, Tuesday, July 12, 2016.

Tender documents will be available for viewing and downloading via the RDKC’s website starting April 2, 2016 or at 4:00 pm on Thursday, June 23, 2016 and on BC Bid www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca.

Simon Bamber
Environmental Services Senior Project Manager Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive
Nelson, BC V1L 5R4
Email: sbamber@rdck.bc.ca
Tel: 250-352-8191
Toadfest bumped up due to early migration

submitted

The warm spring has resulted in the earliest breeding of Western toads at Summit Lake in the last 20 years, so there will likely be early migration of these toads this summer. The new toad tunnel, recently installed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, is anticipated to be well-utilized by toads, possibly as early as mid-July.

Toadfest at Summit Lake Provincial Park—which raises awareness about the species—was one part of the solution to the help the Western toad. Biologists with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), with funding from the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP), have increased and improved the wildlife fencing that guides the toadlets and adults into the new larger tunnel, as well as the two existing smaller tunnels.

In 2015, the toadlet migration occurred during the last two weeks of July, with nearly all the toadlets moving by mid-August. In 2016 there was no estimate of total toadlet population, anecdotal evidence suggests it was a bumper migration at Summit Lake. The toadlets are swimming past the west pier of the fishing dock (the bridge) and heading to the Sk Slovenia’s pool for the evening of July 27 and the morning of July 28, 2016. For the latest information on Toadfest visit fwcp.ca.

The toads did not have sole use of the new tunnel; remote cameras captured nine other vertebrate species—including a Pacific weasel—using it. This was just one finding among the results from 2015 of the Summit Lake Western Toad Research Project, now in its sixth year of data collection and monitoring.

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The agreement establishes the following commitments to Aboriginal students in the district:

- provide opportunities to enhance their sense of belonging and pride in their Aboriginal ancestry;
- provide interventions for holistic student well-being, mental, social and emotional health;
- provide district-wide Aboriginal cultural events;
- identify and provide learning support to at-promises students of Aboriginal ancestry;
- provide learning opportunities for school staff to enhance awareness and understanding of Aboriginal culture and learning styles; and
- support the process by embracing and promoting Aboriginal cultural diversity.

These five-year agreements are a commitment by school districts, local Aboriginal communities and the Ministry of Education to work together to enhance the educational achievement of Aboriginal students through programming that supports First Nations history, culture and language.

This agreement builds on the government’s work to include Aboriginal culture, history and perspectives into BC’s new curriculum. To support teachers in bringing Aboriginal content and perspectives into the classroom, the government has created a resource guide called Aboriginal Worldviews: Perspectives in the Classroom.

The Arrow Lakes Aboriginal Education Advisory Council has worked with School District 10 and the communities in the district over the last two years on the renewal of the Species of Interest Action Plan, which says school board chair Lora Lee Breekle. “Several community meetings were held to obtain public input, and the advisory council then reviewed and put together our second agreement.

“It was a very thorough and thoughtful process, one in which the board of education was thrilled to be included and to have input. I am happy to have our second agreement renewed and look forward to many more years of exciting and thoughtful dealings with the council.”

Ganischka Silverfox-Dunn, an Elder with the council, says “As a Cree and Ojibwa Elder in the West Kootenays, I am proud to see the changes that have been made in School District 10 from the last signing of the Aboriginal accord.

Our youth want some extra help with traditions and ceremony to be able to hold onto the past as well as walk in the future. Our school district teachers are trying to pass on to their students the Elders and different programs that are available in the West Kootenays.”

SD 10 has an Aboriginal population of 85 students or 18.7 per cent of the 454 students in the district for the 2015-16 school year. The district recognizes the Sinixt People, the Ktunaxa to the East, the Shuswap to the North, and the Okanagan Nations to the West.

Since 2000, the provincial six-year completion rate for Aboriginal students has increased from 39 per cent to 63 per cent.

Kaslo sewer expansion options out for public comment

by Jan McMurray

Over the summer, the Village of Kaslo is accepting public comments on the Liquid Waste Management Plan, Stage 2 document. The public hearing was held June 23 at the seniors’ hall, CAO Neil Smith said he expects Stage 2 to be completed this year, and Stage 3, the final stage, to be completed early next year.

Scott Wallace of TRU Consulting has been working on the plan. He explained that Stage 2 is still “big picture,” looking at either keeping the existing sewer treatment plant and expanding it, or constructing a new plant in a different location. He said details including cost details, will come at Stage 3.

Many people attending the open house wanted to know the costs per household, but this information is not yet available, CAO Neil Smith reported that another consultant is working on financial information now, with his report due at the end of summer. While expanding the existing system would not only the costs of expanding the sewer system, but also the way the system has been financed so far.

The proposed sewer service expansion area includes Upper and Lower Kaslo. Lower Kaslo is the priority, as 42% of lots there do not comply with the Village bylaw regarding sewage disposal and septic systems. Keeping the existing sewer treatment plant and expanding it would be the cheaper of the two options, estimated at $2.5 million. This option includes an addition to the building at the waterfront, with flow capacity doubling to accommodate Lower and Upper Kaslo. However, the existing system currently has the capacity for the addition of Lower Kaslo, so the addition to the building would not be necessary until Upper Kaslo were to join the system.

Building a new sewer treatment plant at another location is estimated to cost $5.4 million. The site has not been chosen, but the preferred location is on Village-owned land on G Avenue south of the Kaslo River. This option addresses public concerns about the current septic system and the treatment plant near the park, and the new location would be more consistent with land use plans.

Wallace said he looked at constructing a new treatment plant with aerated lagoons, estimated at $3.85 million. He said this treatment process is inferior and requires a large piece of land. For more information, visit villageofkaslo.ca.

Field of Dreams: RDCK gifted Crescent Valley land for recreation

submitted

The RDCK has acquired an 8.6 acre parcel of land known as Campbell Field thanks to a generous donation by the South Slocan Sports Association. Adjacent to Mt. Sentinel Secondary School, the property is situated near the junction of Highways 6 and 3A and the boundary between the Invermere and the Slocan Valley.

The Slocan Valley Rail Trail is close by, as is the RDCK’s Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park.

This incredible gift offers area residents a spectacular opportunity for recreation in the future, said Walter Popoff, Area H director. “We will be following the recommendations in the Slocan Valley Recreation Master Plan in the development of this property for the benefit of area residents.”

The property has been administered by the South Slocan Sports Association since the late 1930s, when it was acquired from West Kootenay Power. Under the stewardship of long-time Crescent Valley resident and former school board trustee Bob Cunningham, the property has always been used for sports and cultural activities. A covenant ensures that the site will continue to be used for those purposes.

“The aging membership of the association and the mounting cost of insurance led to the group’s decision to donate the land to the RDCK to ensure that the community can enjoy the property for years to come.

“We’ve been happy to maintain this pristine land for generations – we played on the field as kids and now our grandchildren do, too,” said Association President Phil Chernenkov.

Our group of 10 has done all it can do [with the site],” said Joe Nauroz. “The land to the RDCK is the best thing for the community and the future of the property.

“These volunteers have been fantastic stewards of this property,” said Director Popoff. “The RDCK is thankful for this legacy and gift.”

“We are grateful to Director Popoff for his guidance and help in having the RDCK take on this property,” said Jerry Plomint.

“The property is in the right hands.”

Members of the South Slocan Sports Association with Area H director Walter Popoff (front row, right) in Campbell Field, newly donated to the RDCK.
Village to apply for grant for Silvertown Gallery repairs

Silvertown council, June 14: The newest student is Taka Hotta, also from Japan, here for a one-month cultural experience and coming back for four years. Another Spanish student will arrive in late June for school starting in September.

Art Olson, the Manager of Operations and Transportation, shared an update on district busing. New buses have been ordered with funding received from the Province, and he got rid of the propane bus. As the 72-seat buses are more than is needed for the small student body, he is looking for another use for the seatbelt system.

A 34-seat bus is working for Edgewater, he added. The bus does not get priority boarding on the ferry but, if the bus is running tight, it can pass the line-up with lights flashing if needed. Only two students live in Summit Lake; if the parents want to drive them to the Box Lake turnaround, it could reduce the mileage by 30 km, Olson said. Superintendent Terry Taylor noted Red Mountain students are driven to Silverton for pick-up and the parents get a transportation allowance; she suggested the Summit Lake parents could also get the allowance.

The Faugher bus route covers 238 km a day as the driver has to start and end in Nakusp. By storing the bus at the Faugher school, the driver can use their own vehicle to get to the bus, and stay in Nakusp all day, cutting down on the board’s fuel use. Olson also recommended storing the Edgewater buses at the Edgewater school rather than using the YRB yard, where the buses are sometimes snowed in as ploughing the roads, not its yard, is the highest priority. YRB also charges a premium for fuel, so he is looking for cheaper gas.

So many changes have been made in energy efficiency, Olson said, that BC Hydro is planning a report on the district’s savings of $5,000 in electricity costs through lighting and furnace upgrades and installation of solar panels.

“BC Hydro is really impressed,” he concluded.

• Randait, who has just been re-elected president, presented a report from the Arrow Lakes Teachers’ Association. The LGBTQ+ policy will be presented at the next policy committee meeting, for implementation early in the next school year.

The collective agreement is in process and is currently with the BCPESEA. It should be signed by December. Planning for Pro-D days for 2016-17 is underway.

• A recruitment ad for a Healthy Schools Coordinator will be posted to the community. SD 10 is looking for someone with a background in health or education.

• Tay for reported on enrolment as of June 8. There are 406 students, ranging from K-12.

• The CAO confirmed that property tax notices were mailed out May 19 and that repair work to the tennis courts had been completed, allowing for resurfacing to commence in the third week of July. He also confirmed that the missing village swing had been located and hung.

• Council passed into effect an updated fee schedule for local services, which will be made available on the Village website.

Unity Festival is bringing it home submitted

Unity Music Festival is on the beach in Slocan City July 15-17. Featuring international acts, Unity is also a great showcase for many up and coming bands.

Coming to the beach are: The West African Summit, Freestylers (UK), The Wilderness Crew (Vancouver), Bill Bourne (Alberta), Gabriel Palachi (Argentina), Test their Logik (Toronto), The Eisenhausers (Kaslo), M3 and Gisto (Nelson/Vancouver), Red Eyed Soul (Argentina), Buckman Coe (Vancouver), Kyami (Vancouver), Robby Shichi Takio Drummers (Vancouver), Moontricks (Argentina), Intersect (Nelson) and Val Kilmer and the New Coke (Nelson).

Slocan Valley has its own represented Adham Shaikh & The Outworld Orkestra, Dope Sounds (aka Wolfpack), Lil’ Dave and the Big Blue, Dazza, The Wild Turkeys along with Irie Vibes, Lady Humble and In the Sticks. More local drum and dance groups and solo performers are rounding out the valley feel. The full line-up and schedule can be seen at www.unitymusicfestival.ca along with accommodation and camping options.

This family festival on the beach has a graffiti kid’s zone with paint shows and a special kids’ show by the much loved multi-instrumentalist Marty Carter from Salmo. New this year are the two days of workshops (including a TAIKO drum workshop in the meadow).

GRoWing at the Unity Festival, 2015.

This is a non-profit, project-based position with a pay rate of $22.50 per hour. The successful applicant will work constructing recreational trails within the Village of New Denver’s municipal boundaries. The position requires a high level of physical fitness. Preference will be given to applicants with knowledge and experience in trail building and maintenance.

Please submit a resume and cover letter to: Village of New Denver, Attention: Bruce Woodbury, CAO.

Mail: P.O. Box 40, New Denver, B.C., V0G 1S0
Email: office@newdenver.ca
In person: 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver

This position will remain posted until filled. All applicants are thanked for their interest – only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
In the tea ceremony known as the Cha Ceremony (or the Art Of Chinese Tea (Gong Fu)), participants will learn how to brew Chinese tea. Specifically, participants will be drinking tea from a small family farm in Wuyi, China, the home of some of China’s most sought after and expensive teas. All are welcome to share this rare experience.

Chris Hartman started his tea apprenticeship in North India more than 12 years ago with his first sip of Tibetan yak-butter tea at the Dalai Lama’s temple in Dharamsala. While a somewhat acquired taste, this tea started his quest into the deeper aspects of the tea and the amazing multitude of tastes of this simple plant.

In 2011, Cloud Mountain Tea House was opened in Nelson, BC to bring the people of the West Kootenay some of the finest Chinese teas (gong fu) as well as sample some of the finer Chinese teas and learn about the history of tea. In this class participants will learn about the history of tea and how to brew tea Chinese (gong fu-cha, gung fu, kung fu-cha), the implication of these different terms, the role they play in their post-modern human landscape and the possibilities for the participant’s own gardens. Novice and experienced gardeners are welcome and the workshop includes practical exercises.

First, to apply principles to the participant’s own spaces. Second, rather than an imaginary design exercise, participants will utilize the learning from the workshop sets out to create exercise, participants will utilize the learning from the workshop. The workshop will provide real-time data that can be responded to proactively by those who use naloxone and at risk of an overdose.

The increase of fentanyl overdoses in the province has been a push behind this program, confirmed Suzanne McCombs, manager of rural healthcare sites, from her Nakusp office. But she says naloxone will help ‘prevent’ prescription drug overdoses too.

“We’re hoping to save some lives,” McCombs told the Valley Voice. “We don’t see a huge protection.” Staff will receive training on how to administer the drug, which will be on hand in the emergency room. Having naloxone within reach will mean better lives for children and life, said McCombs, “Before, a doctor needed to send for a kit, and at times it was too late.”

Part of the program is training in emergency departments, which will provide real-time data that can be responded to proactively by those who use naloxone and at risk of an overdose.

In September, New Denver presents its second annual Asian series with Chinese scholar, Dr. Laurence Moss, August 14 at 2 pm during the Columbia Basin Culture Tour weekend.

• Later in the month, a further two evenings, along with a master class and a youth class in imagination, movement and theatre.

• In September, New Denver’s Art Joyce will present a Café Langham talk, “Hiding Plain Sight: The Chinese In The West Kootenay,” September 15 at 7 pm. With the help of celebrated filmmaker with Chinese settlers, Joyce has unearthed stories that had never before been revealed. For details and to pre-register, email langham@netidea.com or phone 250-353-2661 or visit www.thelangham.ca

Overdose treatment program piloted in rural hospitals by Claire Paradis

Emergency departments in Castlegar, Kamloops, Kelowna, New Denver, and Vernon are carrying out a pilot project of overdose surveillance and prevention, and the Take Home Naloxone program. Internal Health has begun implementing measures in emergency departments to improve overdose surveillance and assess those at risk with naloxone, a life-saving drug that can reduce the risk of overdose damage or death from opioid overdoses.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

CONCERT - Kelly Coshohongh & Chusúan Nolan SOPRANOS will be joined by Martine denBo (violin), Johanne Perren (cello) and Kevin Heshedahl (harpsichord). SUNDAY, JULY 10 - 7:00 pm, Silverton Memorial Hall. Admission by donation. Mark your calendars - don’t miss this!

CERTIFIED MANGO - ‘Wild Still Wonder’ CD release and concert in the Kohan Garden, New Denver. World jazz under the trees. Bring a chair or blanket. 2 pm Sunday July 14, 2016. By donation.

NEW DENVER YARD SALES – there in the same block. Sunday, July 10, 12-2, Josephine St. between 6th and 7th Ave.

LATIN CARIBBEAN DANCE WORKOUT - 4:30 Wednesdays. New Denver Health Centre Gym. $10 drops in or 3 x pass $20.


LANGHAM ASIAN SERIES Workshop - The Art of Chinese Tea (Gong Fu Cha Ceremony) with tea master, Christopher Harfman from Cloud Mountain Tea House, Nelson. Sunday July 10, 5 pm – 8 pm at the Langham, Kaslo. In the tea ceremony the implication is that time, dedication and effort will produce an ultimate tea experience. In this class we will learn how to brew tea Chinese style (Gong Fu) and learn about the history of tea. Class size 10, fee $45, pre-register by email hailhan at netidea.com or phone 250-353-2661.

CAFE LANGHAM INSPIRED IDEAS Speaker Series THE ART OF JAPANESE GARDENS July 15 at 7 pm with Edzard Toubert at the Langham, Kaslo. As an independent scholar and practitioner steeped and finely grounded in Japanese techniques combining art, science, history and research. Edzard Toubert will examine the Japanese garden and the role they play in our post-modern lives. $10 Donation at the door. Youth are FREE.

LANGHAM ASIAN SERIES – The Art of Japanese Gardens - The Tsubo-niva ‘Jar-Garden’ Courtyard Design Workshop. Open to the general public. July 10, 10am - 4:30 pm small all day workshop with master gardener, Edzard Toubert of Fujz Garden, and co-designer of the Shuzenji/Izushi Nelson garden. Participants will explore design solutions for their own small garden spaces while collaboratively examining design possibilities for the neglected space at the back of the Langham building. Class size 10.

Nakusp Foot Care Nursing care for sore feet 250-265-3024
KOOTENAY DANCE BEAT Society Summer Dance Week ends! Friday July 8-Sunday, July 10 - Bouzan Hall in New Denver, 8 classes, 2 dances! www.ticketpeak.com/ktb Facebook: Kootenay Dance Beat www.ticketpeak.com/res/kdbs In New Denver, 8 classes, 2 dances!

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**SPRING SALE**
Free Service Chimney Sweep - Call, text or email now to book before July 15 and get last year’s rate. WETT certified. 250-354-3499 or redpointchimney@gmail.com.

**SUE MISTRETTA, M.A.** offers online counseling and counseling sessions in Silverton and Winlaw offices. Contact redpointchimney@gmail.com.

**SPRING time to sell my mother’s house. You might be interested before I remodel or you may want to wait until it is totally repainted with new flooring. I am willing to negotiate. It is time to sell my mother’s house. You might be interested before I remodel or you may want to wait until it is totally repainted with new flooring. I am willing to negotiate.**

**The house is 725 tenth-street New Denver. 250-358-2284**

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**CARD OF THANKS**

Thanks!!! Lacunee School continues to collect bottles and use them for grads or Elementary Field Trips. This year thanks to the donations of bottles from the community and especially the golf course we won the most bottles recycled in BC for our size population for the school an extra $1000.00. So we say thanks for the donation of bottles and thanks to Pat and Peggy at Mountain Valley Station who help make it easy to recycle.

**SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION**

*MAKE YOUR WORKSHOPS:*
- last July: Let's Make Pancakes, 10 am-12 pm; Fabulous Feta, 1-3 pm; $69 each
- Crescent Valley Hall
- **SLOCAN LAKE SWIMMING LESSONS:** 9 sessions over 2 weeks, Mon-Fri, July 25-29 Tues to Fri, Aug 2-5. Pre-school to Level 4, 5/60, Level 5-7, $75. Slocan Lake Public Beach Financial assistance available.

**SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION**

**COLDWELL BANKER Rosling Real Estate**

**Russell TELEPHONE 695-2280** with split front windshield. Any information please call 403-527-4648.

**SPRING SALE**

**- Full Service Chimney**

**- 9 sessions over 2 weeks,**

**- Mon-Fri, July 25-29**

**- Tues to Fri, Aug 2-5.**

**- Pre-school to Level 4, 5/60, Level 5-7, $75.**

**Slocan Lake Public Beach Financial assistance available.**

**SLOCAN LAKE SWIMMING LESSONS:**

**WINTER HOURS**

**- 9 AM - 9 PM**

**- WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY**

**- PIZZA & BURGERS ANYTIME!**

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**Only $10-$30**

**RECREATION**
Gaia Tree Whole Foods in Winlaw is 10 years old! The anniversary was celebrated June 24 with cake and prizes. Congratulations to Grigg and Eric!

At the Hidden Garden Gallery submitted

'The Spirit of Gaia', watercolour landscapes by Jane Champagne, will kick off the 2016 summer season of shows at the Hidden Garden Gallery July 4–9. Jane Champagne (1930–2008) was a well-known Ontario painter whose work was acquired by more than 60 corporations and dozens of private collectors. Jane did her BFA at the University of Toronto then went to Paris on a scholarship. A decade later, she returned to Canada where she raised two kids (Anne and Sophie), worked as a writer/editor and eventually a full-time painter. She was asked to write and illustrate a book about en plein air painting and in 1991, Painting the Ontario Landscape was published.

Teaching was an important part of Jane’s life, resulting in the founding of the Ontario Outdoor Painters Society (OOPS) at the Southampton Art School, which she taught. Let it never be said that she lacked a sense of humour. Jane regularly left southern Ontario for a brush with other climates. Always drawn to evoke the spirit of the land, she painted intuitively, adjusting her palette, technique and approach to capture Mother Earth’s uniqueness with a freedom and joy that comes from within, and from years of experience. A reception for ‘The Spirit of Gaia’ will be held on Wednesday, July 6 from 7 to 9 pm with music provided by Noel Fudge.

Lucia Mann publishes The Sicilian Veil of Shame submitted

The ten-year-old daughter of a Sicilian Mafia boss is cruelly kidnapped from her bedroom on the night of her birthday celebration. She knows her captor well and, until this night, has trusted him and held him fondly in her heart. Maria’s prospects for rescue plummet as she is sold into child prostitution and eventually sent to a Holocaust death camp.

Is it possible for a girl so misused, so long to emotionally endure the torment she suffered and still maintain a semblance of normality? The quest for an answer leads the reader on a zigzag journey through the bloodline of three generations, ending in the bowels of a Mafia mansion on the island of Sicily. In this book, you will experience the profound love of a daughter for her mother, and a granddaughter’s misgivings about her crazed grandmother, the matriarch of a battered family:

- Brianna, a successful law student who gives up everything to search for her beloved mother;
- Lynette, Brianna’s mother, a survivor of child-slavery in South Africa;
- Maria, a kidnapped child who endures years of torment to eventually become the most powerful Mafia boss in Sicily.

Lucia Mann’s story, book two in the African Freedom Series, explores the ugliness of child-slavery while it tests our attitudes toward revenge and mental health.

Available on amazon.com, amazon.ca, and the Nakusp Home Hardware.

Lucia Mann, humanitarian and activist, was born in British colonial South Africa in the wake of World War II and now lives in Faquair. After retiring from freelance journalism in 1998, she wrote a four-book African series to give voice to those who have suffered and are suffering brutalities and captivity. The other books in the series are: Rented Silence, CBC Book Award; Africa’s Remembrance of a Bitter Fruit, Indie Excellence Award; and A Veil of Blood Hangs Over Africa. Visit LuciaMann.com and ReportModernDaySlavery.org for more information on how you can help alleviate the scourge of modern-day slavery.

Veil of Shame Unfinished Symphony, Indie Excellence Award; and A Veil of Blood Hangs Over Africa. Visit LuciaMann.com and ReportModernDaySlavery.org for more information on how you can help alleviate the scourge of modern-day slavery.

The Sicilian Veil of Shame

• Leela Kapel is a mixed media artist from the Little Stocan Valley. Her show, ’Where Two Worlds Meet’ will take place at the Hidden Garden Gallery from July 11 to 16. Leela focuses on integrating the ambience of forests and mountains into everything she creates. She calls her work ‘intuitive abstract expressionist art’ and experiments with a variety of different media to combine realism and fantasy. “I find the delicacy and flow of watercolours is a good balance between the realistic and impressionistic styles,” she says.

A reception for ‘Where Two Worlds Meet’ will be held on Tuesday, July 12 from 7 to 9 pm with music provided by Richard Burton.

James EARL Elliott Moffat August 16, 2024 – February 12, 2016

Earl Moffat was born in the family farmhouse near Saltscoats, Sask. on August 16, 1924, the 8th child and seventh son of Andrew and Mary Anne (MacDonald) Moffat. He enlisted early in 1942 and served with the Sherbrooke Fusiliers as supply truck driver and then tank instructor. His Regiment was involved in the D-Day landing as well as the capture and clearing of the city of Falaise and the Liberation of Holland.

Earl met Jean Cahoon of Melville, Sask., on a training leave, and they corresponded for years until marrying in April 1946. The happy couple tried farming on the homestead before moving to Fort Qu’Appelle and then Torkton. The family then moved to Kamloops BC in 1958 with their 5 children.

Earl sold Real Estate in Kamloops for J.R. Pyper Ltd. and was the first President of the Multiple Listings Bureau for his area. He was hired as a BC Hydro Land Agent in 1965 and the family moved to Revelstoke. Earl was responsible for relocating families in anticipation of the Columbia River flooding which happened in 1967-68. The family moved to Nakusp in 1969 where Earl took on the job as Land Reservoir Manager working with Hydro until his retirement in 1985.

Earl was very active in his communities. He coached baseball, worked in the Boys and Girls club, promoted youth curling, supported the Nakusp Arrowitarian expansion in his later years and was very active in the Royal Canadian Legion acting as president and Zone Commander over his years.

Earl was predeceased by his parents, sister, brothers, and by Jean, his loving wife of 63 years. He is survived by his five children: Valerie (Guy) Drebet, Eileen (Wayne) Letournear, Andrew (Bev Sinclair) Moffat, Susan (Robert) Paterson, and Corrine (Roman) Stasiewicz. He is also survived by his 19 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 pm on July 16, 2016 in the Legion Branch 20 Hall in Nakusp, BC.
Valley artist appointed to Mondial Art Academy in France

submitted

Frantisek Strouhal, a mixed media artist who is internationally admired for his unique body of work titled ‘Art Embracing Awareness’, was recently approached by Mondial Art Academy to become one of their members. “Your work has caught our attention for its great quality...and the jury of selection and myself are very happy to welcome you within our academy...and to appoint you Chevalier Academicien...It’ll be a great honour to have you,” wrote Johanne Vallée-Her, the academy’s communications director. Mondial Art Academy’s mission is to encourage, spread and promote culture, arts and letters by recognizing and rewarding the exemplary career of artists. With a creative and aesthetic rigor, it brings together professional artists and amateur talents in France, Europe, Canada, the USA and other countries.

Strouhal says it is a great privilege to have been selected by a society of high integrity whose goal is to contribute to the deep and lasting success of its members and to be part of a huge social network related to the field of arts. The owner of Mirage Studio spends most of his time creating new artworks and doing portraits on commission combining a 19th century art and craft. His works are in many private collections, and have been featured in numerous juried and invitational exhibitions internationally.

You can view his artworks at www.frantisekstrouhal.com. He can also be reached at frantisekstrouhal@gmail.com.

West Coast Rainforest showing at Studio Connexion

submitted

‘West Coast Rainforest’ is the third exhibition of the season at Studio Connexion Gallery. The first solo show for Kate Marlowe runs from June 28 to July16 and the opening reception is scheduled for Thursday June 30 from 5 to 8 pm. Come meet and greet the young artist.

Kate has exhibited work at the Seymour Art Gallery in Deep Cove and the Ferry Building in West Vancouver. She has a special connection to the Kootenays and especially Nakusp, where she has been spending her summers with her grandparents. Marlowe recently graduated from the Illustration, Design, Elements and Applications Program. A recipient of the Design Edge Award and the GDC National Award, she is currently working for a graphic design firm in Vancouver.

The series of paintings in the show beautifully represents landscapes from the West Coast Rainforest. Moved by the variations of light and colours in nature, Kate captures the west coast feel with her impressionistic style. Her walks in Capilano Canyon, Lighthouse Park and Mosquito Creek inspired this collection.

Studio Connexion Gallery is a venue of the ALFA Art Walk and is also part of the Columbia Basin Culture Tour. It is located at 203 Fifth Ave. NW., Nakusp, two and a half short blocks from Broadway. Open Tuesday - Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm. Private viewing can also be arranged by calling the gallerist at 250-265-8888 or leave a message at 250-265-3586. Follow the gallery: www.facebook.com/studioconnexion

Don’t Miss the Kootenay Kittle Pipe Band in the parade and at Creekside

Studio Connexion Gallery proudly presents its 8th exhibition season.

June 28 - July 16: Kate MARLOWE
July 19 - August 6: HOLLY WOODS
August 10 - 27: Summer Group Show
August 30 - September 17: PATRIZIA MENTON
September 20 - October 8: DAVID NIXON

Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm or by appointment 250.265.3586
203 Fifth Avenue, Nakusp

Peoples Pharmacy Can Help You Reach Your Health and Wellness Goals

Peoples Pharmacy now offers an innovative and comprehensive health and wellness program. The Peoples Healthy Living Program is designed by experts to teach you what, when, and how to eat along with providing exercise tracking tools, and reviewing current medications to improve your overall health.

We will work with you to assess body composition, eating/exercise habits, and health risk factors, then deliver the pathway for you to achieve your health goals.

For more information, please contact Kylie or pharmacy staff.