Slocan Valley Hike or Bike for Seniors’ Housing raises more than $35,000

submitted

“We’re over the moon” about the success of the Hike or Bike for Seniors’ Housing, said Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society President Rita Moir after the weekend’s fundraising adventure on the valley’s rail trail. “I don’t think in our wildest dreams we expected to raise more than $35,000. It shows complete commitment to the seniors’ housing project in Slocan on behalf of our entire community.”

Eighty-three registered hikers and bikers and at least as many support workers made the three-day hike and bike safe, fun and rich with friendship and beauty. The Passmore and Slocan firehalls and first responders and BC Ambulance Service provided back-up and support along the entire route, and all participants felt their care and kindness every day.

The community support continued at each day’s trail end, with food and music provided by local groups, including the Kootenay Slocan Lions, Passmore Seniors, Passmore and Appledale Hall Societies and the Slocan Legion. The Slocan Valley Grassroots Grammas, the Threads Guild (which also made the bandanas) and many others provided homemade goodies at check points. Fomi’s deserves a special shout out for providing all the bread and buns for the entire weekend, plus the huge cake for the windup party. A “Donate and Draw” with work by local artists also contributed to the funding success.

Hikers and bikers ranged in age from those in strollers to those using walkers and canes. The oldest participants included 91-year-old Lydia Kania and 82-year-old track star Don Currie.

“Pledges ranged from a loonie from little kids all the way up to several very large donations on the final day of the hike,” said Moir. “Every loonie mattered and every person who took part came away richer in spirit.” As always, the society thanks the Columbia Basin Trust and the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission for their support.

People can donate online at www.svhousing.ca until October 15 or write to chair@svhousing.ca to contribute in person (at any time!). Wonderful photos can be seen at https://www.facebook.com/svhousing

Lydia Kania and Corky Evans at the finish line of the Hike or Bike for Seniors’ Housing in the Slocan Valley, October 2.

Photo Credit: Moe Lyons

The start line, September 30 of the Hike or Bike for Seniors’ Housing in the Slocan Valley.

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The first annual Press Fest at WE Graham in Slocan on Saturday, October 1 was exceptional!

“It was hopping all day. We processed 10,000 pounds of apples, made over 400 bags of juice, and sold 105 bags,” reports Shauna Fidler, key event organizer and president of the West Kootenay Permaculture Co-op.

If they sell 200 more bags, Fidler says they will be able to meet their goal of donating 110 bags to the Slocan Valley Christmas Hamper program. The juice is available for sale at the WE Graham Community Service Society office in Slocan, as well as at the Cottonwood Falls Market in Nelson on Saturday of the Thanksgiving weekend and at the Rossland Fall Fair this Thursday, October 6.

Fidler estimates that over 100 people came to Slocan’s Press Fest event. “Everyone was impressed with the machine and equipment, and the ease, speed and cleanliness of the process,” she said. “We had homesteaders come with apples who have juiced them by hand for years, so they were amazed to unload their trucks and then fill them back up with pressed juice after 20 minutes!”

The equipment was rented from Mobile Juicing out of Vernon. Creston’s ‘Fields Forward’ organization is looking at buying the equipment, and Fidler says the West Kootenay Permaculture Co-op is excited about supporting them to do that. “We’ll help them put it to work in the Slocan Valley,” she said. Creston has started its own Press Fest, inspired by the Slocan Valley’s.

The event coincided with the Hike/Bike for Seniors’ Housing grand finale in Slocan, and Fidler says several of the participants came over to Press Fest. “There was a great spirit of community and generosity!” she says. “The community really loved it. We’re going to make it a real festival next year, with an apple pie contest and a big celebration around the harvest.”

People of all ages were fascinated with the apple pressing at Press Fest in Slocan.

Three-litre bags of apple juice, freshly pressed in Slocan at Press Fest on October 2, are still available for sale at the WE Graham Community Services Society office.

Over 100 bags of juice were sold at Press Fest in Slocan October 2.

Three-litre bags of apple juice, freshly pressed in Slocan at Press Fest on October 2, are still available for sale at the WE Graham Community Services Society office.

The Village Hearth Restaurant

will be opening for dinner on Oct. 7, 8, and 9. Sarah, our chef, will be serving a Thanksgiving dinner. Reservations can be made by calling 250-358-2449.

On Oct. 14, 15, and 16, we will launch our new fall menu and the ***GRAND OPENING PARTY*** will be on Saturday October 22nd.

Mark your calendars. Details will be released on our Facebook page over the next couple of weeks.

The Village Hearth is a ‘farm to table’ restaurant, serving food grown and produced locally. It is a project of the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley.
by Jan McMurray

Many of the approximately 35 local residents who showed up to meet Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) Chairperson Debbie Pitaoulis on September 28 in Nakusp expressed huge disappointment in the FWCP over the recent logging in western toad habitat at Summit Lake. John Krebs, chair of the FWCP board, explained that FWCP has no authority to make statutory decisions on land use – only to make recommendations that the district council must then investigate and influence government decisions. In this case, the decision maker is the district manager at the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

“The information that FWCP has gathered will support better operations on the ground,” said Krebs. “FWCP’s role at Summit Lake is to evaluate and collect information to support actions on the ground.”

But several people at the meeting claimed that the document outlining best practices for harvesting in western toad habitat – a document that the FWCP helped to fund – was not followed by the logging company. Krebs countered that he thinks NACFOR followed a lot of the advice in the best practices document, there was a loud guffaw from the crowd.

“The public has documentation showing that the logging company completely ignored this [best practices document] and has done what it wants to do,” Krebs said. “FWCP is supposed to monitor that.”

Remnant and Sjeng Derkx made a stop in Kaslo September 27, where volunteers from Nelson toured the Kaslo-Summit Lake is to evaluate and collect information to support actions on the ground.”

FWCP lambasted at Nakusp meeting over logging in western toad habitat

Krebs explained that FWCP cannot acquire Crown land, only private land, and Summit Lake is Crown land. When Pitaoulis asked what you expect,” he said. “We have to work for the toads, but we can’t meet all your expectations. We have influence, but no authority.” Krebs made several attempts to bring the discussion around to the highway mortality issue, with limited success. “The focus was and still should remain on the highway,” he said. “The population will go down if you don’t deal with highway mortality. Adult mortality is increasing 3% per year – the biggest impact on the population is the death of the adults, not the toadlets.”

FWCP has installed three toad tunnels under the highway at Summit Lake to help the toads make the crossing safely. Some people at the meeting questioned the effectiveness of the tunnels, based on their own observations. Krebs said cameras on two of the three tunnels show significant usage “but there’s still a lot more than one political party. The weaknesses are large ridings and a complicated counting system. The MMP system would mean roughly dividing our riding size – at least two ridings would be combined. There would be one MP per riding; however, voters get two votes on the ballot, one vote is for the local MP. The other vote is for a party, not a person, and determines the share of seats each party will have in parliament. So, there would be two types of MPs in parliament – local MPs and party (or regional) MPs. The MMP system is in place in Germany, New Zealand, Mexico, Romania, and now Russia. It is the most widely used across the world.

Under the RU-PR system, urban areas would have the STV system and rural areas would have the MMP system. This means there would be different types of ballots depending on where you live. RU-PR is described as a ‘made in Canada’ system and was first suggested by a former Chief Electoral Officer for Elections Canada. RU-PR is favoured by the FNBP.

Two more people had a problem with toad mortality. “They said there will hopefully be more tunnels installed ‘once we know what the best design is.’”

Summary

- More than one political party.
- Weaknesses: Large ridings and complicated counting system.
- MMP system: One MP per riding, two votes on the ballot, one for local MP, one for party, not person.
- RU-PR system: Urban areas have STV, rural areas have MMP.

New voting systems under consideration for Canada

by Jan McMurray

With a new voting system on the horizon for federal elections in Canada, two Fair Vote Canada volunteers from Nelson toured the Kootenay-Columbia riding last week. Ann Remnant and Sjeng Derkx made a stop in Kaslo September 27, where they gave a presentation and provided information about the three voting systems that are being most closely considered by the Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE).

The ERRE committee was created by the federal government on June 7, and has been researching alternatives to the current ‘First Past the Post’ system, consulting with experts, and gathering public input from Canadians. The deadline for public input is October 7, and the committee is committed to submitting its report by December 1.

Remnant and Derkx said the three proportional systems that seem to be under serious consideration by the ERRE committee are the Single Transferable Vote (STV), Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) and Rural-Urban Proportional Representation (RU-PR).

Members wanted for food policy council submitted

When you bring intelligent, caring and passionate people to a table, great things will happen. This is the aim of the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council, which will connect communities and food systems of our region and work to improve them.

Coordinator Abra Bryne invites anyone who has concerns of residents of the Central Kootenay to set on the inaugural council. With broad representation at the table, participants can explore solutions related to hunger, food waste, land and water, distribution and production. They will help to identify and create solutions to issues that may not be possible for one organization to tackle on its own but will benefit from a group effort, with the right mix of knowledge, resources and people.

To join the inaugural Central Kootenay Food Policy Council, apply before October 17. For more information, the council Terms of Reference, and the application form can be found on the website: ckfoodpolicy.ca.

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription

Only $10-$30
Sand Cougar Money Order to "The Valley Voice"

NOTICE OF PROPERTY PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTIONS

VILLAGE OF SILVERTON BYLAWS NO. 497 – 2016

Notice is given that the following properties are included in the Village of Silvertown Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 497 – 2016 and are being considered for an exemption from taxation for up to ten years. 2017 – 2026. The estimated annual tax exemptions total $2,386.78 for this area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Description</th>
<th>Civic Address</th>
<th>Estimated Municipal Tax per year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6600 Block 10</td>
<td>7th Street</td>
<td>$303.16</td>
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<td>15830 Block 10</td>
<td>324 Alpha Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>90000 Block 10</td>
<td>704 Lake Avenue</td>
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Fair trade chocolate, not slavery chocolate

For Halloween this year, please don’t buy chocolate which may contain cocoa produced by child slaves. Hershey, Nestle, Mars, and Cadbury’s purchase cocoa from the Ivory Coast in Africa. The United Nations estimates that 15,000 Malian children are kept as slaves there. Google ‘slavery chocolate’ for more information, contained in many websites.

Buy only fair trade chocolate, which does not include cocoa farmed by slaves.

Philip Pedini
Kaslo

Thanks for the ride!

For the last year, I have relied on the amazing generosity of Valley commuters who picked me up while hitchhiking to and from work. Along the way, I had the joy of meeting some lovely folks and enjoyed a range of heartfelt conversations. I am so very appreciative for the kindness and connections I was fortunate to make. Without the help from these people, who for the most part I had never met, I would not have been able to hold down a job and be where I am today. Now that I have my own wheels, I won’t be able to say this in person, so Thank You! Hopefully our paths will cross again soon. I am so excited to now be able to pay it forward. Thanks for the ride!

Leah Timmins
South Slocan

Petronas

On Tuesday, the Trudeau government approved the Petronas liquefied fracked gas terminal – a massive project that would become one of the single biggest sources of climate pollution in the entire country.

But the Petronas project is not a done deal. The price of LNG has hit rock bottom, making this project unprofitable, and there will be a string of lawsuits following this decision.

Scientists say Canada can’t build more fossil fuel infrastructure if it wants to meet the Paris climate goals. So why are utilities going all-in on gas?

Utilities often talk about how gas has allowed the power sector to cut emissions. But such framing covers over looming issues.

This sort of relentless growth in gas demand is out of sync with the nation’s climate goals,” says Lorne Stockman, author of a recent report on gas infrastructure. “We have to start actually applying a carbon budget to our planning because if we build infrastructure today that we can’t afford the emissions from, in 10, 20 or 30 years, then we’re essentially building infrastructure we can’t afford to use.”

The Liberal government’s math doesn’t add up.

Paul Campbell
Kaslo

Liberals disappoint on climate targets

Last week, Trudeau’s Environment Minister McKenna told CTV that the Liberal government is sticking with Harper’s embarrassing, science-free climate targets. These are targets the Liberal government has previously referred to as “unambitious” and “the floor, not the ceiling” of what Canada should be doing.

This comes from a government elected on promises to tackle the climate crisis and undo Harper’s destructive climate legacy. “This news is nothing short of a disaster for the climate,” said Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party.

A next step in motivating governments and corporations to take the growing threat of an unstable climate seriously comes from the International Criminal Court, which announced it will extend its focus on crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes to crimes against the environment.

The Court may address the theft and exploitation of natural resources, contamination of the environment, and exploitation of resources requiring the unlawful ejection of peoples from their lands. Standing Rock, Nukak Dakota in the US and the Site C dam in British Columbia, among other locations, could fall under international regulation and criminal charges.

It’s terribly tragic that it must come to this.

Dona Grace-Campbell
Kaslo

The case for nuclear energy

Ontario has had its problems producing electricity with nuclear power plants, as Mr. Eichener describes in his letter, Valley Voice, September 21, 2016. The alternative to nuclear power would probably have been fossil fuels. Global warming has its costs also. How do we put a price on that?

Ontario has phased out coal-burning power plants. Nuclear plants produce about 60% of their electricity: wind and solar produce about 7-12%; and hydro and gas supply the rest. The Darlington plant is to be refurbished starting October 2016. Six units at Bruce will be refurbished starting in 2020. The 10 revamped reactors should then be operating until at least 2050. Nuclear power plants have high construction costs but the money spent provides jobs. More jobs are created sourcing construction materials. The tax man then gets to work recovering the government’s money.

Despite competition from cheap fossil fuels, more reactors are being built. On World Nuclear News, a UK industry website, I find India has six reactors under construction and China has 20 with more planned. Japan, which had shut down all but two of its reactors, now has five operating with another 20 to come online in the near future. A Wikipedia search, ‘Nuclear power in the US,’ finds there are 100 commercial reactors operating in the US with five new reactors under construction. As of October 2014, license renewals providing a 20-year extension were granted for 74 reactors and the regulatory body is preparing to receive the first applications for license renewal beyond 80 years of reactor life. And yes, they do shut down some reactors.

Nuclear energy does not produce greenhouse gases. 2016 has been the hottest year on record and recent years have been hotter than preceding years. This year, many people lost their homes to floods and fires. So far, we have been lucky our food production has not been seriously affected. Drought or a lot of rain could destroy crops, bringing high food costs and famine to some. Wind and solar can produce electricity, but they need back up. When the sun doesn’t shine or the wind blows, the coal burning furnaces are fired up.

Soon we will have a greater demand on our power grid. There will be a lot of electric cars on the road. Electric cars are our chance to turn back global warming. How will we supply electricity for them? I see nuclear energy as the only alternative.

Ed Zak
Nakusp
LETTERS/COMMUNITY

Peter Findlay
Kamloops

Sufferfest
delight
As a five-time participant in the Kootenay Sufferfest, I wish to thank the organizing committee and all the volunteers who help to make this weekend of activity in the beautiful valleys of the West Kootenays such an exceptional success. It truly is a remarkable experience and event in one of the most beautiful places in British Columbia.

Thirty-two ultra runners challenged the Milford Mountain 50 km Ultra, high above the Valley of the Ghosts and in the alpine along a scenic route of old mine trails, tracks, and mine roads, that eventually lead to the Mt. Buchanan Lookout, then descending over 10,000 feet to the Kaslo Wagon Road. It is an amazing route complete with some fixed ropes on a more technical and exposed ridge of Milford Mountain. Volunteers were positioned along the route and some capped overnight in order to be in position for the race day. They put much more time in as a volunteer than the time it took me to run this course, so I wish to thank them all for their efforts, especially since it was a cool day in the mountains.

The second day of the Kootenay Sufferfest included the 15 km and 40 km mountain bike races. A group of out of New Denver and the epic 100 km race from Kaslo to New Denver. The day proved to be perfect riding conditions and as the final running of the 100 km event, the participants were rewarded with good trail conditions and comfortable riding conditions. The big climbs of McCrinnegan Creek and H Road were not a problem for the racers and 15 km race turned out to be a ‘race of all the riders.’

The weekend closed with an off-road duathlon and sufferfest, based out of Kaslo.

This weekend of ‘suffering’ is a family-friendly event and many visitors who experience this event and the area for the first time are left with lasting impressions and memories.

Many generous sponsors from the West Kootenays support this event by donating cash prizes for both participants and volunteers. Without this support, it would be challenging for the organizing committee to be in a position to host this event. Thank you to the many companies, businesses, and organizations that helped to make the Sufferfest weekend such a success.

Thank you once again to the Sufferfest team and volunteers who put on another weekend of ‘fun’.

Peter Findlay
Kamloops

Nukes in the States
In my teens, when the Peaceful Atomic Future was prophesied, and I had finished engineering college, I jumped at the offer of a job in nuclear technology. The prospect of replacing millions of tons of dirty coal power through a few pounds of uranium was what the world was dreaming of. I now regret very much that nuclear energy does not turn out to be the answer to global warming however promising it first appeared, and however much the nuclear industry is still pushing for more of the same. disaster.

While reading more about our neighbours to the south’s nuclear power plants, I came across the following: “Of the 253 nuclear power reactors originally ordered in the United States from 1953 to 2008, 48 percent were canceled, 11 percent were prematurely shut down, 14 percent experienced at least a one-year-or-more outage, and 27 percent are operating without having a year-plus-patch maintenance. This is a disaster on a monumental scale… only the blind, or the biased, can now think that the money has been well spent. It is a disaster for the US consumer and for the competitiveness of US industry, for the utilities that undertook the program and for the private enterprise system that made it possible.” (“Nuclear Follies,” February 11, 1985 story cover in Forbes magazine.)

Does this read like a probable nuclear climate fix? Mr. Zak suggested in his last letter to read up on “hiroshimasyndrom.” I did. No name signed to the bull that is written there. Obviously a lobby for nuclear power – totally, and I mean, a disaster of what is really happening in the nuclear power industry and the dangers of it.

Richard Eichenauer
Fauquier

Nuclear reactors can be more efficient
How does nuclear power compare economically to other sources in Canada?

Up to now, nuclear power plants are really inefficient. During World War II when it was discovered we could make bombs, all of a sudden we started trying to figure out how nuclear works. It is amazing how few people were killed doing this. So it is no surprise that nuclear plants were not efficient. There was such a rush.

The whole idea of putting solid fuel in rods encased in metal cladding, where the fission products are trapped and the rods removed, before all the fuel is consumed, is a bad idea. Alvin Weinberg, a nuclear physicist, who was the administrator at Oakridge National Laboratory during and after the Manhattan Project, “There are many ways to build a nuclear reactor.” Today, France, India, and China are moving away from using better reactors. China and India are also looking at thorium as a better fuel and molten salt as a carrier. A molten salt reactor can be run up to 900°C, which makes it more efficient.

There are people wanting to develop small reactors that will use up nuclear waste for their energy source. I expect that there will be a better understanding of the economics. Industry today does not count the cost of the environment as well as other costs such as health to their enterprises.

The fossil fuel industry has created a new boom and bust spurt with their fracturing-the-earth exploits, and look what it has done to the upsetting of the economy. So if our electricity bills are so low it’s because we are allowing it, at our cost of the environment. As soon as we put a higher tax on these industries, the economic picture will improve.

People like Kirk Sorensen see small reactors, at economic prices, running off assembly lines like Boeing aircrafts.

Frank Nixon
Winlaw

Trudeau no friend of the environment
I was extremely disappointed with the Trudeau Liberals decision to approve the Lelu Island liquefied gas project.

I listened to Elizabeth May this morning on CBC Radio lamenting the decision. During the discussion, the interpreter walked into the room and said “The Peace River is the second largest salmon spawning river in BC.” He was wrong. The second largest salmon river is the Fraser. The largest salmon river is the Columbia. Unfortunately, we already destroyed that salmon stock.

Surely when we are discussing new projects, it is incumbent on us not to forget what we have already wreaked. The most disturbing part of that CBC program was the revelation that, now that Trudeau has approved this project for Christmas, he will clearly have to approve the Kinder Morgan bitumun pipeline for the Alberta government. I have no doubt that the project at Lelu Island will severely harm the salmon run in the Skeena River, and that Trudeau’s backroom approval of the Site C Dam will destroy the bull trout and Arctic grayling runningays on the Peace River.

Trudeau is clearly not a friend of the environment in the Kootenays and the rest of British Columbia. It is really too bad… He was given such a great opportunity to do the right thing, but he lacks the guts to do it.

Rod Reitbell
Glenmerry

Confused about climate and economy
CBC News posted on September 27: “The federal government has conditionally approved the Pacific Northwest LNG project in BC…”

Environment Minister McKenna added: “I am confident with the 190 legally binding, and scientifically determined conditions, that we will address the most important environmental impacts…”

Two days later, the Jon Hernandez article quotes climate policy expert Kathryn Harrison as notes that with the Pacific Northwest project, “a total of 13 million tonnes per year by 2050, 10 to 15.5 million tonnes would be created by the Pacific Northwest LNG project (a project that does not yet exist).” That leaves about 3 million tonnes per year from all other sectors.

Also on September 30, a news item noting that GDP increased by 0.5% nationally, with increased activity in the mining, oil and gas extraction sector. On the same day in Laura Wright’s article, it was noted that globally, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere has surpassed 400 parts per million. That represents a 40% increase since the time of the Industrial Revolution.

Now for my confusion. If increasing levels of CO2 is bad, why would two levels of government set in motion a new project that would introduce an additional 10 million tonnes per year? Further confusion – when we hear phrases such as ‘growing the economy’ or ‘balanced economy’ there is an overriding assumption that ‘economy’ really means fossil fuel economy. When I check out definitions for ‘economy,’ fossil fuels are not mentioned. Rather, an economy represents the way we produce, distribute and consume goods and services. That would suggest the goods and services may be whatever we choose, including renewables.

As a global society, it seems, we are not willing to re-define ourselves in the context of what type of economy can be sustainable and what policies are needed to make the transition. Political fear and consumer inertia do not provide the data for intelligent policy development. I’m still waiting for Mr. Trudeau.”

Patrick Mackle
Kaslo

Toad walls, etc.
On September 21, the publication day my satire on the Toad Wall at Fish Lake appeared in the letters to the editor section of the Valley Voice. Wayne McCory of the Valhalla Wilderness Society phoned me and he sounded upset. He essentially told me that I didn’t understand the plight of the toads while I was writing my letter. After some discussion, we agreed to meet at Fish Lake to see what is being done to save the toads.

During our meeting, we came to an understanding that his purpose is to encourage the toads to cross the road to access their winter habitat using existing culverts that are essentially inefficient, and what is needed is a culvert that is specifically designed for their needs. They also need a corridor to help them to cross the tunnels.

After listening to this, I suggested that he consider, instead of an obtrusive temporary plastic ‘tract’, a similar to ones used in English estates to keep livestock away from the use of fencing. I explained that a ha-ha in this case would be an 8-12 inch step, whereby the top is level with the ground and not visible to the viewer from the roadside. The bottom of the ha-ha is a step down that would be sloping gently towards the lake. In this way, the viewer looking toward the lake would have an uninterrupted view while the toads would be following a permanent corridor towards their winter habitat.

Wayne immediately said he thought it was a good idea and we would pursue it. It is hoped that he is successful in getting funding for the proposed culvert and ha-ha.

Then we can step back and let nature take its course with some permanent solutions without all the walls and signs telling nature how we are saving it when we know that nature can’t read.”

Ron Robinson
Nelson

October 5, 2016 The Valley Voice
Whole School awards first post-secondary scholarship

Mt. Sentinel graduate Maya Green won the first Zack Harvey Memorial Scholarship of $200 towards her post-secondary education. The scholarship fund to support post-secondary students was created by Josephine Corrigan at the Whole School for more information.

The Whole School strives to create a nurturing and safe environment to enable learning and has chosen to ban all WiFi and cordless phone signals at the school.

For more information contact the school at wholeschool@gmail.com or call 250-226-7737.

Mt. Sentinel graduate Maya Green won the first Zack Harvey Memorial Scholarship of $200 towards her post-secondary education.

Willa Mine moving ahead slowly but steadily

by Katrine Campbell

The permitting process for the Willa Mine, a gold/silver/copper deposit just south of Silverton, is making its way through government agencies.

The Notice of Work (NOW) was submitted for geotechnical drilling and test pitting to determine ground conditions for the proposed settling pond location and highway truck loading pad, and geochemical studies on the 1025 portal waste dump. Upon successful completion of these programs, permit applications were submitted for the construction of the settling pond and truck load-out pad.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines has received the applications, and says consultation and engagement with the community has been started.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines has been working with MX Gold Corp. so they can bring a bulk sample application to the regional Mine Development Review Committee (MDRC),” said a ministry spokesperson. “The joint application to this ministry and the Ministry of Environment is expected soon.”

The MDRC provides consultation to First Nations and the community regarding the project through a collaborative approach. Under Section 9 of the Mines Act, the Chief Inspector of Mines has established standing regional MDRCs to review applications for mine approvals, and permits referred to them by the Chief Inspector.

MX Gold has also submitted a NOW for a water discharge pipeline, to re-route the water currently discharging from the 1025 Portal onto the ground in the area of the proposed settling pond. As approved by the Ministry of Environment, the water will be directed into Aylwyn Creek. The work program is scheduled to commence immediately upon permit approval by the ministry following the consultation period.

Meanwhile, at the Max Mill near Trout lake, also owned by MX Gold, Eagle Mapping has completed a 15 square kilometre survey of the mine, mill and tailings property. The LiDRAR travelling down the school through the forced air ducts.

“When we arrived, the principal told us there was smoke in multiple rooms,” reported Ryan Dߦڞڞ Willa Mine moving ahead slowly but steadily

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Monday, October 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM
Slocan Lake Golf Course Clubhouse
New Denver

All Members are welcome to attend

Mt. Sentinel Secondary evacuated due to smoke

by Jan McMurray

Smoke and the smell of burning plastic triggered the evacuation of Mt. Sentinel School at about 10:30 on the morning of Friday, September 30. Thanks to the work of the Crescent Valley and Beasley Fire Departments, the building was safe again at 1 pm.

The cause was determined to be a burnt electrical motor in a rooftop air conditioning unit. Smoke was

The Valley Voice October 5, 2016

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The Notice of Work (NOW) was submitted for geotechnical drilling and test pitting to determine ground conditions for the proposed settling pond location and highway truck loading pad, and geochemical studies on the 1025 portal waste dump. Upon successful completion of these programs, permit applications were submitted for the construction of the settling pond and truck load-out pad.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines has received the applications, and says consultation and engagement with the community has been started.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines has been working with MX Gold Corp. so they can bring a bulk sample application to the regional Mine Development Review Committee (MDRC),” said a ministry spokesperson. “The joint application to this ministry and the Ministry of Environment is expected soon.”

The MDRC provides consultation to First Nations and the community regarding the project through a collaborative approach. Under Section 9 of the Mines Act, the Chief Inspector of Mines has established standing regional MDRCs to review applications for mine approvals, and permits referred to them by the Chief Inspector.

MX Gold has also submitted a NOW for a water discharge pipeline, to re-route the water currently discharging from the 1025 Portal onto the ground in the area of the proposed settling pond. As approved by the Ministry of Environment, the water will be directed into Aylwyn Creek. The work program is scheduled to commence immediately upon permit approval by the ministry following the consultation period.

Meanwhile, at the Max Mill near Trout lake, also owned by MX Gold, Eagle Mapping has completed a 15 square kilometre survey of the mine, mill and tailings property. The LiDRAR travelling down the school through the forced air ducts.

“When we arrived, the principal told us there was smoke in multiple rooms,” reported Ryan Durand, Crescent Valley deputy fire chief. “We searched the smoky rooms with teams in SCBAs [self-contained breathing apparatus] and thermal imagers.”

At about 12:30, they located the burnt motor, and used a positive pressure fan to ventilate the smoky rooms and remove the lingering smoke.

Getting the word out to parents about the evacuation was a bit of a challenge because the power at the school was automatically shut down when the fire alarm was activated, so the school computer network was shut down, as well. Superintendent Jeff Jones said many students notified their parents with their cell phones, the district tweeted the message out, and the information was posted on the district website. As soon as electricity was restored, parents were notified by email and the school website was updated with the current information.

A message from principal Shellie Maloff on the school website says a fire drill practice had been planned for this week, but instead, there will be a debrief with staff and students on this incident. “We learn and grow from each experience!” she says in her message.

As a result of the burnt motor, Maloff says she expects interruption with the heating and cooling system for most of this week.

Correction

In the article about the Hills Garlic Festival in our September 21 issue, we described Buy Hermann as a “festival organizer.” In fact, Paula Shandro is the festival coordinator, and she is assisted by volunteer Ellen Kinsel. Hermann is the president of the Hills Recreation Society.
**Sufferfest’s Labour Day weekend events reveal strong local showing**

by Art Joyce

Kootenay Sufferfest has been hosting events all year, but its traditional peak has been on the Labour Day weekend, with marathons spread throughout New Denver and Nakusp. This year locals did well, among the 300 participants from across Canada, the US, and around the world. Some racers came from as far away as the UK, Spain and Australia.

“Locals definitely hold their own,” says Sufferfest media liaison Claire Paradis. “Peter Findlay, an amazing athlete from Kamloops, consistently places high every year. Locals may be very familiar with the kind of terrain they’ll encounter in the Kootenays, but our participants who come from overseas are tough and keen to get out and explore. It’s a good balance.”

Findlay placed first in the 40K Cross Country Bike course. But let’s not forget that some of these locals are kids. Once again Silas and Elias Lampimaki of Nakusp placed in the top 15 competitors in the Kids 5K Run in Kaslo on the Labour Day weekend, with Kaslo girls Emma and Kalli Smith. Placing in the top 10 for the Kids 7.5K Bike marathon in Kaslo were Zaydah Cameron-Harding and Rowan Vibe-Colman of Nakusp and Thea Rude of Kaslo.

**Firearms amnesty set for October** submitted

If the unwanted, unlicensed gun you inherited from Uncle Charlie is gathering dust in your closet, you can safely turn it in to the police this month. October is amnesty month for getting rid of any unwanted firearms, ammunition and other weapons. BC residents are encouraged to arrange for the pick-up of any documented or undocumented firearms and other weapons including restricted and prohibited firearms and weapons that have not been used for a criminal purpose, as well all forms of ammunition.

Don’t take them to the police yourself. Under no circumstances should anyone deliver firearms, weapons or ammunition in person; instead, call local police on their weapons or ammunition in person; instead, call local police on their

“...this year we made sure little kids could try out the short races in Kaslo for free, and we encourage kids to try all kinds of races,” says Paradis. “We had some great participation for the Cyclocross in Nakusp, and the mountain biking in New Denver. Putting on the Spring Break Sports Camp is a good way for kids to get active and feel a sense of confidence in sport. We’re looking forward to another camp in March 2017. Normally for most such competitions, the 12K Cross Country Run in Kaslo had no age limits, featuring runners as young as 11 (several competitors) and as old as 77 – Kaslo’s Susan Eckland. Former Principal of Lercene school Natasha Miles placed in the top 20, while Brian Mills of New Denver and Avidal Bar of Winlaw placed in the top 25. Many top competitors in this run were also from Nelson.

Meanwhile, coming over the pass from Kaslo to New Denver, two Silverton residents, Jay and Daren Tremaine placed third and fourth in the 15K Cross Country Bike course, with the Lampimaki brothers again in the top 10. At the other end of the scale, Winlaw’s Jeanie Dwyer placed in the top 20 of the 100K Cross Country Bike course. This year’s Corporate Challenge, held in Nakusp, was won by Quin Dodsworth of Nelson, 4th overall. Peter Findlay of Kamloops, second overall, and Daniel Klein of Nelson, 3rd overall.

**NOTICE**

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

**ARBOUR DAY**

The Village of New Denver is holding an Arbour Day on Wednesday, October 26, 2016. We will pick up all yard and pruning waste that is placed at the curb by 8 a.m. Please ensure that all branches are bundled and tied and all garden refuse (leaves, etc.) is bagged. Absolutely no household garbage or construction material will be picked up. Please ensure that all bundles and bags are an acceptable weight. Remember, you only have to lift one bag in comparison to the number our crew will have to lift. Thank you for your cooperation.
Museums, artists, festivals: apply for funding by October 15

Submitted

Project assistance funding is now available for British Columbia’s museums, visual artists, media artists, and community and professional arts organizations through the BC Arts Council.

Four project assistance programs are currently accepting applications.

• Museums and Visual Arts Organizations: supports projects by professional media arts organizations that increase media arts services to the community or facilitate new forms of media arts expression. For full guidelines, visit: http://ow.ly/njW304mmE.

• Media Arts Organizations: supports projects by professional media arts organizations that increase media arts services to the community or facilitate new forms of media arts expression. For full guidelines, visit: http://ow.ly/P67304nnm.

• Arts Festivals: supports the development, enrichment and creation of public programs within existing arts festivals. The program is not available to recipients of Operating Assistance from the BC Arts Council. For full guidelines, visit: http://ow.ly/2Nh304mmj.

• Community Arts Development: supports non-profit community arts and cultural organizations not currently receiving Operating Assistance from the BC Arts Council.

For full guidelines, visit: http://ow.ly/P67304nnm.

The deadline for applications is October 15.

The Government of British Columbia is investing approximately $60 million toward the creation of public programs for this funding, the BC Arts Council is providing $24 million to help artists and cultural organizations flourish in more than 200 communities throughout the province. The BC Arts Council draws upon the expertise of British Columbia’s arts and culture community to provide an independent peer review adjudication process.

For more information about the BC Arts Council, visit: www.bcarts council.ca.

Boost for cycling infrastructure funding

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is increasing BikeBC funding for cycling infrastructure projects by $2 million to $8 million for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

“I know that incorporating more cycling infrastructure in their community plans is a priority for many local governments,” said Minister Todd Stone. “This is also a key priority for our government and this additional investment of $2 million will go a long way to making taking your bike to work and to school more attractive, and making municipal streets safer for cyclists.”

As well, to better align with municipalities’ planning and budget processes, the ministry will be opening the intake for applications for next year’s BikeBC program in mid-October, rather than the traditional winter intake in February. This earlier intake will also be applied to the BC Air Access Program, which provides funding for airport infrastructure projects.

The earlier intake means funding will be awarded before the summer months to allow municipalities to move ahead with construction as soon as possible.

The ministry has previously committed $18 million over three years for the BikeBC program as part of the BC on the Move 10 year transportation plan. The ministry is investing $24 million over three years to the BC Air Access Program, with $10 million committed for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

The call for applications for both programs will be announced in the coming weeks. The ministry will implement the earlier intake dates annually.

Through the BC on the Move 10 year transportation plan, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will invest almost $2.7 billion over the next three years to improve British Columbia’s transportation network.

Bigger investments in community road safety

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has promised a 50 per cent increase for this year to the Community Safety Enhancement Program for highway improvements. The program receives about $5 million per year, and uses the ideas and input from municipalities and local residents to build projects, like better lighting, new crosswalks and improved signage.

“These are small projects that make big differences on our highways,” said Minister Todd Stone, “and I’m pleased to say that we will increase this year’s fund by 50 per cent, or $2.5 million more, to invest a total of $7.5 million in these important projects.”

Priorities that fall under the Community Safety Enhancement Program include increased roadside delineation, dedicated left-turn signals, lighting, improved pedestrian crosswalks, additional traffic signals and more bus and pedestrian safety features.

With a number of projects that focus on road improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and transit users, they also pave the way for building better options for the environment.

Over the coming weeks, regional staff from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will engage local governments to identify projects for this new funding.

The Province worked with local governments to identify more than 40 projects throughout BC for 2016/17, and is now in a position to explore additional priorities in light of the newly allocated $2.5 million.

Follow the work of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure online at: http://www.tranbc.ca.

Self-promotion for the faint-of-heart

You’ve created something great. How do you get the word out? For many authors, coaches, creators and entrepreneurs, self-promotion can be intimidating – even terrifying. Media and publicity consultant Wayne Kelly offers a free mini-workshop on how to navigate media opportunities on Tuesday, October 18, 7 p.m. at the Nelson Public Library. Entitled Self-promotion for the Faint-of-Heart, the event aims to open doors to the airwaves.

“For many, the job of promoting yourself is so daunting that most people never do it,” says Kelly. “Or they might think: why isn’t the media calling me?”

Currently host of the Wayne and Jayne Show on EZ Rock, Kelly has been coaching authors and speakers for nearly 10 years about how to promote themselves on radio and television. His clients have been featured on CBC, CNBC, CNN, Rachel Rae, Good Morning America, “A” Channel and countless radio shows around the world.

The evening will teach participants how to identify the best media outlets for their projects and which ones to approach for an interview. Understanding media’s point of view is key to getting a foot in the door; once there, it’s important to know how to give a good interview. After that 15 minutes of fame, knowing how to drive traffic and sales means getting the best bang for your on-air buck.

The Nelson Public Library is delighted to help creators and entrepreneurs get the word out by hosting an evening with an expert. No registration is required.

Wayne Kelly has been coaching authors and speakers for nearly 10 years about how to promote themselves on radio and television.
New Mushroom Festival in Nakusp
submitted
The Mushroom Harvest Street Festival, Nakusp’s newest fall event, takes place Saturday October 15 from 11 am to 4 pm at the Old Firehall, 90-5th Ave NW. The festival is sure to attract all the fun-gis and gals of the greater West Kootenay area. Vendor booth fees are only $10 this year in order to attract many local home-made crafts and wares celebrating all things mushroom and the harvest season.

Some of the attractions for the festival will include mushroom food workshops that offer him the opportunity to perfect his preferred style of music.

Shelley was a member of the Valhalla Community Choir for twenty years and also sang with Dirty Laundry Band in New Denver and more recently, the Deep Fried String Band in Nakusp. Singing with her brother feels very natural to Shelley and allows her to showcase her bluesy style of voice. Shelley has lived in Nakusp for three years now and is happily taking advantage of the many musical opportunities offered. She is grateful to the Arrow Lakes Arts Council for making performing a possibility with its new Concert Series, which features the talents of local artists.

Shelley and Doug will be singing demonstrations, edible mushroom posters, raffle prizes, and an education component: ‘Know your local mushrooms.’ Oh yeah… the pumpkin people are coming… To volunteer or to sign up for $10 vendor booth spaces, please call Barbara at 250-265-7044. Visit www.selkirkcollege.ca for more information about mushroom courses. Follow the Mushroom Harvest Facebook page for more event info.

This event is sponsored by the Nakusp District Chamber of Commerce.

The Nakusp Hot Springs Chalets & Campground
PUBLIC NOTICE
Nakusp Hot Springs and Chalets will be closed from October 17 to October 19/16 inclusive, for Fall Maintenance.

Reopening October 20/16, 9:30 am to 9:30 pm
Sorry for any inconvenience

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Nakusp Hot Springs and Chalets will be closed from October 17 to October 19/16 inclusive, for Fall Maintenance.

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This event is sponsored by the Nakusp District Chamber of Commerce.
submitted

The Kaslo and Area Medical Care Society (KAMCS) held its first annual general meeting September 22 at St. Andrew’s United Church, with about 50 of 325 members attending. KAMCS is a charitable, non-political, independent, and grassroots organization committed to restoring 24/7 medical care in the community.

Society President James Morris reported signing a lease starting October 1 for 344 Front St., the same building where Dr. Phil Olson practiced medicine for many years. The membership agreed that to attract family physicians to live and practice in Kaslo, a medical clinic must first exist.

Secretary/treasurer Romella Glorioso reported that the society’s income as of August 31 was $5,529, of which $3,210 was membership dues. She also reported the board has asked the Village of Kaslo for a permissive tax exemption to help defray clinic rental cost. The Village grants permissive tax exemptions to charities and non-profit societies such as the Langham, golf club, North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society, Interior Health Authority, etc.

The board has asked the Ministry of Health to access the programs and support funding available to fee-for-service physicians practicing in rural areas as per the BC Rural Practice Subsidy Agreement and to allow clinic physicians to use the emergency facility after 5 pm. The board has also applied to the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake for additional funding to help renovate and purchase medical equipment for the clinic.

The board remains hopeful for positive outcomes, it heavily depends on the membership’s volunteer and financial support.

In addition to four initial board members being elected, James Morris, John Eckland, Romella Glorioso and Tony Firary, four new members have joined the board: Dustin East, Margo McLean, Judy McLeod and Shelagh Smith. Election of the new executive is on October 6, 2 pm, Kaslo Hotel Community Room.

• The board thanks the following for their invaluable time, skills, guidance and expertise this past year: former directors Jill Braley, Mel Bryce, Linda Cole, Margaret Dalyn, Sandy McLeod and Anne Thornton; advisors Susan Eckland, Laurence Moss and Wendy West; other volunteers Kate Cooone, Greg Lay, Rhonda Ruston and Carol Gordon-Stroshine. Thanks are also due to people/businesses for donating baked goods and door prizes for the AGM: Donna Cormier/ Glacier Soap Works, Teresa’s Café, Glorioso Moss Analysis and Planting, Kaslo Hotel and Kaslo Pharmacy. And most of all, the board thanks all the members and donors who continue to support the society’s difficult but critical mission.

• Please help by volunteering and becoming a member or purchasing a corporate sponsorship. For inquiries: kaslomed@yahoo.ca; 250-353-7755;

Board thanks all the members and donors who continue to support the society’s difficult but critical mission. Please help by volunteering and becoming a member or purchasing a corporate sponsorship. For inquiries: kaslomed@yahoo.ca; 250-353-7755; Box 1215, Kaslo, BC, V0G 1M0.

KASLO & AREA

Ranch rock and comedy: Langham hosts two concerts this month

submitted

The Langham Guest Artist Series offers two great concerts in October.

First up, Johnny F. Johnson and Guests will perform ranch rock, folk and country roots on October 19 at 7:30 pm. Johnson is a high energy singer-songwriter and performer whose natural vocal talent, creative harmonica and strong rhythmic guitar once shared the same stage as Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, and the others.

Growing up in rural Saskatchewan, Johnson’s passion for music stems from his parents’ love of singing gospel hymns. His first solo folk-rock albums Prairie Roots Grow Deep, garnered a nomination for Roots Album of the Year at the 2006 BC Country Music Association Awards. His brand new album features a host of BC’s top studio and touring musicians.

Come on out and tap your toes to some great Canadian country music! Advance tickets $18, $20 at the door.

• The Langham is delighted to present one of Canada’s best loved veteran comics, working at CBC radio television. The wonderfully witty Lorne Elliot, a master of mirth with a musical bent, returns to Kaslo on October 25 at 7:30 pm. Inspired by the likes of folk singer Pete Seeger, he has been hailed as “a genuine and talented nutcase, quick-witted and relevant.” Advance tickets are $22 at Sunnyside Naturals and Willow Home Boutique, or $25 at the door.

Both concerts will take place in the Langham Theatre in Kaslo. For information 250-353-2661.
by Art Joyce

For many kids growing up in cities these days, the answer to the question: ‘Where does food come from?’ is: the grocery store. Several years ago, local teachers and childcare workers associated with the Healthy Community Society decided that represented a serious gap in children’s education. Since 2008, society volunteers Julia Greenlaw and Paula Shandro have been organizing the kids at Lucerne school in New Denver to host their very own fall harvest fair. Part of the school’s Connecting Generations program, the festival is also a great way to bridge the generation gap.

“It was a way to get community together with the school to celebrate and share the produce from the school garden, and create a full fair based at our school,” says Greenlaw. Lucerne now boasts a teaching program that includes a garden, greenhouse and the fall fair, officially integrated into school curriculum in 2010. With the assistance of retired teacher Kevin Murphy, the school greenhouse was built in 2012. Together they complete the full cycle of producing food, from storing and germinating seeds to cultivating bedding plants, to planting and finally harvesting, processing and composting. Financial support comes from a New Horizons grant, which also provided funding for the school lunch program, school field trips to local farms and gardens, and the recently published book of gardening wisdom, The Talking Spade, written by Anne Champagne.

Best of all, kids are learning where food really comes from, helping to grow and process it, and eating fully organic food during the lunch program.

“It’s about nutritional education as well,” says Greenlaw. “Compared to many kids in the city who have no idea where their food comes from, this is a way to teach kids how to recognize a potato plant from an eggplant, which flowers are edible, and about seed saving.”

In recent years when fruit crops have been abundant, the festival has worked with the local Harvest Share program, which helps residents pick fruit trees. Surplus apples were brought to the festival last year and kids lined up to turn the crank on the fruit press and make delicious apple juice. Local farmers bring in goats, donkeys, chickens and turkeys, giving children a chance to interact with them. For many children it may be the first time they’ve seen these animals.

The harvest festival has been an unqualified hit with the community, and teaches on a tradition in Europe that dates back millennia. This year was the first time a pie bake-off was included, and it proved popular. Children get into the spirit of friendly competition but learn to take the long view, starting plants early to compete for the biggest pumpkin or squash. And in the time-honoured tradition of fall fairs, there’s music, games and dancing. The zucchini races are especially popular, with 7th Avenue closed to traffic for the event. There’s really only one rule: the axles for the wheels must go through the zucchini. As with any race, there are timed trials but the big prize is the delight on the kids’ faces.

When asked what goals the Healthy Community Society hoped to achieve with the festival, Greenlaw said the recent concern with local food security was one driver. “This area is not really a traditional agricultural area so it’s about nourishing that side of our culture. It’s about promoting the skills to be self-sufficient as much as possible. It’s about making use of our growing areas and good food growing climate and supporting local farmers. And just growing a larger quantity of local food to avoid shipping it from California.”

Volunteers are at the heart of successful community events and the roster of volunteers continues to grow at the harvest festival. There are more than 35 volunteers with specific roles, plus parents and community members who join in. An important part of the Connecting Generations program is to get people of all ages together, so an attempt is made to bring seniors from the Pavilion who otherwise might have few opportunities to get outside. Added together – including Lucerne students, preschoolers, home-schoolers, and community members – she estimates about 250 people visit the festival each fall.

“Everyone from the RCMP to the elders in the community are joining in, which is exactly what we were hoping,” says Greenlaw.

Della Allaway-Berney (centre) sits on her prize-winning pumpkin with her friends. More photos on page 12.

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Lucerne School’s harvest festival enjoys 8th successful year
Anatoli Yaremchuk had the biggest, brightest zucchini racer at Harvest Fest this year.

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Master gardener Jane Murphy shows the kids how it’s done.

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October 5, 2016

The Valley Voice

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To our firefighters: Congratulations on a job well done! Glacier View Service New Denver, BC 250-358-2445

Congratulations and thank you to all the volunteer firefighters. Keep up the good work!
Heartfelt thanks to all volunteer firefighters! We appreciate the risks and commitment you take on in providing this oft-times challenging and dangerous service for our community.

Thanks to all the Valley firefighters!

Nakusp Centennial Golf Club thanks our local volunteer firefighters for their fine community service.

New Denver Rescue Society T-shirts a big hit

The New Denver Rescue Society has purchased an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) with the proceeds from its T-shirt sales. AEDs are used in cardiac arrests to deliver an electrical shock in an attempt to restart the heart. The crew has one with them at all times “as it lives in our rescue truck.” The comical and witty T-shirts will continue to be sold in New Denver at the Apple Tree, Glacier View Service, Mountainberry Foods, and Nuru Coffee Bar. They are $25 each and are available in sizes medium to 2XL. The T-shirts were created to show the society’s support of motorcyclists, while using humour to not only make people laugh but also to increase awareness about motorcycle riding and safety in this area.

All of the proceeds will continue to go towards improving the Rescue Society’s lifesaving equipment, which serves all populations. “Thank you for your ongoing and continuous support!” say the Rescue Society members. “We are proud to offer such a vital service to our community that helps all people who live, travel and/or play in our beautiful area!”

Kootenay volunteer fire fighters are showing off their assets in a new calendar for a good cause – to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

“The calendar is a fun way to raise awareness of and money for this devastating disease while celebrating our hardworking and dedicated firefighters,” said Andrew Bellerby, the RDCK’s regional fire chief.

The calendar features personnel from many of the RDCK’s 18 fire halls in a variety of scenarios and settings.

“Our volunteers give so much to our communities and to charity. They hold an annual Fill the Boot campaign to benefit Muscular Dystrophy Canada. This calendar will help with that fundraising effort,” said Bellerby, who added that he hopes the calendar may inspire some residents to join the fire service.

“Our volunteers give so much to our communities and to charity. They hold an annual Fill the Boot campaign to benefit Muscular Dystrophy Canada. This calendar will help with that fundraising effort.”

With the holiday season approaching, the calendar makes a great stocking stuffer. The calendars are available for purchase for $10 at any of the RDCK’s 18 fire halls or any RDCK office.
Vehicle tires must be winter ready, as of October 1

submitted

Winter weather is just around the corner and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is reminding motorists that BC’s winter tire rules come into effect on October 1.

Drivers are required to equip their vehicles with winter tires if they plan to travel on any highway in the Interior and the North, and some on the South Coast and Vancouver Island. These are defined as those labelled with either the M+S or the snowflake symbol. Winter tires must be in good condition with a minimum tread depth of 3.5 mm, and must be used on designated highways.

In BC, winter tires are defined as those labelled with either the mountain snowflake M+S symbol or the snowflake solid-fuel symbol.

The changes were widely consulted through the intentions paper process and focused engagement sessions. The changes include:

- requiring vendors to keep records demonstrating the appliances they sell are certified;
- creating 15 new offences that can be penalized under the Environmental Management Act in the form of tickets, court-ordered penalties, and/ or administrative penalties.

The interest sign at: http://engage.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/solid-fuel/

drivers who drive on roadways where snow conditions warrant.

In BC, winter tires are defined as those labelled with either the mountain snowflake M+S symbol or the snowflake solid-fuel symbol. New outdoor boilers will be subject to a specific setback from property lines which will limit installation to locations in rural areas. Additionally, a sunset date has been established for high-emitting outdoor boilers that will see them banned in 10 years, resulting in a reduction in pollution for rural communities and their residents.

Other new provisions under the updated SFBDAR include:

- clarifying what fuels can and cannot be used in outdoor boilers;
- prohibiting the sale of appliances that are not certified to meet the emission standards.

The public engagement period is open through January 31, 2017.

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- requiring vendors to keep records demonstrating the appliances they sell are certified;
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The interest sign at: http://engage.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/solid-fuel/

For more information, please visit: http://www.engage.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/solid-fuel/

The new Stop of Interest signs

The signs were first planted in 1958 to commemorate the Colony of BC’s centenary and recognize significant historical places, people and events. An inventory of the province’s existing signs was taken in fall 2015. 139 signs were catalogued, with 75 per cent being in good condition, with solid treads, replacement because the content and language is out of date.

In addition to replacing missing and outdated signs, the Province is adding up to 75 additional signs. British Columbians are invited to submit ideas for where new signs could be located and what interesting stories could be told to people travelling BC’s highways.

The new Stop of Interest signs will give the travelling public a glimpse of the province’s beauty and encourage them to explore the many authentic experiences BC has to offer, said tourism and jobs minister Shirley Bond.

“We wanted the public to help us create signage that would evoke excitement and cement our position that BC is a premier tourism destination and a great place to do business.”

The public engagement period is open through January 31, 2017.

Submissions will be evaluated based on criteria including the impact the place, person or event has had on the lives of British Columbians. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will begin installing new Stop of Interest signs in late spring/early summer 2017.

Provide your suggestion for a new Stop of Interest sign at: http://engage.gov.bc.ca/stopsofinterest/

Locations of existing Stops of Interest are available on the engagement site at: http://engage.gov.bc.ca/stopsofinterest/

Locations are also available as a data set on Open Data BC at: www.data.gov.bc.ca

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

SLOCAN LAKE AREA SOCIETY would like to extend a huge thank you to all the volunteers who organized the Silent Auction on July 1, 2015 and 2016. Also, thank you to all of you who supported and participated in the Silent Auction. It was very successful and we would like to extend a special thank you to all the donors listed below:

Anonymous • Alvie’s Metal Creations • Apple Tree • Gary & Loree Brekke • Gerry Buchanan • D.J. Garden Graces • Dark Water Dragons • Deborah Hicks Photography • Barn DeRosa • Donation Store-LACE • Karen Dubreuil • Rayne Butt-Grau • Glacier View Service • Iron Peak • J Oldham Fine Homes • Jo Jewellery • K & A Yard Care Services • KSCU-New Denver Branch • Kootenay Catamaran • Labatt’s • Lyn-a-Tech • Mountain Berry Foods & Race Trac Gas • New Denver Fins & Rescue Society • New Market Foods • Nuru Coffee Bar • RHC Insurance Brokers Ltd-New Denver Branch • Hilda Radford • In memory of Derek Ratsynski • Raven’s Nest • Reitmeier Logging Ltd • Roy’s on Main • Rowena’s Bear’s • Sandrelia’s • Sew Much More • Tricia’s Decorating & Ridge Earth Works & Snow Removal • Silverton Building Supplies • Silverton Transport Ltd • Slocan Lake Golf Club • Slocan Yard & House Care • The Cup and Saucer Café • Thomas and CO • Valhalla Pure • Villa Transport Ltd • Slocan Lake Arena Society • Silverton • What’s In Store • What Knot Works • Wilds of Canada Cycle •

changing driving conditions and their vehicles are winter-ready. Make sure you have winter tires that are in good condition, with solid treads, and adjust your speed to match road and weather conditions.

In BC, winter tires are defined as those labelled with either the mountain snowflake M+S symbol or the snowflake solid-fuel symbol. New outdoor boilers will be subject to a specific setback from property lines which will limit installation to locations in rural areas. Additionally, a sunset date has been established for high-emitting outdoor boilers that will see them banned in 10 years, resulting in a reduction in pollution for rural communities and their residents.

Other new provisions under the updated SFBDAR include:

- clarifying what fuels can and cannot be used in outdoor boilers;
- prohibiting the sale of appliances that are not certified to meet the emission standards.

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Silverton • What`s In Store • What Knot Works • Wilds of Canada Cycle •

27,000 kg GWW and greater, such as tractor trailers, are required to carry chains on the designated routes. The ministry recommends that commercial vehicle drivers keep chains on board at all times and must be prepared to install them when conditions warrant.

Signs are posted to identify these highways where winter tires are required for lighter cars and trucks, and chains are required for heavy commercial trucks. These routes are generally located approaching high mountain passes and highways which see significant winter conditions and where conditions can change from rain to snow very quickly.

Since more than 60 per cent of BC motorists drive in parts of the province where snow conditions are not common, the ministry is not considering requiring all drivers to equip their vehicles with winter tires— it’s only for motorists travelling on the designated routes.

Drivers planning to travel through these designated routes are encouraged to ‘know before you go’ and check DriveBC.ca for the latest conditions and delays. For information on winter driving preparation and tips, visit the ‘Shift Into Winter’ website at: http://shiftintowinter.ca/.

Drivers who don’t have the proper winter tires on their vehicle on the designated routes can receive a fine of $512. Drivers who don’t have the minimum tread depth on their tires (3.5 mm) on the designated routes can receive a fine of $100.

Winter tires improve driving safety by providing better traction in snow, slush and icy conditions. Drivers are also reminded to check tire air pressure frequently, as it decreases in cold weather.

Don’t drive distracted, don’t drink and drive and always pay attention to changing winter weather conditions. Having the correct winter tires on your vehicle can make a big difference and will help you get home safely at the end of the day, according to the ministry.

Commercial vehicles that are

Timber Supply Review

Arrow Timber Supply Area Discussion Paper

Members of the public are invited to review and provide comments on a new discussion paper as part of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations’ Timber Supply Review of the Arrow Timber Supply Area (TSA).

The Timber Supply Review provides the provincial chief forester with the information required to determine the allowable annual cut (AAC)— the maximum volume of timber available for harvest from the TSA — for the next 10 years.

The discussion paper includes background information, a summary of key issues to be addressed in the timber supply review and a summary of recent forecasts from the timber supply analysis.

The chief forester will consider the timber supply analysis, public and First Nations input, and other information required under the Forest Act when determining a new AAC.

The Arrow TSA Timber Supply Analysis Discussion Paper is available online at: www.forestry.gov.bc.ca/tsa/tsa01/index.htm

It can also be viewed at the following Ministries of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Selkirk Natural Resource District offices:

• 845 Columbia Avenue, Castlegar, B.C. • 1907 Ridgwood Road, Nelson, B.C.

Comments will be accepted until Monday, November 21, 2016 and can be submitted to: Julie Castonguay, stewardship forester, Selkirk Natural Resource District, 1907 Ridgwood Road, Nelson, B.C. V1L 6K1 or via email: Julie.Castonguay@gov.bc.ca.

Questions may be directed to Julie Castonguay at 250 825-1147 or the email address above.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Rabies found in Nakusp bat, but risk is low

World Rabies Day was September 28, the day after the Nakusp Veterinary Clinic posted this warning on Facebook: “We sent a bat away last week for testing, and it came back positive for rabies. Rabies is curried by bats in British Columbia. Although probably less than one per cent of bats have rabies, bats who are around in the daytime or can’t fly are suspicious. “Please do not touch a bat with your bare hands. If you come into contact with a bat, please see your doctor or go to the hospital. The vaccine for rabies is a very effective preventive.”

According to Community Bat Programs of BC, you should be cautious but contractible rabies from a bat is extremely rare and overall, bats are a big benefit. Bats have developed a poor reputation as being the main transmitters of rabies in BC, one of the main reasons that people fear them. What you may not know is that having an occupied bat house in your yard poses very low risk to human health, and statistically is safer than owning a dog. Bats are an integral part of a healthy environment, providing natural insect control and an opportunity to learn about wildlife in our backyards.

Killing the facts about bats and rabies can help prevent four of bats and promote bat conservation. In populations of wild bats in western Canada, less than one per cent of bats test positive for rabies. Also, there are two forms of rabies – ‘lymph’ and ‘aggressive’. The ‘lymph’ form is extremely rare and, overall, should be cautious but as with any wild animal, caution should be taken. Simple steps will reduce any chance of exposure to disease:
- Never handle bats with your bare hands;
- Beware of bats that act strangely, such as flying during the day;
- If you are bitten or scratched by a bat, seek medical attention immediately from the public health department or your doctor;
- Vaccinate household pets.

For more information on bats and human health, please visit www.bcbats.ca or the BC Centre for Disease Control www.bccdc.ca, or call 1-855-GOT-BATS.

Wah and Crosfield kick off Oxygen’s 10th year

M u c h- h o n o r e d Canadian poet Fred Wah and Ootischenia poet and publisher Linda Crosfield will read at Nelson’s Oxygen Art Centre at 7:30 pm October 25. The reading is the first of a series of four during October 2016-2017 marking 10 years of arts programming at Oxygen’s current gallery and performance space.

The event is free (donation appreciated) and open to the public. The Centre is located at 320 Vernon St. (alley entrance).

“Each of the four readings pairs a local author and one from elsewhere,” said executive director Miriam Needoba. “Each of the writers has ties to Nelson or directly to Oxygen’s development over the years.”

A l l o t h e r the programming celebrating the first decade of Oxygen’s current space won’t formally begin until 2017. Needoba said two of the readings will be held this fall, set up for planned celebratory events in various artistic genres during next year.

“The Oxygen, the programmer never stops,” Needoba said.

Oxygen, Nelson’s only artist-run centre, was founded in 2002 by artists formerly employed by the city’s Kootenay School of the Arts. Programming began at the present location in 2007.

Support for the reading series has come from the Canada Council for the Arts through the Writers’ Union of Canada, as well as from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance. The readings are co-sponsored by Nelson’s Elephant Mountain Literary Festival.

Wah, who served as Kootenay literary scene as a model for local writers.”

Province clarifies utilization targets for school construction

The Ministry of Education has dropped ‘utilization targets’ for school construction and upgrades. Minister Mike Bernier said the targets have been a “highly technical planning tool for school districts and the Province when it comes to building new schools and expanding existing ones. The rationale was quite simple – making sure existing schools were being used as much as possible before making a multi-million dollar investment in a new school or a school expansion.”

Getting rid of the targets “better reflects the reality of how school projects are approved in BC – on a case-by-case basis. It also makes the people who are using the service how well it is meeting their overall transportation needs.”

To ensure statistical integrity, a sample of every client will be surveyed. To ensure statistical integrity, a sample of every client will be surveyed. To ensure statistical integrity, a sample of every client will be surveyed.

BC Senior Advocate launches largest ever survey of HandyDART service

BC’s Senior Advocate is asking 30,000 users of HandyDART how well the service is helping them meet their transportation needs.

HandyDART is a door-to-door service provided by TransLink, BC Transit, and their service providers for passengers with physical or cognitive disabilities who are unable to use conventional public transit without assistance. The majority of users, approximately 73%, are over 85. “Clearly we need to ensure a robust transportation system is in place for seniors, but may no longer be able to drive. HandyDART is part of that system and we need to ask the people who are using the service how well it is meeting their overall transportation needs.”

To ensure statistical integrity, a sample of every other client will be surveyed on Vancouver Island, the Okanagan, and the Lower Mainland, while for the other three regions that offer service, all clients will be surveyed.

Recipients of the survey can either complete a paper-based survey or fill it out online.

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Industry news & views

SANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM – Sunday November 6, at the Hidden Garden Gallery. New members welcome!

HALLOWEEN DANCE

Saturday, October 29 at the Legion, 562 Harold St., Slocan. Music by RUCKUS ROCKS starting at 9 pm. Tickets $12ea. at Mountain Valley Savings in Slocan or phone 250-355-2672 to reserve. Prizes for costumes. The Legion welcomes members & guests.

SLOCAN LAKE STEWARDSHIP

Society AGM will be November 6, 2 pm at Knox Hall.

STAFF FEATURE

JOHNNY P. JOHNSON and Guests

- ranch rock, folk and country roots on October 19 – November 23, 10am – 12 noon at Passmore Lodge. This is a free program offered by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy. Call Penny at 250-226-7605 to register.

LEADERSHIP

WOULD LIKE TO SWAP MY HOUSE – Ladymoth BC for yours in Silverton or New Denver for one to two weeks anytime from June 1 to October 31. Margi@englisgh@

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25’ available at 210 Lake Ave. in Silverton, BC. $325.00 per month + Utilities. Call 250-358-2203.

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BUDDY’S PIZZA, KASLO:

LOCA VORES’ FEAST

(100 Mile Potluck)

Saturday October 8. Doors open 5pm, dinner at 6pm. Celebrate Thanksgiving and local abundance with your Whole family! Admission: $30/ticket.

Slocan Valley Station in Slocan or phone 250-355-2293.

One-Bedroom House

in New

Denver, very small, suitable for single

person. 600/month plus utilities. Applicants will be carefully screened. 250-388-2119 or kaymin@telus.net.

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person. 600/month plus utilities. Applicants will be carefully screened. 250-388-2119 or kaymin@telus.net.
**Barnett, Patrick**

**Executive Director for a part-time position to begin January 2017. The Executive Director reports to the Board of Directors and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management and administration of the activities of the Langham. The Langham is a 42-year old not-for-profit charitable cultural and arts heritage organization which is housed in a 120 year old heritage building. The Langham is committed to offering a wide variety of stimulating and educational arts, culture, and heritage programs for all ages and talents. Applications will be accepted by electronic transmission only until 5 pm on October 5, 2016. Please no phone calls, or inquiries of any kind, by email to visit@www.proudofmydog.ca to find out how.

**WANTED**

**HELP WANTED**

**SOCIETY** seeks a dynamic and innovative professional service. Application is committed to offering a wide variety of stimulating and educational arts, culture, and heritage programs for all ages and talents. Applications will be accepted by electronic transmission only until 5 pm on October 5, 2016. Please no phone calls, or inquiries of any kind, by email to visit@www.proudofmydog.ca to find out how.
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PETSITTER/ HOUSESITTER NEEDED: January 10-May 10. Bruce is an adorable, fully trained 2 1/2 year old Bernese Mountain dog with an adjustable Pratouf electric perivnet. Loving, gentle with children but ferocious with bears and other marauders. Our house or yours. If yours, we pay $50 monthly plus dog food and vet bills. He has a large petable cage with bed. If ours (on Red Mountain Road south of Silverton), you live in a 3-storey house with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms with a huge yard free of charge except for telephone and hydro (wifi, TV optional).

No smoking. References, refundable damage deposit requested. Call Roger at 250-356-2158.

A New Economy highlights the demand for changing traditional economic practices for the good of both humanity and the environment. The film screens on Thursday, October 20 as part of Co-op Week.

The film, A New Economy, explores what might happen if working together for the common good were to become the most common business model. It follows several organizations that strive to build a more co-operative future. By putting humanity before the bottom line, they are carving a new place in an economy presently dominated by profits and big business. “People are looking for alternatives to traditional business models,” says Zoi Creighton, coordinator of the Upper Columbia Co-op Council. “They want to see enterprises that are sustainable, democratic, socially conscious and rooted in their communities. They want businesses that put people first and are guided by values and principles, not just profits. And they want businesses that contribute to creating better communities, a better Canada and a better world. In short, they want a better way to do business.”

A New Economy is focused on the new economy movement, and the hundreds of global innovations being developed and through unconventional models by the many people working toward a new economy, including co-operatives and credit unions. Come see A New Economy on Thursday, October 20 from 6:30 pm to 9 pm (movie starts at 7 pm) at the Front Room, 901 Front Street, Nelson. This 82-minute film highlights the demand for the restructuring of traditional economic practices.
On May 5, the Parliamentary Budget Officer released a report titled ‘Federal Spending on Postsecondary Education’. One of its findings was that Canadian college and university students come from disproportionately wealthy families—about 60 per cent of students are from families in the top 40 per cent of income. That’s perhaps not surprising, but a related find was: the federal government programs designed to provide financial help for students disproportionately help those same wealthy students, and new measures outlined in this year’s budget won’t significantly change this.

I asked the Minister of Finance about this in Question Period last May, and last week posed the same question to his Parliamentary Secretary in adjournment proceedings—a forum where MPs can ask the government for a better and more detailed answer to a Question Period topic.

Twenty years ago, government funding for post-secondary education accounted for 77 per cent of university and college operating expenses. But, after years of the federal government downloading costs onto the provincial governments, that funding now covers less than half of those costs. And universities and colleges have been forced to download those costs onto students; over the same time period, tuition fees have risen by more than 137 per cent.

So students are shouldering an increasing portion of the load when it comes to funding post-secondary education, and more and more students are shouldering that load with crushing personal debt. The average student debt at graduation is now about $28,000.

In this year’s budget, the government did provide some additional help for students; an extra $1,000 for lower income students eligible for grants was one of the main changes. Unfortunately, an extra $1,000 doesn’t go very far when it costs $15,000 or $20,000 to attend university or college for a single year. Another change dealt with the minimum annual income graduates need to have before they are required to pay off student loans, boosted in this year’s budget from $20,000 to $25,000. Again, while this is a welcome change for lower income graduates, having to start paying off a considerable debt—often $40,000 or more—when you’re only making $25,000 per year is still a big challenge at the start of your career.

I think we have to look at the structural cause of this problem—the declining proportion of government funding to universities and colleges. While the federal government provides general funding to the provinces in the form of a Social Transfer, postsecondary funding is not provided as a dedicated item; provinces are free to spend Social Transfer more or less however they choose. One of the ways for the federal government to attack this problem would be to work with the provinces to create a funding stream dedicated to postsecondary education as is done for health care.

We all know how important a higher education is in today’s world. Students certainly know this and are willing to mortgage their lives if need be to get post-secondary education. They say that education is the great equalizer. But it’s getting tougher in Canada to get an education.
New book out by talented young writer from New Denver

by Jan McMurray

Owain Nicholson, a graduate of Lucerne School in New Denver, has just had his first book published. *Digsite* is a collection of poems he wrote while working as an archaeologist in the Alberta oil sands.

“Digsite explores the human condition – particularly the tensions between past and present, and how that influences who we are and what we are,” says Nicholson.

Owain attended the University of Victoria, where he completed a double major in Creative Writing and Anthropology. Although the two disciplines seem unrelated, Nicholson gets much of his inspiration as a writer from his anthropological study of humans in past and present societies. “The digsite gave me archaeological evidence to work with, as well as a richness of imagery and metaphor,” he said.

Any mention of the oil sands tends to bring the environment to mind, and this is also a theme in *Digsite*. “There’s something here about the environmental issue, but I wanted to stay away from a judgmental, hardline approach. The environmental references are presented simply as observations,” he says.

*Digsite* is published by Nightwood Editions, based in Gibsons, BC. Nightwood is “committed to publishing and promoting the best new poetry and fiction by writers across Canada,” according to the website. In 2013, Nicholson won the prestigious Bliss Carman Poetry Award for one of the poems published in *Digsite* (‘Hunter’). He was presented with the award at the 2014 Thin Air International Writers’ Festival in Winnipeg, where he performed some of the poems from the *Digsite* collection. Nicholson returned to the Slocan Valley in 2015 as a featured writer at the Lucerne and Community Writers Festival, and to read at the Slocan Community Library. He is launching *Digsite* at readings in Montreal and Toronto this month. He has also just started the master’s program in Creative Writing at the University of Guelph.

*Digsite* is available for sale at Otter Books in Nelson, and can be ordered from any local bookstore. It is available online at www.nightwoodeditions.com/title/Digsite and www.amazon.ca/Digsite-Owain-Nicholson dp/0889713243

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