IH menu changes unpopular at the Pavilion in New Denver

by Jan McMurray

Menu changes at the Pavilion, New Denver’s residential care wing at the Slocan Community Health Centre, are not popular with the residents or the staff, as reported by Jeff Pilson and Ana Bokstrom recently on their Kootenay Co-op Radio show, ‘Shift Happens.’

The menu changes have been made primarily in response to a BC Ministry of Health directive to all

Valley Voice publishing day changes to Thursday

by Jan McMurray

Starting with our next issue (November 3, 2016), the Valley Voice will come out every other Thursday rather than every other Wednesday.

This is due to a change in our shipping arrangements. For years, Arrow Lakes Express out of Vernon has shipped the Valley Voice from the print shop in Vernon to Nakusp, and our fearless publisher, Dan Nicholson, has driven up to Nakusp in the company jeep to load up the papers and bring them to our office in New Denver.

Unfortunately, Arrow Lakes Express has discontinued the Vernon-Nakusp run.

We’re very pleased to have found another shipper that does the run over the Monashee from Vernon to Nakusp: Rocky Mountain Transport. As their schedule can’t accommodate our Wednesday publishing date, we’ll be switching to Thursday.

The deadline for ad and editorial copy will stay the same – the Friday before we publish, at 5 pm.

We’d like to take this opportunity to extend huge thanks to Arrow Lakes Express, owned and operated by the Hawkins family. Formerly based in New Denver, the company has a long history with the Valley Voice. In the early days, before we were sending the paper to the printer electronically, Earl Hawkins would come to the Valley Voice office early on Tuesday morning to pick up the flats and get them to the printer on time. He’d turn around with a van full of papers that same day and deliver them to our door.

After the family moved to Vernon, and Earl’s son Lance took over the run, Arrow Lakes Express continued to give the Valley Voice exceptional service.

Many thanks from Dan and Jan and all the staff at the Valley Voice to the Hawkins family-owned Arrow Lakes Express, and all the best to the family and the business in future!
Silverton grizzly comes to unfortunate end

submitted by Gillian Sanders

Unfortunately, the story of the grizzly bear translocated from Silverton last month doesn't have a happy ending. The bear was shot at close range on September 26 as it attempted to find food on the porch of a residence in the Larder Valley. The resident acted in self-defense.

The bear had been translocated out of its home range by the Conservation Officer Service on September 17 to a location approximately 100 kilometres north of its capture site. After release, the ear-tagged adult male grizzly bear made its way through Trout Lake to the Larder Valley, where it was looking for food near people. This is what it had learned to do as a somewhat food conditioned and habituated bear. When a bear becomes food conditioned, it has learned to associate sources of food with humans or our homes and buildings.

Bears are completely ruled by their stomachs. They are made to eat, eat, and eat more, especially before denning season. If they do not eat enough, their chances of survival and reproduction can be reduced. Bears have excellent memories to track various food sources on the landscape, are quick learners, and are opportunistic when they find a high-calorie meal. Bears' consistent search for food makes them fairly predictable; in essence, bears usually go where the food is.

Bears that become food conditioned may also become habituated to people. This is when bears have learned indifference to the presence of people and no longer avoid us.

Habituation can also include learned indifference towards dogs or loud noises like bear bangers. This is common in association with fruit trees. As long as there is fruit available, dogs can bark as much as they like while the bear is safely up the tree and filling its tummy. When bear bangers are used but food is still available, bears can become habituated to the food noise and no longer move off. Noise deterrents such as bear bangers can be effective to move a bear along in the short term so we can safely manage the attractant and deter further bear activity at that site. Habituation to people is increased when people allow or encourage bears to become comfortable near us. There is always a potential risk when someone encounters a bear at close range; it is best to prevent such encounters near homes by not food conditioning or habituating bears.

Management options are very limited for bears that are human food conditioned. Translocation (moving a bear out of its home range) is only a solution from the human perspective where the bear is “out of sight and out of mind.” It has been determined that only about 25% of translocated bears survive and reproduce in their new location. Most translocated bears simply come back, possibly get shot due to prior food conditioning and/or habituation (i.e. the Silverton grizzly), potentially come into conflict with other bears while outside of their home range, or simply don’t survive because they do not know where good food sources and denning sites are.

Furthermore, it is important to remember that bear populations are directly related to available food sources and more food = more bears. Nature keeps bear populations in balance with available food. Bears have delayed implantation, meaning that while they mate in late May-early July, female bears will carry the fertilized egg but it won’t implant onto the uterus wall until she enters the den in late October - early December. By that point her body makes a physiological decision to become pregnant depending on her condition. If she is fat enough to support the pregnancy and ensuing lactation the following spring when food sources are scarce, the egg will implant and she will become pregnant. However, if she has not been able to gain up enough, she will reabsorb the egg and not produce cubs that winter. In this way, when we provide bears with food such as excess fruit or other attractants, we may actually create more bears.

For those people who like bears, remember that no matter how awesome or cute a bear can be, we are not doing the bear(s) any favours by allowing them to feed near us or hang around homes. Bears that pass through private properties regularly are on their way to food somewhere nearby. If you know when bears are accessing human food, please consider helping to manage attractants. It takes a community effort to reduce and manage bear foods, but it is way easier to prevent bear conflicts than it is to actually experience conflict with bears. Managing fruit and compost, keeping garbage in, securing pet, bird, and/or livestock feed, and using effective fencing to protect livestock, fruit trees, or crops eliminates bear conflicts.

Keep bears and people safe; don’t feed bears.

For more info on attractant management contact kaslo@wildsafebc.com or newdenver@wildsafebc.com and for advice on effective electric fencing for bears contact grizzlybearsolutions@gmail.com

This article was submitted by Gillian Sanders from Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions, working to improve grizzly bear/human coexistence through education, collaboration and the use of practical tools. Funders are Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and the Transborder Grizzly Bear Project. The Valhalla Society funds, through Grizzly Bear Solutions, 50% of electric fencing in Area H (Slocan Valley) rural areas and is currently offering to support a number of fence units in the Villages of New Denver and Silverton.
The second court session for the Lemon Creek fuel spill case on Tuesday, October 11 was nearly as uneventful as the first one.

At the first one, on September 16, the case was adjourned to October 11 to allow the federal Crown to provide disclosure.

On October 11, Crown Prosecutor John Cliffe told Justice Phillip Seagram that his initial disclosure consisted of 10 binders of material, and there would be at least one more binder forthcoming.

The binders have been sent to the lawyer for the Province of BC, Angela Davies, and to the lawyer for Executive Flight Centre, Chris Archer. However, they have not been sent to Danny LaSante’s lawyer, Alain Hepner, as Hepner has not requested disclosure from the Crown. At EFC lawyer Chris Archer’s urging, Cliffe agreed to send them to Hepner.

The next court date was set for November 8, despite Davies’ and Archer’s wish to have full disclosure before coming back to court.

Cliffe told the judge that if there are no admissions, there will be approximately 65 Crown witnesses. “So it’s a relatively big regulatory proceeding,” he said. “So I will have full disclosure out? It’s a continuing process, but even the first installment should give my lawyer friends a fairly good picture of what the evidence is in this case.” He said by the time the second installment is sent, “the great majority” will be out.

The case started as a private prosecution by Slocan Valley activist, Marilyn Burgoon. She attended the court hearing and was happy to hear that the crown prosecutor was doing such a thorough job. “That’s something I could never have done. It’s too costly, too lengthy. I don’t have the ability to access the information the government can access.”

The Lemon Creek fuel spill occurred on July 26, 2013. Executive Flight Centre driver Danny LaSante was delivering a tanker truck full of jet fuel to the provincial government’s staging area for the Perry Ridge wildfire. He took a wrong turn up Lemon Creek Road, and while trying to turn around, the bank gave way and the truck fell into the creek, spilling out 33,000 litres of jet fuel.

After the spill, when it seemed as if the provincial and federal governments were not going to prosecute, Burgoon brought charges privately under the federal Fisheries Act against the Province of BC and Executive Flight Centre, the company delivering the fuel. When the federal government took over the case, they also brought charges against the truck driver, Danny LaSante. The three defendants are facing charges under the federal Fisheries Act against the Province of BC and Executive Flight Centre, the company delivering the fuel. When the federal government took over the case, they also brought charges against the truck driver, Danny LaSante.

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continued from page 1

responsible for two to three sites, a food service manager who is responsible for eight to nine sites, and Davies. So, the responsibility for keeping the menu fresh was in the manager’s hands, said Davies. He added that the communication with staff and residents about the change “was not done as well as it could have been. We typically like to meet with residents’ councils ahead of time, advise them of what’s taking place and give them the background.” He said the site supervisors and managers were aware of the change, but the information apparently did not trickle down to staff and residents.

Karl Hurst, IH communications officer, checked to see if there is a resident’s council at the site at the pavilion. “There had been one at New Denver, but they stopped meeting,” he said. “We’re looking at getting it back up and running again.”

Davies said the managers would do surveys about the new meals in mid-November, after two months of the new menu in New Denver. “After the two-month cycle, the cooks will know which meals are popular and which are not, so then we can have discussions on what would work better. It can be different from site to site. The new menus are a starting point. We can make some adjustments. We can try to add a particular resident’s favourite meal to the menu, for example. A lot of adjustments can take place – it’s all part of the next step in the process.”

When asked if the change would lead to a loss in jobs or change in qualifications required for the kitchen staff, Davies replied, “No, not at this point in time… The IH requirement is that the cook must be Red Seal. That won’t change. That’s still part of the requirement and classification.”

Sherry Ogasa wara, vice president of Health Services at the BC Government Employees Union, says that the shift to a centralized meal program with rotating menus is standardization, which is ultimately about realizing cost savings.

“Sodium can be an issue, but it’s not always an issue. Why are seniors on a low sodium diet unless they are on some sort of therapeutic restrictive diet? Why do for the majority what’s only required for the minority?” It’s standardization, she says.

Ogasa wara says that standardization comes with the false assumption that the patients are eating the food. “I’ve done plate waste audits and I was coming up with 35% – the industry standard is 6%. So people are not eating the food. This is really egregious because food is so essential – it should be a celebration for people. It’s also an important consideration for seniors’ health. Optimal nutrition gives seniors on a low sodium diet unless they are on some sort of therapeutic restrictive diet? Why do for the majority what’s only required for the minority?”

From the labour perspective, Ogasa wara says how standardization can negatively affect the morale of the kitchen staff. “People who prepare food often really take pride in their work. Chefs see their creations protected you and those around you – at home, school and work.

• Children and adults with chronic health conditions and their household

• Aboriginal people

• And more …

To view a full list of those who can get their flu shot for free visit www.interiorhealth.ca/FluClinics

The flu (influenza) is highly contagious. Getting your flu shot protects you and those around you – at home, school and work.

For more information contact your local public health office, or visit www.interiorhealth.ca
Low carbon transition is crucial

Transitions are rarely easy – be it personally, professionally or for our country. As a nation we are in the exciting process of transitioning to a low carbon economy. No one expected it to be easy. Pushback from those vested in the old economy should be expected.

As provincial and federal governments appear to be playing a dangerous game of chess over new fossil fuel projects, the reality is that climate change is urgent and accelerating. Scientists tell us that we have a short period of time to rapidly reduce our emissions until we are committed to global warming above the dangerous threshold of 2°C.

We are ratifying the Paris climate agreement with Harper’s inadequate targets, weak and not consistent with doing our fair share globally.

According to a new Nanos poll, most Canadians favour a federal climate plan and are accepting of carbon pricing.

Clean tech is waiting in the wings with solutions and has the potential to provide many more jobs than the fossil fuel industry.

We have an obligation to our children to make this challenging transition to a renewable future, and to do it in a socially just manner.

Laura Sacks
Winlaw

More on nuclear energy

I have just seen a YouTube presentation that I find disturbing. It’s called ‘How fear of nuclear power is hurting the environment’ by Michael Shellenberger (TED/ 2016/ 14 minutes).

Michael Shellenberger starts by saying we are in a clean energy crisis. Is this going to be greater than he imagined? He said that and his colleagues decided to take a deep dive into the data. What they found really surprised them.

What he is saying is that the production of fossil fuel energy is increasing faster than the production of clean energy, clean energy has actually been in decline over the last 20 years from 36% to 31%. On a global scale, this 5% drop would equal about 60 nuclear plants about the size of the Diablo Canyon reactor or 900 solar farms about the size of Topaz, which is one of the biggest in the world.

He goes on to say a lot about this problem and then concludes that we are not in a clean energy revolution. We are in a clean energy crisis.

He finally says that the problem does not lie in our machines but in us.

Frank Nixon
Winlaw

Western toad habitat loss

BC Hydro is a crown corporation incorporated to operate and manage the many dams and reservoirs and the power generation in the Columbia River basin, the Peace River basin, and some dams in the coastal region. BC Hydro does so by virtue of a water licence issued by the Comptroller of Water Rights. The licence comes with conditions: conditions regarding flow volumes, water levels etc., but also conditions regarding fish, wildlife, and ecosystems affected by the dams and their operation.

In 1995, BC Hydro formed the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program as the arm by which it would meet the environmental conditions of the water licence. According to the FWCP Governance Manual: “... BC Hydro is in compliance with... the licence as long as the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program is in place, adequately funded, and fulfilling its needs and obligations.” (p. 6)

To this end, FWCP commissioned a study on the impact of the dams on fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin ranging from the US Border all the way up to Valemont. The Dam Footprint Impact Summary, prepared by G. Utzig and D. Schmidt, came out in March of 2011. The study on wildlife was done by John Krebs, now co-chair of FWCP, and Irene Manley, FWCP biologist. Not surprisingly, they found that “loss of habitat is the primary driver in species impacts” (p. 26). They found that of the 289 species examined, 64 species were the most seriously affected: 3 species of amphibians, one species of reptile, 15 species of mammals and 45 species of birds, classified as Priority 1 species. One of the amphibian species is the western toad. Western toads need wet or very wet forest, or wetlands. In the Columbia Basin, 42% of the wet forest and a further 7% of the very wet forest, the most favourable habitat for the toad, was flooded, as well as much of the wetlands. More than half of the available toad habitat is under water.

The FWCP Governance Manual states that its mission is “to compensate for the impacts on fish, wildlife and their supporting habitat” affected by the BC Hydro facilities. Not one area has been set aside to compensate for the loss of more than half the habitat available to toads, not one.

Water is a natural resource. This is why the Water Comptroller who issued the conditional water licence is part of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO). FLNRO can set aside an area as a protected area. We now have the ironic situation that FLNRO, which imposed on BC Hydro the condition to compensate for lost habitat, is the agency which has refused or neglected to make that possible. Is something wrong with this picture?

Elke de Boer Faucher

Reversal of Sinixt extinction long overdue

I’ve been sitting in on the trial of Rick Desautel, the Sinixt hunter who is being tried in Nelson for hunting without a license and hunting as a non-resident. As a settler living in Sinixt territory, and as a Canadian citizen, I feel this trial is not in line with the values of our community.

Many of us recognize and acknowledge the Sinixt people’s long-standing relationship with this land where we have made our homes. And we honour their ongoing presence on this land whether it is north or south of the international boundary that divides their homeland in two. We yearn for more of their presence, their stories, their knowledge about this land and their rightful presence in all negotiations concerning the future of this territory.

Expert witness, Dr. Dorothy Kennedy, makes it clear in her testimony that the Sinixt lived in the area from Big Bend on the Columbia River north of Revelstoke to the Kettle River on the lower Columbia, since time immemorial. Other anthropologists have stated that due to the circumstances of settlement and mining rushes and the connected diseases, resource depletion, violence and land appropriation, many of the Sinixt moved south in order to survive. Should they now be excluded from the northern 80% of their homeland for this?

I do not want to see our historic ‘got outta here!’ followed up with a ‘and stay out!’ Instead, we now have an opportunity to recognize the Sinixt who are here and have been working to overturn the extinction for almost 30 years, and welcome back others to the land of their ancestors. I’d like to see us spend our tax dollars on making this happen in a respectful and participatory way instead of through expensive, long-winded trials. What if...
Summit Lake western toads

After the latest meeting with FWC/BC Hydro about the western toads at Summit Lake, there has been a lot of conversation generated and I thought I would take the opportunity to clarify a few things. Summit Lake toads have been identified as provincially significant and among the “great wildlife migrations in the world.” Of all the toads that exit the lake each year, 99% will die of natural causes in the first year. Most of the toadlets cross the highway and avoid the one tunnel and the other culverts — so many more are killed. Western toads have moved from yellow to blue listed in the last decade and the population at Summit Lake has declined, too. If they get across the highway to the forest, they stay there until at least age 4 (sexual maturity) before heading to the lake to breed and then back to the forest. The BC government, FWC, CBT and the taxpayer has invested $750,000 on research and infrastructure to get our toads to their habitat. Why? Because western toad populations have declined dramatically in North America and globally and there is an obligation to compensate for destroying so much of their habitat by flooding and damming.

Summit Lake Provincial Park is only 6 hectares. There is an additional 469 hectares around the park designated as a ‘Goal 2 Reserve’ and includes the lake, islands, rail bed and a small strip along the highway. This reserve protects habitat, but is not a park. It is managed by FNLR, not the Park Act. The public is asking for this reserve to be expanded by 863 hectares on the forested side of the highway where the vast majority of toads migrate and remain for 97% of their lives. This would create a two-kilometre buffer zone and capture 95% of core terrestrial load habitat and is only 6% of NACFOR’s habitat. We have asked for this to be reallocated elsewhere and MLA Katrine Conroy has brought this to the legislature. If FNLR will not reallocate, we are pursuing a request of FWC/BC Hydro to compensate NACFOR for not logging. Since NACFOR has an open cutting permit and can log anywhere in their tenure to meet their annual allowable cut, we are asking NACFOR to wait until all avenues of compensation have been exhausted. Research has shown the population has declined and no one knows the tipping point for this population, so why take the chance when there is time?

So, an expansion of the Goal 2 Reserve would mean no new logging, mining or roads, but everything else remains the same as it always has. It can be a winning solution for everyone. That’s how we get our habitat, the public would still have the same access to the area as they’ve always had, the community forest can be compensated, and FWC, CBT and the town of Nakusp could benefit from all the positive PR such a move would generate.

Debbie Pitaoulis
Summit Lake

Join me at Rainbow’s End Ranch

In the 1980s when Mick and I began our trail riding business, it seemed that the men and their machines who log our forests were always just behind us… We would find a new place to ride and explore and soon thereafter it would be laid on the ground, carted off and burned. We eventually purchased some very rough land up Glacier Creek and proceeded to create a ranch out of a clearcut river bottom. I picked rocks and sticks for years to be able to grow grass to sustain the horses that I love. Now after 23 years it is green with grass, but the men and their machines are arriving. BC Timber Sales plans to take out most of the lower Glacier Creek valley. According to their map they also hope to take out the rest of the valley from about 16km to almost 30km.

W. B. Yeo
Kaslo

Opposed to new voting systems

This concerns the article in the October 5 issue on the subject of the new voting systems under consideration in Canada. It mentions a presentation on voting systems made by two Fair Vote volunteers. The single transferable vote system is one of which they are quoted as saying that “no country has gone back to ‘First Past the Post’ once they change to proportional representation.” This statement is not true. Until the early 1970s in parts of western Canada, provincial and civic elections used the single transferable vote and similar systems, having done so in some cases since the First World War. In Alberta and other places, this system was abandoned. Why?

For one thing, STV voting was complicated, both for the voter and those who counted the ballots. I can remember my parents returning from voting sometime in the 1960s and grumbling about the experience. Several years ago, I got a short-term job in the Calgary City Archives, arranging and describing 1960s records of the City Clerk. In those days, the Clerk managed civic elections, conducted using the single transferable vote. The correspondence files often included letters from other places in the world enquiring about this system. In election years, there were one or more boxes containing the aftermath of the election, including the records of the vote count. One box I opened had a small sheet of paper on top of the pile, on which the time of the final vote was scarred: sometime after 4 a.m.

It is my belief that members of parliament are elected first of all to represent the people in their ridings. I am opposed to any new voting system like those in Europe and other places, where the electorate votes for faceless lists. Political parties are a means of forming a government, a mechanism for assembling and managing enough MPs to enable that government to function, but their role is secondary in importance constitutionally.
Happy trails and scenic lookouts are here again thanks to Nakusp ACTS

by Claire Paradis

The interior restoration of the Saddle Mountain fire lookout is now finished, thanks to funding from the CBT Recreation Infrastructure Grant program. The project, which transformed the packrat-chewed room into a landmark space where hikers can rest and enjoy the full view, was just completed by Corey Beau Phillipson. And there’s more to come, said Barb Chwachka, president of the Nakusp and Area Community Trails Society (NACTS).

Like every year, the Trails Society has been hard at work marking, clearing, maintaining and repairing the trails around Nakusp. NACFOR had a hand in the work by providing funding for spring trail maintenance and summer work, which enabled three workers to put in around 350 hours on the trails.

Spring trail maintenance requires skilled people to deal with large blowdowns. Fire crews also donated time for the trails this summer.

“Without these programs, this would have been dependent on volunteer work, and we would not have been able to accomplish what was required,” stated NACTS’s End of Season Trail Maintenance Summary.

“Putting up signs, that can be done by volunteers,” said Chwachka. “I can’t dig anymore, but I can put up signs. The ministry will pay for most of our signs, we do our own designs.”

Like many community organizations, the Trails Society is always on the lookout for funding. “It’s really hard to get grants for operational stuff,” Chwachka said.

These days, mountain bikers are opening up new trails. “Chwachka is happy for the change,” said the ministry’s End of Season Trail Maintenance Summary. “In the last few years it’s totally changed. People in their 20s and 30s are getting out who haven’t been outdoors, and it’s fabulous.”

The overlap of trail use is minimal, she said. The Hot Springs trail is popular with both hikers and mountain bikers, but in general trail usage is expanding.

NACTS has great quality volunteers, “but more and younger would be nice,” said Chwachka. “We have wonderful volunteers, we just don’t have enough of them.”

And what makes volunteering with NACTS great?

“What’s great about it?” mused Chwachka. “It’s hard physical work. Personality plays a role. It’s hard to explain how much fun it is and how interesting it is. We’re outdoors all the time, so if you like the outdoors it’s wonderful.”

Stewards of the Future environmental stewardship program launches for its third year

Parents asked to share thoughts on progress reporting for their children

There will be opportunities for parents to get input on progress reporting in Grades 10-12 in the future.

Fauquier solar workshop much appreciated

much I already know about solar economy,” she said. “I use solar when I use my clothesline, greenhouse and compost, for instance.”

She added that participants learned how to make a simple passive solar hot water heater using an old freezer and an old hot water tank.

“People interested in solar,” she said. “They wanted to learn more.”

The workshop sponsors were Columbia Basin Trust, Nakusp Home Hardware, Spicer’s Farms, and Wizardgrid Inc.

SD #10 gets extra transportation funding

extend transportation assistance to kindergarten students.

School districts applied for funding in August and September. To be eligible they had to submit a plan to the Ministry of Education outlining how they would use the funding to enhance transportation.

The amount a district is eligible for is based on a formula tied to the ministry’s student location factor, which is used to determine the need for funding of a school district. Districts will be required to report back on the outcomes and benefits they achieve as a result.

BADMINTON

for Adults
& NSS Students

October 18, 2016 to April 20, 2017
7:00 to 9:00 pm
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(Please use gym door)
Nakusp Badminton Club
Membership Fee: $30/year plus $15/year insurance to Badminton BC
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Beginners Welcome!
(Just bring a racquet & non-marking inside shoes)

For more info call: 250-265-3326

COMMUNITY

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It’s ‘Trash to Treasure’ time again

by Art Joyce

The RDCK is celebrating Waste Reduction Week in Canada by promoting the Trash to Treasure reuse event on Saturday, October 22. The one-day event gives people a chance to give away gently used items to those who may find value in them and to search their community for treasures new to them.

“We are happy to promote this popular community event as it is an easy way for residents to find a second life for unwanted possessions,” says Ann Bunka, the RDCK’s Joint Resource Recovery Committee Chair. “Reuse is an important principle of waste reduction and will help our region reduce and will help our region promote the Trash to Treasure days happen twice a year, in October and April.

We ask that residents keep their items to those who may find value in them and to search their community for treasures new to them.

This popular community event as it is an easy way for residents to find a second life for unwanted possessions.”

Residents are encouraged to place any gently used, unwanted household goods together at the front of their property in a location that can be safely accessed by treasure hunters. A sign should clearly indicate which items are free. By 4 pm, all remaining items should be gathered up and taken inside. In order to ensure the continual success of these events, we ask that residents keep their community clean by removing leftover items.

Trash to Treasure days happen twice a year, in October and April.

COMMUNITY

Silverton paramedic receives 25-year service award

by Art Joyce

For most of us, working on the front lines of accidents and disasters would be a daunting task. For Don Caissie of Silverton, who has received his 25-year service award as a paramedic, it’s just something he does. He’s not inclined to make a big deal of it. And in fact that’s often the kind of humility one finds with people devoted to public service.

Caissie began his career as a paramedic while working for the provincial highways department in 1984. Crew chief Ray Lahner asked him if he wanted to join, although in those days the requirements were considerably simpler and rural paramedics weren’t paid. “I started with industrial First Aid and at the time that was the only thing you needed. I was on for quite a few years with that till they gave us the Emergency Medical Assistance Level I course around 1990-91. BC Ambulance Service wasn’t paying us so we were doing it for the community, not for money.”

In the 32 years since he joined, Caissie has watched the history of the local paramedic service play out. “Gail and Herman Hibbert were both on when I started. Bill Wilson was one of the first ones on, driving an old Suburban back in the ’60s and ’70s. When I started we just had to get them to the hospital. Now there’s a lot more treatment right at the house, we have to make decisions. With strokes, there’s that ‘golden hour’ for us to get there as soon as possible after it’s happened so we can get them to Nelson for an MRI.”

Things have come a long way since the ‘80s. These days, with the rash of fentanyl drug overdoses in the province, paramedics are also being trained to administer injections of Narcan, a fentanyl antidote. Caissie says he’s also noticed a big change in driving habits over the years. “The accidents we see now are usually due to high speed and that didn’t used to be the case. People are driving a lot faster now, driving too fast around these blind corners.”

As the profession continued to raise its standards, Caissie’s skills were regularly updated. He trained for Paramedic Level 1 certification and eventually as a Primary Care Paramedic (PCP). Along with Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training, the PCP certification is now considered the basic requirement for paramedics.

An extensive body of illness forced Caissie to step down in 2006 and let his Primary Care license lapse. A chronic shortage of paramedic staff in the north Slocan Valley around that time motivated him to resume his service once he recovered. At one point there was only Sara Rainford and Joe Matthews, who was also off on sick leave, and the local fire department was pitching in just to keep the service going. Repeated calls for help resulted in four people taking up the training, with one paramedic transferring from the Winlaw station. Caissie re-acquired his EMR certification in 2011. “We could always use more. I sometimes cover four or five days a week, some the night and some the day shift.”

It takes a certain inner steel to work as a paramedic, dealing with life-or-death situations. And it can be hard on families, getting called out at all hours of the day or night. “It’s difficult work; you have to separate yourself from what’s happening. I’ve been lucky, my wife has put up with it when I got called out on New Year’s or something. You see friends going into hospital and not coming out again.”

So what keeps him going as a paramedic now that he’s a retired senior? “Oh, just to help. If one of the crew needs to take a day off or can’t get a babysitter, I’ll cover for them. I just like to help. We’ve had a lot of people we thought we’d never see again and then it’s completely reversed, you see them walking around again and sending us letters.”

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British Columbia Utilities Commission

British Columbia Utilities Commission

Request for Comments

Residential two-tier electricity rates

Most residents in BC pay for electricity on a two-tier rate (known as a residential inclining block rate or a residential conservation rate). Under the two-tier rates, customers pay a lower price for electricity consumed up to a threshold and a higher price for electricity consumed above the threshold.

The BC Minister of Energy and Mines has asked the British Columbia Utilities Commission to report to the government on the impact of these two-tier rates.

Request for your comments

As part of the Commission’s review, BC Hydro and FortisBC have filed reports on the impacts these rates have had on their customers. The Commission is seeking comments on BC Hydro and FortisBC’s reports.


Please provide your comments using the Commission’s Letter of Comment Form found online at http://www.bcuc.com/Register-Letter-of-Comment.aspx. All comments must be received in writing.

Please send your written comments by email or mail to the Commission Secretary on or before Thursday, November 24, 2016 at:

Email: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com

Mail: Ms. Laurel Ross
Acting Commission Secretary
BC Utilities Commission
Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

For more information please contact the Commission using the contact information above or by phone at 1-800-663-1385.
New Denver council, October 11: Rural Dividend and Wildfire Prevention grants approved

by Katrine Campbell

“We’ve brought in way more money this year than in the 10 years I’ve been here,” said Corporate Affairs and Community Development Manager Mazurkewich. The former will be used for the Slocan Valley Regional Economic Development Energy, in conjunction with Silverton, Slocan and Area H. The latter will pay for a second round of fuel management around the Village, i.e. removing branches, underbrush and small trees. Signs will be posted to inform people what is happening.

The Village of New Denver is holding an Arbour Day planting event on October 20. The Mori Trail along the lake has been reconstructed; most of the rough work has been done but the finer trash top layer will be done in the spring after the lower layer has a chance to settle. Picnic tables and signs will also be installed in the spring. The trail will be built along the north side of Carpenter Creek.

Mazurkewich told them there are no plans for any changes at the Slocan Community Health Centre, that they were the “most staffed up” they had ever been but are still not meeting community need, and that many staff don’t want to work full-time.

The Silverton council, October 11: Another resolution for discussion at the Union of BC Municipalities convention.

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The Village received a letter from Nadine Stefan, a financial advisor for the property owner and the Homeowner Protection Office, and an assessment of the wells and an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

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**SLOCAN VALLEY**

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The two latest were $21,608 from the RDCK’s fees were lower than those charged in the Kootenay-Boundary RD and many people were bringing their waste to RDCK. Staff is looking for input from the board on specific IT needs and will report on recommendations and a mobile device management platform. They will also develop a policy on security issues.

The Village has not received any money from the RDCK.

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**SLOCAN VALLEY**
Nakusp council, October 11: Falling crime rates, relocated bear cub

Sharon Montgomery retires from Nakusp Museum

Sharon Montgomery is well known in Nakusp and beyond as the driving force behind the Nakusp Museum. After 15 years in that position, she is now retiring, and will be leaving some awfully big shoes to fill.

Born in West Vancouver, Sharon was five years of age when she first moved to Nakusp. She stayed here for several years before moving away again as a teenager and spending time in the Slocan Valley. She moved to Nakusp. She stayed here for several years before moving away again as a teenager and spending time in the Slocan Valley. She moved back to Nakusp as a period movie. Her cousin, Mel LaRue, who put an impressive number of volunteer hours into building three miniature steamrollers, was instrumental in introducing Sharon to the museum.

One day in 2001, Frances Walmsley called and invited Sharon to the museum. She is known in Nakusp and beyond as the person in charge of the Nakusp Museum. After 15 years in that position, she is now retiring, and will be leaving some awfully big shoes to fill.

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Andy Shadrack denied Green Party riding nomination

by Art Joyce

Former City of Nelson councillor, Kim Charlesworth, has won the Green Party nomination for the Nelson-Creston riding in a race against RDCK Director Ramona Faust.

Andy Shadrack, longtime Green Party member and campaigner, had wanted to run in the race for the nomination as well. He was shocked when the party’s vetting committee denied his application.

He said he decided last December he wanted to enter the race to represent the Greens in the riding, and began door-knocking, signing up some 200 new party members. The application process is rigorous, he claims, requiring a complete history going back to the year of high school graduation, which in his case is 1967. Shadrack received a nomination package on June 20 and submitted it with the appropriate signatures and required fees in July 15.

“On September 16, I received the notice that I was denied. I appealed on the 18th and was again told on the 23rd that I’d been denied on the appeal. The reason for the rejection of my appeal changed four days after the original wording. I can’t tell you what those reasons are, but even if I could, I couldn’t explain it to you.”

The reason he can’t explain it to him is that he’s been denied on the appeal. The party’s vetting committee made a decision that candidate must sign a confidentiality agreement.

A 50-year veteran of regional and provincial politics, Shadrack feels he has an established reputation for integrity. In the Donald Trump era of politics, that should count for something, he believes. He says he’s made four attempts to get clarification for his rejection but has received no satisfying answers.

Shadrack served nine years as RDCK Area D Director and served on the UBCCM executive for two years. This spring he was awarded a life membership with the AKBLO (Association of Kootenay-Boundary Local Governments). He’s been a Green Party member for 22 years, and has been on vetting committees for nominees in five elections, provincial and federal. He campaigned for supporter for the Green Party during the last federal election.

“I cannot think of a public statement I’ve made that would be any kind of embarrassment to the party or the leader. Because we’re now getting very paranoid about electronic statements, I don’t use Twitter. I have a Facebook page but I barely use it. I had a GoFundIt site for fundraising. That only leaves emails. I can’t think of anything, I’ve wrecked my brains.”

Shadrack says he’s received over 50 phone calls and emails from supporters around the province, and a letter recently appeared in the Nelson Star protesting the Green Party decision. He’s been told by some Greens that they’ve quit the party over this.

“I’m not saying Kim Charlesworth isn’t a viable candidate. I don’t want anything said that implies either candidate wasn’t a good one. But there’s something fundamentally wrong with the process, when you can imply I’ve done something wrong, but we’re not going to tell you what it is.”

Kaslo council, October 11: City Hall is priority project

by Jan McMurray

• The Village will submit an application for Rural Dividend funding to create a community space in the City Hall courtroom. CBT committed funds to this project some time ago.

• RDCK Area D Director Aimée Watson attended as a delegation to ask council to partner on an application for Rural Dividend funding. The funding would be for a program to support farmers and food-related businesses in Kaslo and Area D. “I’m not looking for money. It’s mostly to have the farmers and businesses in Kaslo be able to access the program,” she said. Council decided not to partner on the application because the City Hall is council’s priority.

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Date & Time:
Friday, Oct. 21st
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Connect Hearing

Valley Voice editor Ian McMurray attended the Kaslo & Area Fire Department’s ‘Be a Firefighter for a Night’ event as part of Fire Prevention Week on October 11.

Here he is, all suited up for the job, with firefighter Kevin Smith. There was a good turnout to the event, with 8 potential adult recruits and one junior recruit. The party used to require meetings to vote for nominees but now uses an online voting system for the convenience of members. In cases like Shadrack’s, a separate appeal committee is struck. “We try to make this process as fair as possible,” says Jonsson. “I know the BC Liberal Party does not have an appeal process and does not share information with the applicant about their application.”

Jonsson adds that the party does not favour gender quotas like the NDP and does not screen nominees for electability. That leaves only criteria such as no criminal record, no current drug or alcohol addictions, no major mental health issues, and no one who has been disciplined by a professional association for misconduct.
Dead Crow performance premieres in West Kootenay

Imagine a creature tens of thousands of years old, sent to Earth as a watcher by a shadowy race of gods. Now imagine that he’s equally capable of appearing as a crow or a human, with a bad attitude to match, and you have the personality profile of a character known as Dead Crow.

Created by author Sean Arthur Joyce, Dead Crow: Prologue had its debut performance at Kimberley’s Kaleidoscope Arts and Culture Festival in August. The debut is now being followed up by a West Kootenay tour featuring composer and guitarist Noel Fudge, who provides the live soundtrack for the show. Fudge – one half of the guitar-violin duo Freya – will also perform original solo compositions. The evening will feature Joyce reading poems from his latest book, _The Price of Transcendence_, described by Tom Wayman as “a first-rate collection.”

Joyce and Fudge will perform _Dead Crow: Prologue_ in Nakusp at the Bonnington Arts Centre Friday, October 28, 7 pm, with refreshments by Arrow Lakes Arts Council and Jennifer Chocolates; as part of the Café Langham Inspired Ideas series on Thursday, November 3, 7 pm in the Langham Theatre, Kaslo; in Nelson at The Front Room, 901 Front Street, Friday, November 10, 7:30 pm; and in New Denver at the Bonner Hall Saturday, November 5, 7 pm, with refreshments by Robin McNabb. Tickets available at the doors.

A stalwart on the West Kootenay

Loud vehicle exhaust systems: Best Practices document developed for police

The Valley Voice was recently informed by a man in Penticton that he has been working on the issue of over-loud vehicle exhaust systems, particularly in motorcycles, for four years, and he has finally received a letter from Clayton Pecknold, Assistant Minister of Justice. The letter states that “…the Province, through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, can set broad priorities and standards of Public Safety and Solicitor General, can set broad priorities and standards for police agencies, police, including the RCMP, deploy and manage their personnel. Individual investigations and operational enforcement decisions by police occur at arm’s length from government. “The Province will continue to work with the BC Association of Chiefs of Police as the police address the contradictions of existence. It’s a journey we all make throughout the course of a life. The Prologue provides the backstory of how and why Dead Crow found himself in this predicament. Joyce has plans to develop his manuscript into a full touring show. Noel Fudge is a versatile contemporary composer, whose talent knows no bounds. His portfolio ranges from film scores to choral and orchestral works, to singer-songwriter and instrumental music. He holds a BFA in composition from Simon Fraser University, and wrote and performed with the band Crop Circle, a group that received extensive radio play and toured Western Canada, opening for ZZ Top and Bif Naked. He’s a singer and a masterful guitarist, whose current projects include composing short film soundtracks with ICandyFilms, a variety of studio recording projects, and most notably, his work with the popular West Kootenay based guitar/violin duo, Freya, with violinist Martine denBlok. Their debut album is set for release in December 2016.
Celebrate credit union day and co-op week

On Thursday, October 20 credit unions and their members around the world will celebrate International Credit Union Day, to commemorate the credit union movement’s impact and achievements globally, nationally and locally. This year’s theme, The Authentic Difference, celebrates what makes credit unions stand out. Credit unions are recognized as a force for positive economic and social change and have provided significant value in both developed and emerging nations. “It is time for people to give more thought to where they bank because it does make a difference,” says Tom Atkins, Manager of Marketing and Relationship Development at NDCU. “Nelson & District Credit Union is a part of, not apart from, our communities and we know that local matters. We encourage the community to come learn more about being part of something different on International Credit Union Day.”

NDCU’s connection to the credit union and co-op system is well established. Collaboration within the Kootenays has strengthened the regional economy through partnerships of shared values that are rooted in our communities and not guided by profits. Help celebrate a movement that concerns itself with the financial success of all people. International Credit Union Day is sponsored by World Council of Credit Unions, the international trade association and development agency for credit unions and Canadian Credit Union Association, the Canadian national trade association for credit unions. In honour of this special day, NDCU invites its members and the community to our branches to help recognize how unique credit unions are.

In Canada, Co-op Week is celebrated to coincide with International Credit Union Day, which is marked annually on the third Thursday of October. This year, the Co-op Week of celebration will take place between October 16-22, 2016, the theme is ‘Our Co-op Advantages’. This celebration is an opportunity for members to help celebrate the positive impacts that credit unions and co-ops make in their communities.

The seven co-operative principles

1st Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership
Co-operatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.

2nd Principle: Democratic Member Control
Co-operatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-operatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3rd Principle: Member Economic Participation
Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate any surpluses of the co-op.

4th Principle: Autonomy and Independence
Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

5th Principle: Education, Training and Information
Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6th Principle: Concern for Community
While focusing on member needs, co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

7th Principle: Open Membership
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A New Economy film screens in Nelson for Co-op Week

Submitted

An energized group of Nelson co-operatives is preparing to host the Kootenay premiere of a new documentary film. 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.

The screening is being organized by a group of dedicated Nelson co-operators, including representatives from the Upper Columbia Co-op Council, Nelson & District Credit Union, Kootenay Co-op Radio and the Kootenay Co-op.

“People are looking for alternatives to traditional business models,” says Zoe 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 funded and developed 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. Space is limited to 80 seats. Please bring a cash or non-perishable donation in support of the Nelson Food Cupboard.

Co-op Week will take place from October 16 to 22, 2016, with International Credit Union Day on October 20. This year’s theme for Co-op Week is Our Co-op Advantage.

Objectives of Co-op Week

Explain the various benefits of the co-operative and mutualist business model for creating a sustainable economy;

Celebrate the significant contributions of co-operatives and mutuals in their communities across Canada;

Promote the relevance of the co-operative model, its mission as a local and sustainable development tool as well the values and principles that guide it;

Explore inter-cooperation through co-operation among co-operatives (principle 6). This could mean co-ops celebrating together during Co-op Week!

• Developing a better understanding of the advantages of co-operation among officers, employees, members of the movement and the general public.

Co-op Week: Our co-operative advantages

Submitted by Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada

Co-op Week is the opportunity for Canadian co-operative and credit union members to celebrate the fact that they have collectively helped to build this country. Co-op Week is recognition of their continuing contributions at home and abroad.

Co-op Week is always celebrated during the same week as International Credit Union Day, which is the third Thursday in October each year.

The theme of Co-op Week is Our Co-op Advantages, and Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada wants to ask people to share their views on why you choose to do business co-operatively with friends and family. If your co-operative holds an event each year, please share event photos with us on Facebook and show your co-op pride this October.

Co-op Week: Our co-operative advantages

Submit 129, 2016

The Valley Voice

October 19, 2016

A New Economy

Help celebrate Co-op Week with the Kootenay Premiere on International Credit Union Day

Thursday, October 20, 2016

The Front Room, 901 Front Street, Nelson, BC

Socialize @ 6:30 pm
Movie @ 7:00 pm
Socialize @ 8:30 pm
Done @ 9:00 pm

Please bring a cash or non-perishable donation in support of the Nelson Food Cupboard.

Open every day
7:30am - 9pm

Kootenay Co-op
295 Baker St, Nelson
250 354 4077
info@kootenay.coop
Small Business Week is a national celebration of Canadian entrepreneurs and their contribution to Canada’s economy. John Horgan, Official Opposition Leader, and Katrine Conroy, MLA for Kootenay West, are proud to support all small business owners and workers.

Katrine Conroy, MLA
Kootenay West
2-1006 3rd St.
Castlegar, BC V1N 3X6
250-304-2783
1-888-755-0556
Katrine.conroy.mla@leg.bc.ca
www.katrineconroy.ca

Unemployed? Want to start a business? We can help.

Community Futures offers support to Central Kootenay residents who want to become small business owners through our Self Employment Program. The program has helped more than 1,600 small and home based businesses start up and run successfully in our region.

To learn more about the program call:
250.352.1933 x100 Nelson
250.265.3674 x201 Nakusp
or visit futures.bc.ca
Edgewood ribbon company supplies the country

by Katrine Campbell

With a lot of hard work and a little help from Columbia Basin Trust, a company housed in an Edgewood barn is set to become one of only two ribbon print shops in BC after buying out a competitor in Vernon.

Okanagan Ribbons is a major supplier for the event and award ribbons and recognition trade in Western Canada, also a major supplier to the retail award trade in Western Canada, also a major supplier to the retail award trade in Western Canada, also a major supplier to the retail award trade in Western Canada, also a major supplier to the retail award trade in Western Canada. It is a recognition of achievement and stores as well as other retail outlets, supplying many trophy and engraving services for a wide range of businesses.

The company is located in a former barn/garage on her property, which was expanded to about 1,000 square feet to accommodate the ribbon shop, and a shipping container was added for storage.

The addition of DiKor’s equipment and customer list has meant an increase in business but since it’s been less than two months, the owners say they don’t know by how much. They had been shipping all over Canada, but this summer they also shipped to the US and to Kuwait.

“We’ve been doing a lot of custom orders, things that are not what we typically do, for example a medal ribbon to go on wine bottles.”

Their strongest request was for teddy bear sashes: “We had to get a teddy bear to figure out how to build them and how to print on them.”

Their motto has been “if we have the equipment and material, we’ll attempt to put together whatever you might request.”

“We’ve been doing a lot of custom orders, things that are not what we typically do, for example a medal ribbon to go on wine bottles.”

To contact Okanagan Ribbons, call 250-269-7173 or 1-888-545-7647, or email okanaganribbons@gmail.com. Check out their website at www.ribbonsonline.net.

“We’ve been doing a lot of custom orders, things that are not what we typically do, for example a medal ribbon to go on wine bottles.”

The business helps the economy in a big way. It provides employment for four full-time workers and five part-time employees. In addition to McNutt and Isaacson, there are also four members of the company。”

To contact Okanagan Ribbons, call 250-269-7173 or 1-888-545-7647, or email okanaganribbons@gmail.com. Check out their website at www.ribbonsonline.net.

Lynda McNutt is co-owner of Okanagan Ribbons in Edgewood.

Bon Marché

DOLLAR $ DOLLAR

Todd and Val

416 Broadway St

Nakusp, BC

265-2654

Marvin’s Small Motor Repair

Marvin

98 - 1st Ave. NW

Nakusp

265-4911

Wood Fire Pizza

312 Broadway St

Nakusp, BC

(250) 265-0060

Janis and Shon

Shon

409 Broadway St

Nakusp, BC

250-265-3332

Kelly Roberts, Owner/Broker

Le ROYAL Le PAGE

Ph: 250-265-3635

email: nakusp@royallepage.ca

www.selkirkrealty.com

Barbara & Alan

Burlton City Cider

5470 Hwy 6, Burton • 250-265-7044

info@BurltonCityCider.ca

Burlton City Cider.ca

Thanks from the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce

We’d like to thank our volunteer board members (below), and our Chamber Member businesses, and our dedicated staff for all their support and hard work.
submitted

The Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC) is made up of 12 of your friends and neighbours, who sit as volunteers to find ways to encourage economic development throughout the valley. There are four elected officials and eight community members representing Slocan Silverton, New Denver and rural Area H.

One of the projects undertaken by the SVEDC, in partnership with the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce, was a Business Retention and Expansion survey. The results of the survey have helped us to choose topics for a series of six Lunch & Learn sessions, each held in three Valley locations. The Lunch & Learn covered topics such as Workplace Training, Wage Subsidy Programs and Legal Basics for Business Owners. Continuing this series, a half-day Brunch & Learn focusing on business succession planning will be held at Lemon Creek Lodge to help business owners plan for the future of their business. In 2014, the Commission was nominated to allocate almost $300,000 of CBT Community Development Commission was nominated to allocate almost $300,000 of CBT Community funding.

The report by OpenMedia concluded that independent or regional providers offer a significantly better deal to consumers when it comes to data caps and overage charges, issues currently being examined by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

Key findings from the report include:

- A survey of residential internet data caps reveals that independent and regional providers have less restrictive data caps and more regions offering unlimited data than their incumbent competitors. It also found that residents of Canada’s north face much lower data caps and steeper overage charges than other Canadians. Today’s report is a follow-up to one published by OpenMedia in June that revealed Canadians are getting a raw deal on data caps and overage charges when it comes to wireless internet.
- “For Big Telecom customers, mean-spirited data caps, high prices, and extortionate overage fees all come as part of the package,” said Katy Anderson, OpenMedia’s digital rights specialist. “As our report shows, Canadians looking for a better deal would be wise to check out what their local indie providers have to offer. These findings underline the positive impact that indie providers can have when allowed to compete fairly on a level playing field.”
- Anderson continued: “The big telcos like to claim that data caps and overage fees are somehow essential, but today’s report shows that’s just not true. If small providers can offer unlimited Internet at an affordable price, then large telcos can do the same. Data caps are just an artificial way to depress demand, disinvesting much-needed infrastructure investment. In most industrialized nations, data caps on wireless Internet are simply unheard of. Our report underscores the need for the CRTC to step up and provide Canadians with relief.”

There are four elected officials and eight community members representing Slocan Silverton, New Denver and rural Area H.

Another project delivered by the Commission holds a minimum of four meetings a year which are open to the public. Questions or comments can be sent to the SVEDC through the website, www.slocanvalley.com.

submitted

A recent report reveals that Canadians wanting a better deal on their internet should check out the offerings of smaller, independent providers. The report by OpenMedia concluded that independent or regional providers offer a significantly better deal to consumers when it comes to data caps and overage charges, issues currently being examined by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

The report found that large incumbent telecom companies charge an average of three times more in data overage fees than their smaller competitors. It also found that residents of Canada’s north face much lower data caps and steeper overage charges than other Canadians. Today’s report is a follow-up to one published by OpenMedia in June that revealed Canadians are getting a raw deal on data caps and overage charges when it comes to wireless internet.

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Key findings from the report include:

- A survey of residential internet data caps reveals that independent and regional providers have less restrictive data caps and more regions offering unlimited data than their incumbent national competitors.
- The penalties for exceeding your data cap, known as overage charges, are significantly lacking in connectivity. In Nunavut, for example, a recent Canadian Internet Registration Authority report revealed that fewer than one in three communities have internet access. And, where access is available, consumers across the north face overage fees of up to $250/GB, and data caps far smaller than those available in the rest of Canada.
- In essence, data caps are a punitive practice designed to goad customers for more money, and are not the regulatory tools that large incumbent ISPs claim. When compared with the offerings from regional and independent providers, Big Telecom’s excesses for the existence of restrictive data caps are unsubstantiated.

The CRTC’s ongoing consultation is examining the issue of data caps and the associated practice of ‘zero-rating,’ where telcos strike deals to make certain apps data free but not others, while using low data caps to force customers into these ‘preferred’ services. A thread on Reddit as part of its consultation has seen over 1,200 comments, a large portion of which focused on data caps.

Canada’s big telecom providers are deeply divided on the issue of zero-rating, with Bell and Telus in favour, and Rogers siding with consumer advocates who argue it stifles innovation and choice. US giants including T-Mobile and Netflix have also expressed opposition to zero-rating. OpenMedia recently submitted over 5,900 unique comments to the CRTC’s consultation, alongside a 50-page policy submission reflecting internet users’ priorities. Over 42,000 Canadians have participated in OpenMedia’s End Data Caps campaign. Canadians are continuing to call for action on data caps at https://act.openmedia.org/datacaps/comment. OpenMedia works to keep the internet open, affordable, and surveillance-free. We create community-driven campaigns to engage, educate, and empower people to safeguard the Internet.
Kaslo Clubhouse Restaurant to remain open year-round

by Jan McMurray

Chef Gordon Kleef has been running the Kaslo Clubhouse Restaurant at the Kaslo golf course since the spring, and he intends to keep the restaurant open year-round. “I really enjoyed the summer here and am looking forward to continuing over the winter,” he said.

Some very special meals are on offer this winter – a prime rib dinner on Friday nights, an ethnic dish on Saturday nights, and a Sunday brunch buffet.

Chef Kleef almost always has specials for the lunch crowd, as well. “The parmesan and leek tarte has been very popular,” he says. Soup and half a sandwich, a pasta dish, and butter chicken are other examples of his lunchtime specials.

“I’m learning about Kaslo and what will work here,” he says. “I’m constantly thinking of new things to try.”

Chef Kleef heard about the opportunity to lease the Kaslo Clubhouse Restaurant through a friend. When he saw the beautiful timber frame building with spectacular views, he was sold. “This is the best venue you could imagine,” he says.

In the industry for his entire adult life, Chef Kleef started out at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver, and then worked at a French restaurant with a gold medal chef. “I learned pretty much everything by watching him and asking questions,” recalls Kleef. After working in restaurants in Vancouver for several years, Chef Kleef wanted to run his own place.

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He moved to Nelson and opened Baci’s in 2001, then Café Kas from 2003 to 2009. “I love the creativity and the freedom that comes with having my own restaurant,” he says. “Using the knowledge I’ve gained over the years, I love to take classic recipes and bring them back to life in this day.”

With Christmas party season coming on, Chef Kleef encourages people to give him a call. He’s known to put on an amazing spread for crowds. He is also available for off-site catering.

Chef Kleef can accommodate special dietary needs; he appreciates a call ahead.

The Kaslo Clubhouse Restaurant winter hours are Thursday through Sunday: Thursday and Friday from 11 am to 8 pm, Saturday from 3 pm to 8 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Reservations are recommended. 353-2662.

By Jan McMurray

Chef Gordon Kleef, former chef of Café Kas in Nelson

Book your Christmas party now!

Spectacular venue for special events

Reservations recommended • 250-353-2262
Slocan District Chamber of Commerce working to help the valley thrive

submitted
“The Slocan District Chamber of Commerce strives for a vibrant, diverse and healthy economy that respects the environment and community values of the Slocan district.”

Steve
BUILDING SUPPLIES
521 Lake Avenue • Silverton
Phone: 358-2293
Toll-free: 1-800-332-0588
sbs@silvertonbuilding.ca

This is the mission statement that guides the work of the Slocan District Chamber.

“We encourage all businesses and organizations in the valley to become members,” says Chamber president Jan McMurray. “There are several benefits to being a member, plus you support our work to help the Slocan Valley thrive.”

Slocan District Chamber memberships are very reasonable: $60 a year for businesses and $35 a year for non-profits and individuals. The membership fee includes a free listing on the Chamber’s website (www.slocanlake.com), a free rack space for your brochure at the Visitor Information Centre in New Denver, access to the Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan, and a chance to participate in the Chamber’s projects.

The Chamber’s projects include operating the Visitor Information Centre in New Denver, working on the West Koot Route regional tourism initiative in alliance with the Nakusp & District and Kaslo & Area Chambers, and partnering with the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission on a Business Retention & Expansion project.

In the past year, the Chamber has struck a Health Committee to help maintain and improve health services in the valley.

Annual events sponsored by the Chamber include the Air Band Contest in April, the May Days Pancake Breakfast at the New Denver May Days Celebration, and Merchants’ Night, a late night shopping event in New Denver in December.

Contact the Chamber for more information: chamber@slocanlake.com.

West Koot Route marketing campaign underway

submitted
The West Koot Route tourism initiative is in its third year, and is moving forward with a marketing campaign for the Arrow Lakes, Slocan, and North Kootenay Lake Valleys.

The initiative is a project of the West Koot Route Tourism Alliance, a partnership between the Nakusp & District, Slocan District, and Kaslo & Area Chambers of Commerce.

In the first year of the initiative, a branding project resulted in the name, logo, and brand positioning statement. The Chamber’s projects include operating the Visitor Information Centre in New Denver, working on the West Koot Route regional tourism initiative in alliance with the Nakusp & District and Kaslo & Area Chambers, and partnering with the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission on a Business Retention & Expansion project.

In the second year, a business plan and a marketing plan were completed. This year marks the first phase of implementation of the marketing plan. The West Koot Route Tourism Alliance was successful in obtaining more than $30,000 in grant funding this year to produce a printed Visitor Guide for the area, upgrade the website (westkootroute.ca), establish a photo library, and launch a social media and print ad campaign. These projects will be completed in time for the 2017 season, with a focus on the fall shoulder season.

CFIB offers webinars on fraud prevention

submitted
One in five small businesses in Canada will suffer a financial hit from some form of fraud, and the average small business will spend $6,200 fighting fraud. This is why, at the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses (CFIB), we put a lot of effort, focus and attention on helping our members fight fraud in their businesses.

CFIB has teamed up with Chase Paymannet and Visa to bring you a free webinar to help you prevent and fight fraud in your place of business. You’ll learn:
- Small business security basics
- How to protect customer data
- Red flags against fraud
- PCI Data Security Standards
- What to do if you get scammed

There will be a 15 minute Q&A at the end of the presentation. You bring the Qs. We’ll provide the As!

This webinar is free but space is limited. Please sign up for your preferred date, either October 25 or October 27 at 10 am, through the website: www.cfib-fcei.ca.

Under the agreement reached by Prime Minister Trudeau and provincial premiers, CPP premiums paid by employers and employees will increase starting in 2019. Pension reform is a priority issue for all working people in Canada. And it’s gratifying that the efforts of the Canadian Labour Congress and member unions to expand the CPP will make retirement life better for so many Canadians.”

The West Koot Route Tourism Alliance is working to help promote local Kootenay businesses and organizations for over 10 years.

Stay tuned for updates as the project unfolds. For more information, contact Jan McMurray at jmcmurrayjr@gmail.com.

West Koot Route tourism campaign

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Slocan council: Paving in Slocan probably won’t happen as planned

by Barbara Curry McAlabby

• At the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 19, the YRB’s offer of free paving in the village was discussed. In attendance were Tennessee Trent, Ministry of Forests, Lands, & Natural Resource Operations, Parks & Rec Division and Slocan Valley Rail Trail Society board members Craig Lawrence, Helene Dostalter, and Charlie Mack. Council and attendees agreed that it would be better to pave the south end of Main Street to and around the boat launch, but that the area around the gazebo should be left for potential park or greenspace. Council also approved paving the lower RV Park lot and entrance if enough paving material is available.

Unfortunately, at the October 11 council meeting, Mayor Lunn reported that the materials YRB was planning to donate to the “may not be usable, so likely paving won’t happen. Hopefully they will think of us again if future opportunity arises.” Council also discussed the Ministry of Transportation about their local paving, and to inquire about potential costs for paving in Slocan.

• In her mayor’s report, Jessica Lunn said the Village’s presentation about the Owl Walk at UBCM went well, as did meetings with Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing and Deputy Premier. She also thanked Hike and Bike for Seniors Housing participants and the Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society for organizing its Seniors’ Housing fundraiser. Lunn praised the Press Fest initiative, which resulted in 10,000 litres of apple juice. Organized by the West Kootenay Permaculture Coop and WEGCSS, the event raised money for the Kootenay Food Centre that will be located in Slocan.

The RDCK has approved Community Development grants for cemetery mapping and improvements to local signage.

• CAO Gordon reported that she had submitted an application to the CBT Environmental Grant Program for $22,675. The funds would go towards the costs of installing 15 bear-proof bins in the village. Tim Hill, Public Works supervisor, reported that bags of household waste have been deposited in or beside non-bear-proof garbage cans in public areas of the Village and Public Works staff has had to clean up garbage regularly. A ‘Bear Aware’ campaign will also be launched in the village.

A $1.845 million for trades training at Selkirk College submitted

The Province has invested $1.845 million in Selkirk College for skills training in high-priority trades seats at the college’s Silver King campus in Nelson. The investment, through the Industry Training Authority (ITA), will fund 458 seats through to March 31, 2017, in various trades, including electrician, carpenter, cook, joiner and welder.

The funding is part of the ITA’s annual allocation to BC post-secondary institutions and training providers to run various training programs throughout the province. The government has worked in partnership with the ITA to begin building a demand-driven trades training system with funding assigned to specific in-demand trades.

The provincial government invests more than $94 million annually in industry training through the ITA. The ITA leads and coordinates British Columbia’s skilled trades system by working with employers, employees, industry, labour, training providers and government to issue credentials, manage apprenticeships, set program standards and increase opportunities in the trades.

“Trades foundation programs are the cornerstone of Selkirk College’s yearly training plan,” said Kate Pelletier, dean of the School of Industry and Trades Training. “Along with our apprenticeship programs, they provide opportunities for individuals in our region to train in areas that will be in demand, provide them with a rewarding career and create a successful livelihood.”

BC is expecting up to one million job openings by 2025 due to retirements and economic growth. Eight of every 10 of these job openings will require post-secondary education or trades training.

TELS offers cheap internet to low income families submitted

Single-parent families across the province on income or disability assistance could be eligible for a new pilot program that will offer them low-cost internet service. In the coming weeks, approximately 18,000 single-parent families currently receiving assistance from the province will receive a coupon code in the mail. The code will allow them to activate TELUS’ offer of Internet service for $9.95 a month. This innovative pilot program is entirely funded by TELUS and comes at no cost to the government or to taxpayers.

The program was set up to give families access to opportunities such as applying for a job, accessing online learning, connecting with distant loved ones, or virtually experiencing vibrant art and music. Participants will have access to up to 25 Mbps download speeds and 300GB of data per month.

“Internet connectivity will ensure these families are empowered to reach their full potential in our increasingly digital society,” said TELUS president Darren Entwistle.

For more information contact Caitlin Hinton, Program Assistant at chinott@cbt.org.

$21,608 BC Rural Dividend grant was approved to fund a Regional Economic Development Strategy in the upper Slocan Valley. New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and Area H will all be supported by the project.

• Mayor and council will attend the November 11 Remembrance Day service at the Slocan Legion Hall. Participants will meet at the hall at 10:45 am, march to the cenotaph, and then back to the hall for the service and a light lunch. The mayor will speak at the service. At 4 pm, the Legion will hold a Candelight Gathering at the graveyard. Candles will be placed on the graves of veterans.

• Next year, the Labour Day Family Fun Fair will be held on a Sunday so that “many more vendors and exhibitors” will be able to attend. Council approved the Spirit of Slocan Committee’s request for use of the Expo Park, soccer field and concession stand area on September 2 for set-up and September 3, 2017 for the event.

• Council approved a request from Gail Morris to host the Halloween Hoot at the Ball Park and adjacent area from June 4 to Sept 5, 2017. When the area has been reserved for other events (such as soccer tournaments, Unity overflow camping, Family Fun Fair), the Saturday Market will be held only with the approval of the other event. Next year, Morris proposes to have extended Saturday Markets once a month. Called ‘twilight markets,’ the events will run till 11 pm and feature live music.

• An invitation from the BC Ministry of Transportation “to nominate people, places or events of provincial significance” for commemoration on Stop of Interest signs was forwarded to the Provincial government to issue credentials, and superb diversity in industry training through the ITA. The ITA leads and co-

• Council approved a $21,608 BC Rural Dividend grant to the Village of Slocan Valley Historical Society. The ministry wants to add up to 175 new Stop of Interest signs throughout BC.

• CAO Michelle Gordon reported that the shipping container on Harold Street which council had requested be removed had actually been put in place in 2010. The bylaw forbidding shipping containers in the Village came into effect in 2013. That shipping container is therefore allowed to remain. The shipping container on Park Avenue, however, was placed recently and must be removed within 30 days.

• Council approved a $200 RDCK Discretionary Grant for the WEGCSS Food Bank Christmas Hamper Program. This is an increase of $50 from last year’s grant. Single/couple hampers are expected to cost $125 and family hampers $150. The Halloween Hoot was given a $750 RDCK Discretionary Grant. $234.88 remains in the fund.

• Council endorsed the RDCK application for funding from the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program to undertake a flood and geo-hazard risk assessment.

For further information contact Kathy Smith @ 250-265-4950
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New regulations protect homeowners but raise costs

by Katrine Campbell

Planning to build a new house this year? Be aware of a few changes that could cost you more money if you’re not on top of them.

The provincially-mandated SIFCo new regulations to control wildlife protection.

Submitted

SIFCo ready to go on New Denver wildlife protection

The Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo), the Slocan Valley based community forest, has just begun phase two of its comprehensive wildlife protection plan for the Village of New Denver. SIFCo has worked with the Village since January 2016 to access the funds to do a prescription and then for operational funding. In late September, the Village heard that an orphan cub rescued in New Denver died in shelter.

Orphan cub rescued in New Denver

by Katrine Campbell

Pilipil, one of the three orphaned bear cubs rescued near New Denver September 8, has died and her brother, Huckleberry is in critical condition. The third cub, Lavender, is still healthy and showing no symptoms at all.

Angelika Lagen, speaking for the Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter, says the two cubs suddenly became very sick on October 15. Staff treated them with antibiotics, but were guessing at the problem because they were unable to get the cubs tested over the weekend.

“We’ve seen this once or twice before,” said Lagen. “In late September, we thought the bears were carrying a parasite and we’re learing towards that.”

Pilipil died early Sunday morning. Her body was taken to a vet on Monday but the results of lab work to determine cause of death would not be available until at least Wednesday.

“We will use the information to treat her brother [Huckleberry],” said Lagen.

“He is very sick, on intravenous feeding with a wide-spectrum antibiotic. We’re keeping him alive; he hasn’t got any worse but is very weak. He has no fever, no infection, his bowels are normal. Everything is normal except he has no muscle control. We can’t pinpoint the cause but it could be poisoning. We have a real puzzle on our hands.”

Disposing of them properly is the operational funding application was approved. This will allow SIFCo to clear brush, limbs and small trees that could fuel a wildfire. It also takes a council with a vision of a safer community for these applications to be successful,” says SIFCo manager Stephen Martineau. “Without the belief in what SIFCo is proposing and a willingness to buck it up with action by council and staff, we would be unable to do this work.”

Ninety percent of the funding comes from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). Ten percent, however, still needs to be raised, and SIFCo says it is committed to helping the village find other sources of funding. Its basic approach is to make sure that wildlife protection does not burden a Village financially.

“Indeed, on a $430,000 project, we cap the Village’s contribution to $55,000,” says Martineau. “That way the Village and its residents receive a state-of-the-art protection plan without an outrageous price tag.”

Work will be ongoing, weather permitting, until June 2018. The project will treat 43.6 hectares of Crown and municipal land in and around the Village of New Denver. A public information session will be held at 7 pm November 8 at Knox Hall.

Donations may be sent to: The Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter, 17366 Telkwa High Road, Smithers, BC V0J 2N7, or online at northernlightswildlife.ca.

Bears love pumpkins, put them away after Halloween

If you want to use one or more Jack o’ Lanterns for decoration this year, keep them in your window. Don’t put them outside until Hallowee’en night, and take them in after the ghosts and goblins have gone home and before the bears come out.

You might only eat pumpkin pie as a treat, but bears aren’t so fussy. They’re desperate to put on poundage before they den up for the winter, and will eat whatever they can find.

Bree Lillies, the New Denver area WildSafeBC co-ordinator, says the message is always to reduce attractants to avoid bear/ human conflict. Attractants can include fruit trees, compost, livestock and, yes, Jack o’ Lanterns.

WildSafeBC advises homeowners to keep garbage and compost secure, clean up fruit on trees and avoid putting out bird seed before bears have started denning, in order to avoid attracting bears to your home.

“The activity we’ve seen in New Denver over the last couple of months, we need to be conscious of attractants on property until the bears den up,” Lillies says. “Generally, that’s in mid-November but it depends on how the season unfolds.”

She talked with the K/1 class at Lucerne, telling the kids to tell their parents to put the pumpkins away when trick-or-treating starts, then bring them in when the fun is done. Disposing of them properly is also important.

Sierra Club of BC tour on Site C Dam comes to Nelson

A chance to learn more about the controversy around the construction of the Site C Dam on the Peace River is coming up in Nelson. The Sierra Club of BC hosts a public talk at the Nelson United Church on Friday, October 28 at 7 pm as part of a province-wide tour on the issue.

The Peace Valley can provide fruits and vegetables for one million people, and abundant traditional harvests of trout, moose, berries and medicinal plants for the region’s First Nations.

“The Site C Dam is a $10 billion plus issue for the people of BC. It’s an environmental travesty and a blatant violation of First Nations self-determination. It’s a project that has been all over BC or talking about Site C,” says Ana Simeon, Sierra Club organizer.

Assurance to assume liability if she wants her home built. There is an exemption in the Act for owner-builders but that loophole has a catch; owner-builders must pass the licensing test in order to assume liability themselves.

At the New Denver council meeting October 11, CAO Bruce Woodbury said the exemption was tightened because some contractors who claimed they were building for themselves turned around and sold the houses.

Gone too are the days of calling in a catch-of-all trades and a backhoe operator to install your septic field. You must hire a registered onsite wastewater practitioner who has met the training and certification requirements set by the Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) before installing and maintaining wastewater systems.

For more information, visit https://bc homeowners.com.

To: The Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter, 17366 Telkwa High Road, Smithers, BC V0J 2N7, or online at northernlightswildlife.ca.
COMMUNITY

The Village Hearth Restaurant holds grand opening October 22

submitted

Mark your calendars! The grand opening of the Village Hearth Restaurant in downtown New Denver is happening on Saturday, October 22 from 5 to 9 pm. There will be a brief ceremony at 6 pm to mark the occasion.

“Come out and celebrate our new farm to table restaurant!” says Heather Fox, restaurant manager.

“After a year or so of working towards opening these doors, it’s time for a party. We’re really looking forward to celebrating this community venture with the community,” The Village Hearth Restaurant is a project of the Healthy Community Society, which is working on bringing the community together around local agriculture and food security, “We established the restaurant to ensure a local market for local food, and to create a community gathering place,” Fox said.

The grand opening night will feature a special tapas-style menu, and a special beverage, too. There will be music by Bessie Wapp, a well known musician from Nelson. All customers can enter a draw for a chance to win a dinner for two; the winner will be drawn at the end of the night.

“This is a chance to celebrate our wonderful local farmers, our beautiful local food, and this exciting new restaurant project,” Fox said. “See you there!”

Deconstructing Dinner Film Festival returns for 2016

submitted

Now into its fourth year, the Deconstructing Dinner Film Festival will be hosted once again in Nelson. This year’s festival of food documentary films expands to 12 films over five days at five venues. The schedule for 2016 is spread out between October 26 and November 12 – making it much easier for lovers of good food and drink to attend more events.

The event was founded in 2012 by food journalist Jon Steinman of Deconstructing Dinner. Steinman curates the films for each Festival. Launching the Fest on October 26 at the Civic Theatre is Racing Extinction from the Academy Award winning filmmakers of The Cove. Spanning the globe to infiltrate the world’s most dangerous black markets and using high tech tactics to document the link between carbon emissions and species extinction, Racing Extinction reveals stunning, never-before-seen images that truly change the way we see the world. The film has received one Academy Award nomination and one Emmy nomination. Steinman calls the film “one of the most important of our time.”

Two short films from Anna Lappe’s Real Food Media Awards will round out the evening. Other films to watch out for this year are That Sugar Film, Caffeinated, Seeds of Time, Sour Grapes, The Benevolent Butcher, Growing Local, The Market Gardener’s Toolkit, Shuckers and The Oyster Men.

The 2016 Festival also features quite a few live music acts including Dawn McLennan (harp) and Jessica Doerner (cello), jazz duo Clinton Swanson and Rob Fahie, Argenta’s Rodman & Spring and a closing concert with the popular Red Eyed Soul.

A festival tradition returns with Brent the Oyster Man who will once again offer up his two-buck-a-shuck oyster bar at the closing party on November 12 at the Spirit Bar. Local dinner selections including Kaslo Sourdough Pasta, an NBC beer sample, great oyster films and live music will make for a fun and entertaining evening.

Check out the festival guide for showtimes and tickets at filmfest.deconstructingdinner.com.

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