DeGroot family launches wrongful death lawsuit against RCMP

by Art Joyce

Danna DeGroot, sister of the late Peter DeGroot, who was slain in Slocan by an RCMP tactical squad in October 2014, is suing the RCMP for wrongful death. Ms. DeGroot says not only was she barred from attending the scene when she offered to negotiate with her brother, the police were acting on misinformation about Peter that contributed to the violent and ultimately fatal escalation of the situation.

Ms. DeGroot's court document states that the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) and Police Reporting Occurrence System (PROS) had mistakenly listed Peter as schizophrenic, when his condition was actually cognitive impairment due to multiple brain aneurysms. The family had acted proactively to alert local authorities to this fact well before the incident, providing the local RCMP detachment with contact information for the DeGroot family, a support worker and the neurosurgeon who had operated on him. Despite false reports that DeGroot had been trained by the military as a marksman, he had never been in the military. Contrary to the image of Peter painted by the media, he was well educated, with a BA in political science and history from Carleton University and an MA in political theory from the University of Western Ontario. He possessed a registered firearm from the University and an MA in political theory from the University of Western Ontario.

In her statement, Ms. DeGroot notes that “people in mental health crisis account for 40 percent of civilian shooting deaths by police in Canada and that erroneous information about disabled persons suffering a mental illness or cognitive disability and their personal histories are significant factors in the appropriate responses of police to these persons.” DeGroot claims that despite the BC RCMP’s “sustainable community program,” “the RCMP on site in Slocan did not act in accord with these policies and procedures,” and that “there were no efforts at de-escalation by the police authorities.”

The Independent Investigations Office (IIO) has said that the events of the police manhunt are beyond their jurisdiction, and that they can only determine nor completed its report.

Don't forget to book your oil service with your seasonal tire change!

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Trout Lake miner makes the find of a lifetime

by Katrine Campbell

The miners who flooded into the Slocan and surrounding areas 120 years ago were after the rich veins of silver, which over the years produced more than 55 million ounces worth more than $1.3 billion (Cdn) at today’s prices.

Today, the focus has shifted to gold. The Willa Mine near Silverton isn’t in production yet, but assay results have shown up to 6.67 g gold per tonne (worth about $299). Darrell Davis’ assay results were so high, the Lake has that number beat. Darrell Davis of Trout Lake near Silverton owns a lot of equipment. He also owns a mill at Trout Lake.

“Does this look like gold to you?” Davis and his wife Jennifer live in Salmon Arm but have a cabin in Trout Lake, where he grew up and went to school. The life-long miner had staked a chunk of land in the area, but wanted to add a couple of hundred thousand per truckload with a truck and a pup.

“I own the land,” he says. “I might go to Cominco – you give them the ore, they mill it and give you a cheque. Even at three oz per tonne, that would be a couple of hundred thousand per truckload with a truck and a pup. I know I gotta be careful. I might go with a company, I might go to Cominco, or a big company, it’s not hard to do. I could do it myself, and there’s a couple of companies that are interested. I’ve written about 10 deals in the past and I know I gotta be careful. I might go private, I might go with a company if they hand over a chunk of change.

Each Crown grant is 53 acres, and Davis now has 1,866 ha/4,609 acres staked. It’s not just a mining claim.”

“Everything’s on the surface, and it’s not hard to do. I could do it myself, and there’s a couple of companies that are interested. I’ve written about 10 deals in the past and I know I gotta be careful. I might go private, I might go with a company if they hand over a chunk of change. I might go to Cominco – you give them the ore, they mill it and give you a cheque. Even at three oz per tonne, that would be a couple of hundred thousand per truckload with a truck and a pup.”

“We’ll probably get drilling in the spring. If not, we’ll get a big excavator and strip the surface.”

To go into production will cost money, of course. If he were to use the Cominco option, the cost to go into production would be up to $300,000. A $5,000/ha bond has to be paid, but other costs are covered; his company, Davis Mining, already owns a lot of equipment. He also muses about using the mill at Trout Lake.

“Does this look like gold to you?”

“Originally they thought the vein was about 2.5 m wide, but when the Davises were looking at the photos they thought it looked wider. They went back up to the claim, dug with a pulaski and could see visible gold in the rusty quartz.

“We were pretty excited!”

They went a few feet away and got the same results, and then again and again until they hit the 24 m mark. At that point, it was getting too deep to hit bedrock digging by hand, so they stopped.

“That’s 24 metres wide. Who knows how long it is?”

Ironically, the grant Davis wanted originally was the Winslow vein, which runs 3.5 to 10 per tonne.

“The old timers missed it by six inches,” he says. “I pay taxes on the property and have mineral, water, surface and placer rights. These are as good as it gets! It’s not just a mining claim.”

He approached the company to buy two of the six dormant properties, but was told the board said it was all or nothing. Davis didn’t hesitate. These grants, he says, were issued around the turn of the last century and include all the rights.

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Each Crown grant is 53 acres, and Davis now has 1,866 ha/4,609 acres staked. “If you drove around the outside of the claim [the trip] would be 25.6 km,” he says.

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Another trail-building season is coming to a close, and the Kootenay Sufferfest Society has been busy building a hiking trail in the Mt. Buchanan Recreation Area near Kaslo, and a mountain bike trail at Box Lake near Nakusp.

The Mt. Buchanan trail was funded through the CTB Recreation Infrastructure program. “Sufferfest’s interest in creating the trail is to use it for the 50 kilometre trail run, but also would be an asset to the community, she said. The society is hoping to hire a crew to build this trail next season.”

At Box Lake, thanks to CTB Community Initiatives funding, the society hired a crew through Work BC to create a 3.5-kilometre uphill trail. “All the trails at Box Lake are meant to be ridden downhill, which is super fun, but lots of people want to ride up. The only option before was the logging road.”

The trail up, Neufeld said, “is far more fun” than the logging road and is a great draw for tourists. It also makes an Enduro Race possible.

“Enduro Races are very popular right now, which is why Sufferfest wants to host one,” she said. The society is looking at partnering with the “Wildside Series”, well known among Enduro mountain bikers, to give the Box Lake race bigger exposure and help increase the number of participants. “We’re hoping to hold the first Enduro in April 2017,” said Neufeld.

The Mt. Abriel mountain biking project is also set to start in spring 2017, if fundraising efforts are successful. The Nakusp and Area Bike Society is taking the lead on this project, with support from Sufferfest. Located about 10 minutes north of Nakusp, Neufeld says the area covers eight square kilometres from the mountaintop to the lakefront, and includes four kilometres of lakeshore.

“It will be a world-class mountain biking destination with trails for all abilities, all styles, all ages,” she said.

Finally, Neufeld says the Kootenay Sufferfest Society is evolving, rebranding and restructuring. “Watch for exciting news in 2017!” she said.

### Sinixt man hunts for legal recognition for Sinixt in Canada

**by Jan McMurray**

Rick Desautel, a Sinixt man who lives on the Colville Reservation in Washington State, is trying to gain legal recognition for the Sinixt in Canada. Through this, he was recently on trial in the Nelson courthouse for hunting in the Cashlogar area without a licence and as a non-resident. The judgement is expected in spring 2017.

“I’m trying to get recognition that we’re not extinct and we never have relinquished our hunting or gathering rights in our traditional area,” he said. “Although you call it Canada, it’s our traditional area, where our grandparents are buried, and where there are pictographs and pithouses – places I feel are very important to protect.”

Desautel says it took him a long time to get charged so he could go to court. Since 1988, he has been notifying the BC Conservation Officer Service of his Canadian hunting trips and the animals he has killed.

“They ignored me from 1988 to 2010; but when the Colville Confederated Tribes started backing me, that’s when I got their attention,” he says. Several people from the reserve started following Desautel’s lead and contacting the Conservation Officer Service about their hunting trips in Canada.

Desautel was charged in 2010, 2012 and 2013. This trial is about the 2010 charge. He expects the case to go to the BC Supreme Court and then to the Supreme Court of Canada. “I’m 64 now, and I’ll probably be 79 by the time it’s all over,” he said.

Even if we lose, it will be in the court records for all to see that there was an Arrow Lakes [Sinixt] tribal member fighting for his hunting and fishing rights in this time and space.”

Desautel says he wants the Sinixt to be recognized “so we can have more clout in that area to protect the historical sites – the pits and pithouses. There has already been a lot lost in Canada. If we could get off the extinction list, we could work with the government to protect a lot of sites.”

He remembered Virgil Seymour, who was working as the Arrow Lakes Facilitator for the Colville Confederated Tribes when he passed away in June this year. Seymour was also working towards recognition for the Sinixt in Canada.

### Silverton will explore taking over Red Mountain Internet service

**by Jan McMurray**

The Village of Silverton is looking at taking over the local internet service. At Silverton council’s October 25 Committee of the Whole meeting, council gave staff the go-ahead to explore the proposal, which was recently put forward to council by the Red Mountain Internet Society.

However, council always thought that broadband should be approached as a public utility, so it’s definitely open to the Village taking this on...” said Councillor Main. “I am coming at it from the point of view that telecommunications is necessary.”

Mayor Clarke was on the same wavelength. “I think the future of especially rural local governments is to provide internet alongside water and garbage, specifically because it’s vital in order to have a local economy and to have a voice on the world stage.”

Clarke added that he is concerned about the future of RIMS, and that RIMS clients have no other option, “so I think it behooves us to explore this.”

Councillor Christian expressed concerns about keeping the service going 24/7/365. Mayor Clarke pointed out that Silverton residents also expect their water to work 24/7 too, “so it’s the same thing.”

RIMS has indicated that the system needs new generation technology upgrades as well as capital infrastructure upgrades at a very rough cost estimate of $40,000. The internet service’s infrastructure includes the main tower on private property on Red Mountain Road (the property owner is working on providing access and an easement), a tower on private land in Rosebery, and a tower in Hills, eight kilometres from the highway. “These are all logistical issues that can and would be negotiated and dealt with in terms of the review and consideration of the Village of Silverton taking over the internet service and ownership of the business,” states the CAO’s report to council. “Legal agreements would have to be negotiated in terms of transfer of ownership, transfer of assets and the assignment of service provision contracts. The Village would engage our services of our legal counsel to oversee this aspect of the review.”

Council agreed with the CAO’s recommendation to hire a consultant to assess the society’s infrastructure and provide cost estimates on necessary upgrades, and to review the billing system. The Village’s cost consultant will also be consulted regarding the legal aspects of the potential takeover, and Village administration staff will work on a business model. The CAO believes this can all be done over the next four months.
17 years to replace oil with renewable energy

Last week, we learned that the Paris climate agreement will go into effect in November after the EU formally joined the accord, making it more likely to become reality.

Concurrently, PM Trudeau announced the approval of the vast new LNG project for the BC coast, which flies in the face of Canada’s Paris commitments. It defies the arithmetic of climate change, a calculus that strengthens with each week of emerging science.

The carbon in the oil, gas and coal sectors already in production will take us past the 2°C of global warming all nations pledged to avoid. It’s not the next oil field that will break the planet’s climate: it’s the ones already pumping.

We have as much fossil fuel infrastructure as we can possibly tolerate. If Canada builds LNG or new pipelines, we will exceed the livable limit of 2°C.

Everything need not stop tomorrow; the decline of fossil fuels can be managed. “If you let current fields begin their natural decline,” says energy researcher Stephen Kretzmann, “you’ll be using them at their peak, and then you’ll be using them at a declining rate. It makes sense to manage the current fields.”

This is exactly what we need to do, or risk exceeding the 2°C limit. We will need a plan that includes new energy sources, like solar and wind power, and a just transition for those who are affected by the decline of coal and oil.

Is science always right?

About ten years ago, some seniors who were in their 80s told me that there aren’t as many song birds and now as there were in their youth.

Not a very scientific observation but then I think what they said is true. Without realizing it, we are using science to save the world when we are actually destroying it.

We do it when we spend public money to hire arborists to cut down the dead trees on the beaches and streets of Kaslo. We do it when we listen to environmentalists who say we are going to save the bears by cutting down the fruit trees on public and private land. The removal of trees is destroying the habitat of the song birds, the places where they hide their nests from predatory ravens and crows. Fruit trees provide food for people, animals, and birds.

It doesn’t stop there. With the banning of solvent based paints, we now use water based paints for road markings on our highways. It lasts about a year and then needs to be repainted, using more fuel for trucks and resources for paint.

Electric cars need expensive batteries, metals and plastics to be built and some of them can’t be rebuilt if they are damaged in a minor accident.

Then there’s the old fridges that we were encouraged to dispose of even though some of them are still running after 50 years.

The science is right but as we strive to become efficient we are running around and becoming inefficient. So stop trying to save the world!

Patrick Mackle
Kaslo

Restore the Bank of Canada

It has been reported that Bill Morneau, our country’s Finance Minister, has enlisted a group of experts “to help Ottawa find ways to revitalize Canada’s lacklustre economy.” One recommendation from this group is for government to direct $200 billion towards our country’s critical infrastructure needs. These experts suggest Ottawa create an independent infrastructure bank. Wait a minute here. Why reinvent the wheel? We already have a national infrastructure bank – it’s called the Bank of Canada.

A quick history lesson. Established in 1935, our publicly owned Bank of Canada allowed the federal government the power to borrow money in huge quantities essentially interest-free, and to make such funds available not only for its own use, but also for provincial and municipal expenditures. Such borrowing helped Canada to get out of the Great Depression, to finance its participation in World War II and to finance massive infrastructure projects such as the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Trans-Canada Highway.

In 1974, under the Trudeau Liberal government, this national credit regime was abandoned. Our country’s debt of around $60 billion was sold to our Canadian chartered banks and international private financial institutions. Presently our national debt is approaching $1 trillion, with a significant portion going to interest payments.

Now it would be logical to think that after 40 plus years of accruing such a massive debt, there just might be something to show for it. Look around this country...there has been no nation-building economic strategy presented by our political leaders for decades. Our nation needs infrastructure development of “grand design” scale...water management projects, serious railway development targeting high-speed rail and technology-driven development of our Arctic region.

A return to the intended purpose of the Bank of Canada policy is the most effective means to provide interest-free loans to address our nation’s infrastructure deficit. All levels of governments, instead of paying for interest that could double or triple their investment expenses, could be paying only for the principal, thus freeing tax income for other programs.

Mr. Morneau doesn’t need these experts’ advice. He needs to restore the Bank of Canada.

Brian Gray
Penticton

Paycheques, responsibility and accountability

In rural BC, we have volunteer fire halls. The volunteer fire chief in a rural community is responsible and accountable for the safety of his community.

The same holds true for public service employees in our communities. Many of these employees are part of the public service union which has the power to negotiate their contracts. It is not the role of the union to negotiate salaries and wages for the public servants of our region.

It is the role of the elected officials, including the mayor and council members, to negotiate these contracts with the union on behalf of the people in our region.

Mr. Morneau needs to understand that, quite frankly, this is the role of elected officials. The union is not responsible for the salaries and wages for the public servants.

Mr. Morneau needs to understand this and make it happen.

Ian Davidson
Clarenceville, NL

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers. Letters and articles should be no longer than 250 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted articles from our readers. Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material. Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. Without realizing it, we are using science to save the world when we are actually destroying it.

We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.
Federal NDP just lost big time while proposing a similar plan. Perhaps this plan is ill conceived. We need a new party to oppose the so called Liberals, and the NDP has set itself up for replacement. Perhaps the Dogwood Initiative should get into the game. Young people with good principles – that is what I’d like to see. The NDP is clearly not a viable alternative.

Rod Retzlaff

Glade

BC Hydro not compensating adequately for loss of toad habitat

The other day someone from BC Hydro’s head office returned my calls. I was assured that BC Hydro was in compliance with its Conditional Water Licence because it had disbursed the allotted $5.8 million. They do not have the time, the money, or the interest to talk about a bunch of toads. They are much too busy with their other issues.

And what the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) did or did not do was no concern of theirs, they have only a tenuous connection with FWCP, they just give them money.

The facts are somewhat different.

1. Pursuant to its Conditional Water Licence, BC Hydro has a duty to compensate for loss of ecosystems, wildlife, and wildlife habitat resulting from BC Hydro dams and reservoirs.

2. The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program was established in 1995 as the arm through which BC Hydro discharges that duty.

3. In the Arrow Reservoir, the western toad lost 26,000 ba (half of the area flooded) of available toad habitat, which is why it was designated a Priority 1 species by John Krebs (yes, that John Krebs) and Irene Manley, now senior FWCP biologist, who did the research.

4. FWCP has not been able to establish even one protected toad habitat anywhere in the Columbia Basin.

I had chosen to believe that BC Hydro is a responsible corporate citizen, making every effort to compensate for environmental damage caused by its dams and reservoirs. I was wrong. It’s all smoke and mirrors. A ploy to pacify the peasants, wildlife damned.

Elie de Boer

Fauquier

Residential two-tier electricity rates

I wish to encourage others of environmental conscience to speak out against two-tier billing. This method has been in use for some time with little result other than to maintain status quo. Almost everyone exceeds the low rate limit and it just becomes the norm, so once our consumption continues to grow. It does not result in behavioural change or conservation; two-tier billing leads to more dams, pollution and a growing carbon footprint.

The real problem is ‘peak demand.’ This is what should be addressed. If our maximum electrical usage period that occurs during a 24-hour period, usually around 5 pm but that depends on the region and other factors. It is driven by a dam and generating project development. Most of the generating machinery is idling in wait of peak demand. We need to spread out the usage and reduce the demand for more generating capacity. This is one of the solutions to escalating electrical consumption.

An alternative is to significantly reduce our carbon footprint and environmental impact will drop dramatically.

Some personal behavioural patterns will require adjustment but I have experienced this in Ontario and California and it is working. Senior citizens are especially aware and show the way to reshuffling large electrical equipment or doing laundry in lower rate periods.

Consider: climate change, species extinction, habitat loss (Site C Dam), exhaustion pollution, all these things we are responsible for – it is too much to ask that we alter our behaviour a little for the environment.

Looking to the future, a smart grid is inevitable. We the public can and should be encouraged to purchase a power generator and try it out or conservation or alternative generation at home. It is a way to lead the way. Look at what they are doing in Britain, where a large portion of many homes, businesses and farms. It’s working there and they are reducing their reliance on nuclear and coal.

This is a good opportunity to reshape our electrical landscape.

Please submit your comments to: Ms. Laurel Ross, Acting Commission Secretary, BC Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 2N3

Terry Lowrey

Penticton

Let’s do something productive with wood waste

It seems the vesting index is irrelevant. No one pays any attention to it.

I am concerned about the huge burns being created by the road building going on up Glacier Creek. In 2000 when they lit slash during poor venting, the smoke forced the evacuation of my livestock (hundreds of horses and cows and goats) to over 20 kilometres away so they could be safe and breathe. We had no notice and were simply enveloped by smoke so thick the burn became invisible! We lost all the milk goats in transit since there were only two of us to move them all... no apologies or compensation. It was cold, wet and miserable.

Already there have burned more than it would take to heat our homes all winter (a few poor venting), and I fear this is only the beginning if we cannot raise awareness and change the way we deal with undesired wood. Those piles may be one man’s trash but believe me they are treasure to wood workers or firewood cutters if they had access to it.

We need to demand a moratorium on burning so that something more productive can be done with the wood than to create smoke for expedience’s sake. It is the time to take ownership of the right to pollute the rest of us? The planet doesn’t need unnecessary heat from burn piles or the smoke. We need to instruct industries that can use wood chips or make better use of what is cut. Burning is no longer the way to deal with this waste.

We have to do better and we can if there is enough public outrage over the way we are treating this earth.

Glacier Creek is my backyard and there is no reason the change can’t start here if the logging company can be reasonable and care about something other than money. Please let’s change this smoke production into something more beneficial for everyone.

Gabriela Grabowsky

Glacier Creek

Loose: unecessary loud exhaust noise: the ball’s in the court of the police and judges

The verdict is in regarding the case of ‘unnecessary loud exhaust noise’ in the Province of British Columbia and as a result the police and the province have been provided guidelines on how to gather evidence the Crown can use to successfully prosecute the offender.

The problem with ‘loud motorcycles’ is not new and over the years has been the subject of several court cases in the province. In an attempt to deal with the issue, the Province amended the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations (MVAR), allowing the use of decibel readers. However, this technology proved to be more troublesome than helpful, as it required the Crown prosecutor to ‘measure with a police officer’s sensory observations and soon thereafter I received a full reply from the Ministry of Justice and the questions I raised. I also received a call from a representative of the Ministry of Justice, who told me that ALL the police officers in the Province of British Columbia have been issued guidelines that outline the measures to collect and provide evidence in court relating to ‘unnecessary loud exhaust noise’, based on the Vancouver Police Service experience, and this guideline will be reinforced at municipal police and RCMP detachment levels.

Seven tickets were issued on what is ‘unnecessary loud exhaust noise?’

The answer will come next summer when we see what the police do when the noise nuisance invades the province. It is apparent the general public has a concern over this issue and the Ministry of Justice has responded. Now it is the duty of the police services and provincial judges to do their part.

Murray Mason

Penticton

November 3, 2016 The Valley Voice

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accountable for the hall.

Dogs die in the care of a dog walker. She was deemed responsible by the BC SPCA in a result was held accountable and went to jail.

In 2012, not one but two sawmills blew up, killing and injuring workers and destroying the sawmills. The following is from a letter from WCB files dated August 1984: “On a balance of probability basis, it is likely that this claimant’s three-day time loss is related to exposure to old and perhaps dirty wood, under circumstances confirmed by his employer.”

The exposure was to dust created when the sawmill was processing old pine – the exact same dust that caused the sawmill explosions. This was ruled an accident. However, when you have known about a problem for 30 years (dust explosions have been recorded for a long lot than that), done nothing about it, then what is negligence all about?

Copies of this letter went to Premier Clark, the BC coroner, a number of news agencies, United Steelworkers Union, and my MLA, with a letter of permission to use it as she saw fit. What followed in the media appeared to be a lot of ‘privacy’ issues by a lot of people making a lot of money eluding a lot of responsibility and accountability. Is the status of people employed in this province lower than that of the dogs?

Ed Varney

Vallican

NDP not a viable alternative to the Liberals

I have a confession to make. It’s time to come out of the closet. It is very difficult for me, but I finally have to admit it. I am bi-sexual. That’s right, I do not really like having sex with men, but... if that is the only way I can be treated like an equal member, and receive the same opportunities as other members to represent my party of choice...I’ll do it. I’m committed to the NDP.

I now notice that the provincial NDP has decided to promise subsidized child care as one of its party platforms for the next election. Apparently, some parents are paying $1 200 per month per child to keep their child in care while they go to work. The NDP wants to subsidize that down to $200 per month. That is in my opinion ridiculous.

I have noticed that a lot of young families in our rural area are choosing to live on one salary, and keep one parent at home to raise their children up to school age. Of course there will be no subsidy for these parents. As a matter of fact, they will be the taxpayers who have to shell out to pay for the subsidy for the parents who decide to keep two incomes, and put their children in daycare. The
Environmental committee seeks input on 1999 EPA

 submitted

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development is reviewing the provisions and operation of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA).

Any interested group or individual is welcome to submit a written brief for the committee’s consideration. Based on testimony received to date, the committee has identified the following non-exhaustive list of themes that stakeholders may wish to address in their written briefs:

• the Chemicals Management Plan – Assessment (hazard vs. risk-based approach, consideration of alternatives, setting persistence and bioaccumulation triggers, etc.);
• risk management, including pollution prevention planning and virtual elimination;
• integrating environmental justice into assessments and management of substances, and public participation in CEPA;
• the respective roles of CEPA and other federal Acts and programs for managing substances, pesticides, food, drugs, etc.;
• monitoring;
• the National Pollutant Release Inventory;
• air quality and drinking water standards;
• ari products of biotechnology;

Funding available for environmental conservation and restoration projects

Earlier in 2016, Valerie Huff of the Kootenay Native Plant Society received funding from the WTCP to enhance and supplement milkweed populations in the Waneta area. “The Columbia River is a known flyway for monarch butterflies and milkweed plays a vital role as a food source and for egg-laying.” said Huff. WELP is a partnership between FortisBC, Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust.

Province kicks off public consultation on BC species at risk

On the website, the public can also learn more about shared recovery efforts currently ongoing around BC for the northern spotted owl, and learn about local efforts to protect rattlesnake and whitebark pine, with new stories being posted every week throughout the engagement period.

This consultation fulfills a commitment in the five-year plan to work together and consult with all levels of government, First Nations, conservation partners, industry and stakeholders to ensure the successful protection of species at risk in BC.


Restrictions enacted to keep high-powered boats off wetlands

submitted

After 16 years of tireless effort from a broad spectrum of stakeholders, the final part of a three-part boating regulation, created to minimize threats to the Columbia Wetland ecosystem and enhance public safety, was enacted October 18.

NDP MP Wayne Stetski (Kootenay-Columbia) was part of the effort, lobbying the federal government to introduce regulations to keep high-powered motorized boats off the main channel of the Columbia River.

“The need for this kind of protection has been discussed in the Columbia Valley for more than a decade,” he said, “I am proud to have been part of today’s resolution.”

This precedent-setting federal regulation, jointly requested by the BC Ministry of the Environment and local environmental organization Wildsight, restricts boats over 20 hp on the main channel of the upper Columbia River and its tributaries, from Fairy Creek to Donald (excluding Lake Windermere). The first two parts of the regulation were passed in 2009, banning motorized vessels from the wetland portion of the Columbia Wetland Wildlife Management Area and eliminating waterskiing and wake-boarding from the main channel of the upper Columbia River.

“This is a day for true celebration. Not only does today’s announcement recognize the ecological importance of the Columbia Wetlands, the longest intact wetland in North America, but it also recognizes our communities’ perseverance and achievement,” said Wildsight executive director Robyn Duncan.

“What started as a technical and legal question resulted in a groundswell of public engagement and support to protect the legacy of the Columbia Wetlands for wildlife and clean water for future generations.”

Internationally recognized as a wetland of importance, its ecosystem forms the life support system for hundreds of thousands of birds, fish, amphibians, mammals and freshwater to surrounding communities. This important regulation will help prevent habitat degradation and negative impacts on nesting waterfowl, like the great blue heron, species extremely sensitive to even minor disturbance.

It’s the first time that the Navigation Protection Act has been used for ecological protection, making it an example of how additional protections could be achieved for important waterways across Canada.

• government operations on federal and Aboriginal land; and
• enforcement.

Those wishing to submit a written brief should refer to the Guide for Submitting Briefs to House of Commons Committees, noting that briefs should not normally exceed ten pages in length. Briefs must be submitted to the Clerk of the Committee at envir@parl.gc.ca by December 1, 2016. Briefs submitted after the deadline will be considered only if time permits.

• risk management, including pollution prevention planning and virtual elimination;
- integrating environmental justice into assessments and management of substances, and public participation in CEPA;
- the respective roles of CEPA and other federal Acts and programs for managing substances, pesticides, food, drugs, etc.;
- monitoring;
- the National Pollutant Release Inventory;
- air quality and drinking water standards;
- animal products of biotechnology;

In the free flu shot.

Many doctor’s offices, pharmacies and walk-in clinics are also providing flu shots. Those who are not eligible for the free vaccine will be required to pay a fee.

To find an influenza immunization clinic or provider near you, watch for local announcements on dates and times in your community, contact your local public health centre, or visit the ImmunizeBC website (http://immunizebc.ca/clinics/flu) on the ImmunizeBC website.

Interior Health also reminds the public that five doses are required to have had a flu shot or a mask when visiting patients in Interior Health facilities during the influenza season.

For more information, visit www.interiorhealth.ca, follow us on Twitter @Interior_Health, or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/InteriorHealth.
Bosun Hall courtyard project still in limbo

by Katrine Campbell

The Bosun Hall courtyard project is still on hold because of structural deficiencies with the building. 90th Engineering is preparing the final report on its inspection but preliminary results indicate there are a number of significant structural deficiencies. The Village says a public consultation will be required to establish priorities.

“There is a high likelihood that the required work will result in disturbance to the Bosun Courtyard, so the improvements contemplated... should not be undertaken until the structural repairs are complete,” says a staff report.

In 2014, LACE (the Lacuna Association for Community Education) received $2,000 from the CBT Community Initiatives Program for its proposed project, a modest cleanup and landscaping of the back and side yard. In January 2016, New Denver village council gave LACE an extension to the proposed timeline, to allow for a structural assessment before doing any work.

At its October 25, meeting, council again received a request for extension, but denied it because of the poor preliminary findings. The funds already allocated to LACE will be returned to the CIP, and could be used for the project in future. CAO Bruce Woodbury noted “the money is not lost. It goes back into the pot” and LACE could apply again in next year’s round of funding.

LACE’s Carol Bell says the courtyard project was cosmetic in nature; it would involve cleaning up the back yard and the north side and doing some landscaping, as well as pouring a concrete pad at the side door and putting a roof over it.

“The front is so beautiful and the rest is so ugly. It’s such a beautiful place to have a wedding, but not right now — it looks like a pasture.”

Deconstructing Dinner Film Festival continues

The 2016 Deconstructing Dinner Film Festival continues with a final screening November 12. Nine more films, live music and local food and drink.

On Friday, November 4, a live music and engaging expressions Theatre Café will have live music by Dawna McMellan (harp) and Jessica Doerner (cello) who will open up and close out the film Seeds Of Time.

If you’re a lover of wine or just a fan of a good crime documentary, you’ll want to check out Tuesday night’s screening of the Palomino. It tells the story of a dairy farmer Richard Beal, one of the state’s first organic dairy farmers. The small profit margin caused by distracted driving.

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New Denver Council October 25, 2016: Housing, Tax Exemptions

by Katrine Campbell

- The November 8 council meeting will start at 6 pm so the mayor and council can attend a 7 pm public meeting held by SIFCo, regarding the fuel management project around the village.
- Mayor Ann Bunka submitted her report on the October 20 RDCK meeting. The executive director of the Manufactured Housing Association of BC gave a presentation urging the regional district to lift its prohibition against manufactured housing. The delegation was followed by a board report from Building Manager John Southam discussing the MHARC presentation, and a discussion on the pros and cons. The directors agreed there is a bigger picture, and they need to start talking about a housing strategy instead of “one-offing,” said Bunka.
- Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw #2536, 2016 was adopted. This exempts from taxation land and improvements for athletic and service organizations – including the Slocan Lake Golf Course.
- The RDCK will partner with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for some of the South Slocan Greenway project. The board will pay MoTI $246,300 for a new gravel parking lot at Crescent Beach and for paving four km of the rail trail; it will also pay $84,700 as a contribution to the underpass. Funding for the RDCK’s contribution will come from Community Works, and BankBC.
- The board directed staff to apply to the Forest Enhancement Society for full funding to implement a landscape-level fuel management program.
- Staff were directed to develop and work with the South Slocan Society to distribute to campers. She asked Council to consider bear-resistant fire insurance.
- Council directed to send a letter of support to the City of Castlegar for its efforts to improve the regional airport’s reliability. Castlegar wants to partner with the RDCK to fund a ‘Required Navigation Performance’ study which will “allow aircraft to fly directly on tightly defined paths along waypoints, increasing reliability of arrivals and departures.”
- Heritage Advisory Commission Amendment bylaw #703, 2016 was given final adoption. The amendment will allow the board to appoint a hereditary chief to the historic district. Bunka agreed to do that and appointed Bill Creyghton as alternate. The board directed staff to lift the prohibition on rental properties.
- The board directed staff to lift the prohibition on rental properties.

Silverton council discusses bear attractants with WildSafeBC coordinator

by Jan McMurray

Not many bears were destroyed in the New Denver-Silverton area this year, but “we’re still human conditioning them and this potentially will work for a long spell in the long run,” WildSafeBC Coordinator Bree Lillies told Silverton council on October 25.

She attended the council meeting to discuss ways to reduce bear attractants in Silverton. Garbage, fruit trees and compost are the biggest issues in the community, she said.

One of the best solutions for fruit trees and compost piles is electric fencing. “Electric fencing is effective. One person learns that, the word spreads,” Lillies said.

Village residents can purchase the fencing through the Valhalla Wilderness Society at a subsidized rate, and Lillies and her Kaslo colleague, Gillian Sanders, can visit property owners to help them design electric systems. Lillies also has some fencing that she can loan out temporarily.

Councillor Main explained that the Village of Silverton had made bokashi kits available to residents to encourage composting. Lillies acknowledged that compost breaks down more quickly with the bokashi system, but said it still gives off an odour that attracts bears. She is in discussion with Katrina Sumrall, the bokashi composting champion at Lucerne School in New Denver, about the best time to lay out the ready compost on the garden.

Lillies said one of her priorities is to get the message out to campers and seasonal homeowners in Silverton. She spent some time talking to campers in the Silverton municipal campground this year, and said she’d have a pamphlet next year to distribute to campers. She asked council to consider bear-resistant food storage at the campground, and signage to educate campers.

Reducing attractants is a community effort, Lillies concluded. “It is going to take the whole community to want to, and to be willing to change some behaviors.”

The Village of New Denver PUBLIC NOTICES

Wildfire Protection Project

The Village of New Denver would like to advise residents that Slocan Integrated Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) will be performing wildfire interface treatment activities in and around New Denver over the coming months, thanks to funding assistance obtained from UBCM.

A public information session on the topic is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at the Knox Hall (521 6th Avenue). Details about the project are also available weekdays between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm from the Village Office, located at 115 Slocan Avenue.

November 8th Council Meeting

Residents of the Village of New Denver are hereby advised that the Village of New Denver Council will be held in Council Chambers at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. The start time for the meeting has been changed to 6:00 pm (rather than the usual 7:00 pm) to allow Council members to attend the public presentation about the Wildfire Protection project.

This time change will only affect the Tuesday, November 8, 2016 Regular Council Meeting. All other regularly scheduled meetings will begin at 7:00 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

Open Burning Period Ends

In accordance with Village of New Denver Outdoor Burning Regulation Bylaw No. 591, 2005, limited open burning is permitted within the municipal boundaries from September 30 to November 15. All residents wishing to conduct open burning are first required to obtain a permit (free for small fires) from the Village Office.

The Village residents are reminded that the Open Burning Period ends on November 15, 2016.

Local Government Commission Appointments

The Council of the Village of New Denver is actively seeking individuals to sit on the following Regional District of Central Kootenay Commissions:

- Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission – 1 year term
- Recreation Commission #6 – 2 year term
- Rosbery Parklands and Trails (Galena Trail) Commission – 2 year term
- Winlaw Regional and Nature Park Commission – 2 year term

For more information, or to express your interest in serving on a commission, please contact the Village Office by phone at 250-358-2316, by email at office@newdenver.ca or in person at 115 Slocan Avenue before 4:00 pm on Thursday, November 17, 2016.
November 3, 2016   The Valley Voice

Kootenay Seniors Fair was a big success

submitted

More than 350 seniors and friends turned out for the Kootenay Seniors Fair held September 30 at the Prestige Lakeside Resort & Convention Centre. Organizers Nelson CARES’ Kootenay Seniors as a Service Provider Group say they are thrilled with the turnout – and with the possibilities.

“I asked Cole and Jones about how they got involved in storytelling. Jones says she comes from a family of performers, including her father, an internationally recognized and accomplished Toastmaster. But instead of following his path of motivational speaking, she decided to venture into music, dance, and drama, studying at Pacific Theatre and working professionally as a performer in Vancouver with Arts Club Theatre Company, among others. As an African American, she was driven to the “fervent study” of African American folktales, along with its rich tradition of singing, “joyful movement, rhythm, and beat.”

“Once I gave birth to my first child, I was driven to find a way to cultivate my work as a performer in a mode living to motherhood. I love the power of presence, connecting eye-to-eye and heart to heart. Storytelling makes room in your heart. Storytelling allows for this. I love that folktales serve to tradition us into culture, into the past, and into the present. Folktales have been telling stories longer than I have been telling stories. Humans have been telling stories longer than we have been writing stories.”

Cole grew up surrounded by storytellers and continues to enjoy their presence in her life, particularly with those who are interested in oral teachings. Well-known storyteller Ray Stothers has been “instrumental in helping me gain confidence in the craft of storytelling,” while Dan Conley, a storyteller from Chattaroy, Washington, is another inspiration for Cole. Her husband Wayne Cole was a civil rights volunteer during the 1960s and has told her his stories of travelling to the American south to help with racial integration in Atlanta, Georgia. She devotes an entire chapter in Sideways to her father, who she says was a great storyteller. Her older brother Clauden told her her experience as a messenger boy in the Minidoka concentration camp, where she was born.

“This gift comes with an obligation, though, that obligation is one I hope to fulfill by sharing the insights of a captive Nisei boy with people who want to listen.”

Tickets for the event are $10, free for children under 12. For more information call 250-352-7255 or 250-229-4657.

COMMUNITY

Nelson storytelling event features Kaslo storyteller

by Art Joyce

It’s something as fundamental to humans as breathing – telling stories. From the campfire to the coffee table, we all do it in some form. Now there’s a chance to hear storytellers who have made it their life’s passion to tell stories, including Kaslo resident Shayna Jones. Stories in Concert will feature Jones, Diana Morita Cole, and Kootenay Storytelling Festival founder Barry Gray at Bigby Place, 508 Front Street, Nelson, November 5 at 7 pm.

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Raw Ink now available: eclectic book by local lifestyle experientialist

submitted by Charter Street Press

Bair Brock, a ‘lifestyle experientialist’ from New Denver, has published his first book, Raw Ink is a book of poetry, ponderings, short stories, cartoons, essays and more. It is authentic and unpretentious, and easy to read.

“My poetry is at times nuanced and at times can be provocative,” says Brock. “The language may seem simplistic, but many of the issues explored are emotional, complex, intense and thought provoking.”

In the first line of one of his poems, Brock states, “I’m not really a poet and boy do I know it.”

“Perhaps time will tell, but for now, I’ll let others have the title, ‘poet,’” he says.

A lifestyle experientialist, Brock started a new career at 70 years old. He says he approached the Raw Ink book project with steadfast determination.

Love, peace, war, bullying, revenge, survival, or not surviving, humour and nature are all addressed in this book. It is suitable for readers of a wide age range. “It may bring a smile, frown, giggle or a growl, or a tear to the reader,” says Brock. “The book is what it is, and please take from it what you may.”

While cohesive, Raw Ink can also be opened at almost any page. In this way, it is similar to a coffee table type book.

Containing material from his journals and notebooks compiled over several years, this 294-page presentation is down to earth in its portrayal of humanity and nature. It is self-edited and hand written.

Years ago, someone told Brock that he should write a book. At that time, he says he couldn’t imagine what he would write about or why he should lay pen to paper. That was then.

Some chapters deal with evolutions. The issue of what one chooses to do or why one chooses to do something is addressed. The poem ‘Pause’ and the line “give killing a chill” is poignant. The essay ‘Be Your Own Television’ is evocative and compelling. Oh… and don’t worry about that missing chapter 13. It will show up eventually, sometimes… somewhere.

The covers of Raw Ink are a charcoal and colour pencil drawing done by the author and is not an exact colour depiction of the original print that Brock is planning to present in the near future.

Brock is presently working on a new book, Savag Ink, to be out in mid-2017.

Raw Ink is available at Otter Books in Nelson; Meritxell Books in Nakusp; and New Market Foods in New Denver; and from Bair Brock.

Hills ski club adds three kilometres of new trails

by Art Joyce

The Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club has just completed the construction of three kilometres of new trails between Hills and Nakusp in preparation for the winter season. A pullout and parking area on Highway 6 three kilometres south of Summit Lake provides the access point. The Ministry of Transportation has erected signs to mark the entry.

Although designed as an all-access ski trail, cross-country ski instructor Kip Drobish says this one will be more challenging than the rail trail. The trail more or less follows the BC Hydro access road, with 3.5 kilometres of the new trail built in loops. Unlike the rail trail there are more slopes for building up speed, with runouts for slowing down, plus turns and jumps. The new course is also much wider than the rail trail, at four metres and now features green, blue and black level trails.

“It’s intended to keep young cross-country skiers involved,” says Drobish. “Really the intent is for 10-year-olds to get on the trail and say, “Wow, this is what I want to do!” You put them on the rail trail and they say, “I can’t do this every day. It’s too boring.”

To encourage youth participation, Drobish and fellow instructor Scott Kipke provide professional training for up to age 14, and this winter Drobish will expand his teaching credentials to the 14-16 age group. In addition, the club will have a girl’s relay team for kids 9-12 at this year’s midget championships. Two local boys are training with both Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club and in Rossland. The kids’ teaching program runs Saturday mornings for eight weeks starting in January and includes the Bunnyrabbit, Jackrabbit and Track Attack programs. These programs have been running for eight years now, starting with the first group of six kids.

“We have lots of kids all the way down to four years old,” says Drobish. “We had 29 kids last year and this year we have a record number of 36 kids. I think we have about the same number this year. The racing is super fun; it’s a big family. When a kid is at a race, you feel you’re with a bunch of people who care about you. It’s a nice community feeling as a sport.”

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Two injured in Rosebery crash  

by Katrine Campbell  

Two people were injured October 20 when their Jeep lost control and flipped over on the Rosebery Hill. RCMP Cst. Shawn Chetwynd says the two, from Kaslo, were taken by ambulance to the Slocan Community Health Centre in New Denver and then on to Trail. Both have been released.

“It was a southbound black Jeep, southbound on Hwy 6 when it lost control, hit the bank and rolled over,” Chetwynd said. “There were no witnesses.” Police couldn’t determine the cause of the crash. Chetwynd says he wasn’t able to properly question the driver, who was unable to recall the events leading to the incident.

“There is no further investigation into the cause, but there were some other possible offences identified that we will be investigating.”

November 3, 2016 The Valley Voice

Columbia Basin water quality data available on website

submitted

A new website for the Columbia Basin Water Quality Project has been launched. An internet search for cbwq.ca will take you to the site where you can explore monitoring data from nine local watersheds in the Columbia Basin.

Columbia Basin Trust has funded this project and Mainstreams Environmental Society has coordinated it since 2007. It all began as a response to requests by water stewardship groups to learn how to monitor their water. Nine groups from the West and East Kootenay make up the project. In the West Kootenay, there is data on McDonald Creek (Arrow Lake Stewardship Society), Silverton Creek (Slocan Lake Stewardship Society), Lemon Creek (Slocan River Streamkeepers) and Crawford Creek (East Shore Freshwater Habitat Society).

At least two members of each group have trained to get Environment Canada accreditation to carry out CABIN monitoring (Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network) is a protocol used by Environment Canada and government agencies for water quality monitoring. Each group monitors monthly from April to October.

“Project data includes water chemistry, velocity, flow, temperature and Environment Canada analytical reports,” said coordinator Laura Duncan. Analytical reports created by the Environment Canada database compares the community of small creatures living on the bottom of the stream to communities expected to be found in a similar stream in pristine condition. The amount the sample stream differs from the pristine stream is a measure of water quality.

Check out the site at www.cbwq.ca to see who the partner groups are and what their data looks like.

Water quality data on small watersheds is invaluable to policy and land managers and the longer in time the dataset covers, the more valuable it is. “Big river systems reflect changes from climate change more slowly than small tributaries,” said Laura Duncan. “So trends or changes seen in the smaller streams can give an indication of how Columbia Basin streams are responding to changes in climate.”

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At Father Sun Farms™ we are committed to offering you the same products we put on our family’s table. It’s important to know how our animals are raised and how that can ultimately affect our health both positive and negative. Other than one or two small suppliers in Western Canada, all available commercial poultry feed contains corn and soy. Thank you to the local community for all the support thus far! Frozen chickens are always available for pick up at the farm. Delivery available to some areas.


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Phone: 250.358.2484 or Email: fatherssunfarms@gmail.com to place your order today. $6.00/lb

Our role is changing to help you better manage your health!
Jo’s Jewelry celebrates 10 years in New Denver

by Art Joyce

Joanne Barclay, better known as Jo to her friends, celebrates the first decade of her jewelry business in New Denver this year. Anyone who has seen her work can testify to her passion for creating objects of unique and lasting beauty. Whether it’s a brand-new piece of jewelry custom-designed by a client, a restoration of grandma’s classic wedding ring, or melting down old jewelry to start fresh, Jo is the one to call.

Jo’s interest in making jewelry started young, and she’s been at it for 20 years now. “I started playing with the torch when I was a teenager – my Dad taught me basic silversmithing. Then I studied at the Kootenay School of the Arts in Nelson. I finally found a master goldsmith in Kelowna, John Derek, who taught me a lot. I also did training with the Canadian Institute of Gemology.”

Jo grew up in the Slocan Valley in the village of Slocan. She ran a jewelry business in Nelson, and worked for jewelers in Kelowna and Creston. Ten years ago she set up her home-based business in New Denver. When she became a mother it was an ideal way to balance work and family responsibilities. Her favourite medium is silver and gold and she enjoys hand-fabricating jewelry the most.

“I love my trade. I like to build items from scratch – forming the metal, getting all the pieces together. I love it because there’s always something new you can learn, so it keeps things fun and creative. I like to build things that will last a lifetime and wear well.”

Jo can check stones, re-tip claws, re-size rings and re-set old jewelry that’s worn out. If the jewelry is really worn out she can melt it down and make something new. That seems to be a big seller these days because the price of gold is so high, hovering around $1,400 per ounce Canadian. Jo carries a small selection of local stones and for other stones she tries to use Canadian suppliers as much as possible. But she’s open to using any materials.

“Jewelry is a personal thing for everybody,” she says. “I’ve worked with everything from beach glass to diamonds. It’s whatever is special to you. I enjoy bringing it to life. I make no discretion as to value, it’s all about sentiment.”

To get a sense of Jo’s work, simply make an appointment with her and she can take you through her portfolio of past work or show you beautiful jewelry samples. “Some people have no clue what they want and others have a really defined idea. I can work with any of them. Simple, wearable jewelry seems to be popular now. The modern woman doesn’t want big, stick-up diamonds anymore. But we can just play around until we get something that’s just right.”

A true ‘valley girl’, Jo says as a teenager she just wanted out right away. But after some years travelling and working, she realized she wanted to settle down here. “After travelling around the world, I realized, of course I want to live here. Where else would I want to live? I’ve enjoyed serving New Denver over the years.”

In an age when more and more of us are ordering products via the internet, having a local artisan acquires a special value. Jo prefers the personal touch. “I really like seeing people face-to-face, I don’t like doing it through email. I love seeing peoples’ faces when they see it, like: ‘Oh my God, I’ve wanted this for years.’ A lot of people don’t realize we have a goldsmith in the village. You don’t have to go to Nelson for jewelry.”

To contact Jo for an appointment call 250-358-2134.

Joanne Barclay displays some of her jewelry at a 2008 show at the Hidden Garden Gallery.
Bike trails, magnetic drift, water mains and more: Notes from the Oct. 24 Nakusp council

by Claire Paradis

NABS nabs Rural Dividend letter

Krista Rebman spoke on behalf of the Nakusp and Area Bike Society (NABS) delegation to Nakusp council on Oct. 24. The community group was asking for a letter of support for an application for Rural Dividend funding for the Mt. Abril project. According to the project’s masterplan, the objective is to build over 50 km of bike trails as well as a campsite near the Mt. Abril and Turner Road area.

The project’s Masterplan was popular at the Columbia Basin Trust’s Community Initiatives and Affected Areas this past spring and garnered enough votes to win the $28,900 they’d asked for. Rebman said the group has been busy since then writing more grants, holding fundraisers and putting on events to get the word out.

“We’re really excited about the project, we think it could bring a lot to the community,” she told council.

She added that bringing people in on the shoulder seasons, who will visit the hot springs and spend money in town.”

The project would include wheelchair accessible trails, something that is very new, and would employ local people and tradespeople. Rebman said they already have support from Selkirk’s Blackwater program and support in the community.

Councillor voted to write a letter supporting NABS’s application for Rural Dividends funding.

Public Works

Public Works is gearing up for winter, reported Director of Operations Warren Leigh. Here’s a quick look at what’s happening in the Public Works department:

The source water protection plan is nearing completion and repairs are wrapping up for the year.

Leigh said he “heard lots of positive things” about the Water Ambassador who attended Farmer’s Markets and other events in Nakusp to educate about water usage and conservation.

The Village is applying for Clean Water and Wastewater funding to replace all the two-inch galvanized steel pipe in the water system. The price tag on the project is $660,000 but the Village will be on the hook for only $150,000 if funding is approved. The galvanized metal has a tendency to collect buildup and to rot, and the small diameter of the pipe isn’t sufficient for fire flow.

“Best quote of the meeting: ‘Due to gradual changes of the earth’s axis, the designation numbers on the run-way needed to be changed.’ That’s right, thanks to magnetic declination, the numbers on Nakusp’s airport runway needed to be updated and repainted.

Councillors’ Reports

Councillor Tom Zeleznik noted he had seen rain barrels on a farm that had collected rain water for field irrigation and asked if this technique could be put to use collecting water from the Arena roof to water Village fields. Director of Recreation and Parks Terry Welsh said that although rain water collection had fallen out of favor due to contamination from roofing materials, the arena roof’s thermal plastic would probably be fine. Staff will be looking into collection options.

Recreation & Parks

Director of Recreation and Parks Welsh had several things to report.

-Revenues from the Hot Springs and Chalets continue to rise, as the number of visits are on the rise.

-Although the arena roof has been virtually completed as of the council meeting, some detail work will not be finished by end of October. Another five to six weeks will be required to get the entrance/exit lighting going.

-Regardless of what was going on outside, the Revelstoke Grizzlies versus the Princeton Posse game was a big hit on the ice.

WINTER TIRE SALE

AGM

ALFA Guild Artwalk

Selkirk College, Nakusp, BC

Thurs. November 17, 2016

4:30 pm

Alice Watson M.Ed. (Couns. Psych.) 250-265-3328

Counselling services available for individuals, couples, and families.

Experience a collaborative process of resolving grief and loss, depression, anxiety, relationship challenges, trauma, addiction, and life changes.

NOVEMBER 3, 2016

The Valley Voice
Kaslo council, October 25: Sewer expansion grant application in the works

by Jan McMurray

The Village will submit a grant application for Sewer Expansion (Phase 1) to the Provincial Clean Water and Waste Water Fund. The expansion project will focus on completing necessary repairs to the wastewater treatment plant and retrofitting the plant so it can take on the rest of Lower Kaslo by the time the Liquid Waste Management Plan process is finished. The municipality must cover 17% of the cost of the project. Council put a limit of $150,000 on the Village’s contribution. This will come from the accumulated operational surplus of the sewer utility ($55,000) and the general accumulated surplus ($50,000). If the third $50,000 is required, it will be sourced from institutional tenure that may facilitate expansion of the existing Village-held tenure in the bay (the two boat clubs) and on an existing map taken over for the Water and Waste Water Fund, to hold one more public meeting by year end, and to proceed with submitting the Stage 2 Liquid Waste Management Plan to the Province.

CAO Neil Smith updated council on the City Hall project. He said all awarded contracts are proceeding (electrical, plumbing, heating). The Municipal Buildings Committee was to meet October 31 to discuss next steps. “The challenge remains how best to move forward with the insulation and plaster work in the absence of sufficient funding to complete the upper floor,” he said.

RFPs/ tenders are scheduled to go out in November for the Parks Waterfront Management Plan and Policies, and in December for the Alternate Intake Project design-build and the Municipal Lands Project. The Alternate Intake Project is for Kaslo’s back-up water system on Kaslo River, to address the problem of the current intake becoming clogged with material due to the turbidity of the river. The Municipal Lands Project will involve an analysis of Village-owned land. A Request for Expressions of Interest for a Management Plan for future Kaslo and Area community/ institutional tenure (marine) will go out in December. A community/ institutional tenure may facilitate expansion of the existing Village-held tenure in the bay (the two boat clubs) and on an existing map taken over for the Water and Waste Water Fund, to hold one more public meeting by year end, and to proceed with submitting the Stage 2 Liquid Waste Management Plan to the Province.

Sewer Expansion

The Village will apply for a corporate credit card for staff travel, training and online purchasing with a $15,000 limit ($5,000 per member of the senior staff in line with purchasing authority limits).

The Village will phase in LED streetlights as the old ones fail, using gas tax funds.

The Village will apply for a leasehold credit card for staff travel, training and online purchasing with a $15,000 limit ($5,000 per member of the senior staff in line with purchasing authority limits).

The Village will sign a service contract with Kerr Wood Leidal for the preliminary engineering work required for a new sewer system.

The Red Cross has small offices in Kaslo, and the Kootenay Lake Historical Society provides the Volunteer Centre service to the Village. Attend the open house to also learn more about new expanded hours at VCH, what happens after hours and how to learn about the other health services offered through VCH and alternative practitioners in the community.

Kaslo man recovering after stabbing

A 68-year-old Kaslo man is recovering in Kelowna General Hospital after being stabbed in an altercation October 24. Kaslo RCMP responded to a call at 5:20 that afternoon about a disturbance between two men on C Avenue. One man was found with stab wounds to his upper torso. He was taken by ambulance to Kaslo Bay Hospital in Kelowna, and then on to Kelowna. He is expected to make a recovery. A 62-year-old man, also from Kaslo, was taken into custody and is awaiting a bail hearing. Police say the two men knew each other.

Both the Kaslo detachment and Kootenay Boundary General Investigative Section continue to investigate.

Kaslo Concert Society presents the Alcan Quartet

at the door on concert night. School-age children are admitted free when accompanied by an adult patron. Further information: David Stewart 250-353-7600 or sjdks@kaslo.org.

OPEN HOUSE at the Victorian Community Health Centre

Tuesday, November 8 from 10 am to 3:00 pm

Come Celebrate that Kaslo Health Centre is now open 7 days a week

Meet: Doctors, Nurses and Clinic Staff
Ambulance Services with BCEHS
Complementary health practitioners
Massage therapists, Acupuncturists, Naturopaths and others

Welcoming Cake-cutting Celebration at 12:30
Light Refreshments will be served

In conjunction with: Flu Shot Clinic
Health Fair – BP checks, HIV testing, TeleHealth services

Sponsored by the Village of Kaslo Health Select Committee

Kaslo & Area

November 3, 2016

The Valley Voice
Richard Cannings, MP: From the Hill

The forest industry has been a critically important sector in the BC economy for more than a century, but it has been hit hard. A 30-year trade war with the United States cost our industry billions of dollars. The softwood lumber agreement did bring back certainty to lumber export access and costs, but the Canadian industry paid a very high price for that certainty, and many mills didn’t survive.

In South Okanagan-West Kootenay, the Weyerhaeuser mill in Okanagan Falls closed in 2007, putting more than 200 people out of work. The Pope and Talbot mill in Midway closed in 2007 as well, but fortunately has been reopened by Vaagen Brothers, who have invested in new equipment to create a highly efficient mill that uses the smaller logs that are easier to find in today’s wood supply. The Atco Wood Products company in Fruitvale closed its lumber operation at around the same time to concentrate on veneer products for plywood, which are not subject to softwood lumber quotas and tariffs.

Waste wood in all the local mills is usually chipped and sent to the Celgar pulp mill to add a bit to the bottom line. And pulp mills also depend on these inputs of chips. I heard a pulp mill representative during finance committee hearings that mills would be, in his words, “hooped” if Canadian sawmills didn’t survive.

The forest industry has been a critically important community hub. “On the flip side, it’s excellent for community. It’s a place to come and socialize where everyone is on common ground. It’s a very healthy environment,” said a pulp mill representative.

Getting people connected to medical facilities, family and the wider world is another great benefit of the bus service, said Abbey, who sees it as serving social and psychological health needs in the community. “It’s just a wonderful service to get people out and about.”

And it’s getting more people out and about, with 16 seats instead of the 10 that were available in the old bus. Two wheelchairs make 14 seats available, so it’s likely there will be room for passengers just looking for a day trip out of town, said ASLCS Executive Director Tim Payne.

The plan is to increase the community medical bus routes and add a Revelstoke run, possibly this winter, Payne told the Valley Voice. Several new public drop-off recycling facilities, a new hospital and the communities it serves. Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan-West Kootenay submitted

Magical community medical bus is ready to take you away

“There seems to be a lot of need for medical appointments up there, eye doctors especially. There are a lot of services there, including the aquatic centre which is a great health facility for seniors, or anyone.”

The new bus has been on the road for the past two weeks, but the fundraising will continue to keep the gas tank full and the bus in working order. And, of course, getting bums on seats for a day out of town will also help pay the bills. If you’re interested in a day getaway on the magical medical bus, you can reserve a seat the Wednesday the week before by calling ASLCS in Nakusp.

November 3, 2016 The Valley Voice

COMMUNITY

By Claire Paradies

There’s a new bus in town and you might have noticed it Friday afternoon parking in front of the Arrow Lake Health Care Auxiliary (ALHCA) Thrift Store and its “Bag Sale” sign. The thrift store is the birthplace of the bus, which was purchased with the money coming from thrift store sales.

“Most items in there cost two dollars. That’s a lot of two-dollar purchases,” said Barb Abbey, head of the ALHCA. With long lineups outside the thrift store on Tuesday morning, it’s clearly a popular spot, popular enough to raise the $95,600 needed to buy the bus.

The new community medical bus whisked people to Kelowna and back once a week, and although priority is given to folks with medical appointments, anyone and everyone is welcome on the day trip for a nominal fee. It’s a great bargain, a chauffeured ride to the Okanagan for 20 bucks, thanks to the Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS) service.

A new bus bought with thrift store revenues for Community Services is taxiing Nakusp and area folks to the Okanagan for their medical appointments, or just a day out of town. The shiny new bus increases the number of people who can catch a ride for the weekly trip.

Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan-West Kootenay

“The forest industry faces serious challenges: a future with declining wood supply; a future with more frequent catastrophic forest fires and insect epidemics due to climate change; a future with increased uncertainty around demands for wood products; and a future with rising costs associated with trade disputes with the United States. But we can and must take action to support the forest industry and the communities it serves.

We appreciate the public’s cooperation and patience during the construction period of this project,” says Resource Recovery Manager Mike Morrison. If you have any questions contact the RDCK at 1-800-268-7325 or check out the website at www.rdck.bc.ca.

According to Bill Yeo, Kaslo Legion’s Poppy Chairman, the Legion hall and then light refreshments served by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Magical community medical bus is ready to take you away

“We have to thank the community for supporting the thrift store,” said Abbey, who also noted that the store is an important community hub. “On the flip side, it’s excellent for community. It’s a place to come and socialize where everyone is on common ground. It’s a very healthy environment.”

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WE ARE VICTIMS of our own success! Sappho’s Bakery New Denver is for sale so the exhausted owners can retire. Home-based business, must be moved to new location. All equipment, formulas, contracts and training included. $40,000. 250-358-2199 or sapphos@netidea.com.

THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business? If so, Community Futures offers business loans, coaching & training; and delivers the Self-Employment Program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

DESTINATIONS
VALHALLA WILDERNESS PROGRAM Bottle Drive – Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 9-12. Pick-up from Slocan Park to slocan City. Call ahead for large pick-ups 250-355-2212. Thank you for your support.

SLOCAN LAKE STEWARDSHIP Society AGM will be November 6, 2 pm at Kootenay Hall.

ST. ANTHONY’S CHRISTMAS FLEA MARKET Saturday, November 26, Bosun ST. ANTHONY’S CHRISTMAS FLEA MARKET, Saturday, November 26, Bosun Memorial Hall. Exciting crafts, piano music by local musicians, raffles, yummy treats. Come out, mingle and support our talented craftpeople. Vendors call 358-2475.

MEET AUTHOR DONNA MACDONALD Saturday, November 6 from 1 to 2 pm at the Slocan Community Library, reading from Surviving City Hall (2016), stories and reflections from local government, told with humour and humanity.

WIDE SPOT COMING UP: Can we live happily in unsettled times? Mark Turner-Zion United Church. For more information call 358-7904.

THE HIDDEN GARDEN CHRISTMAS MARKET will be held on Sunday, November 20 at 2pm at the Gallery, 803 Kildare St, New Denver. Everyone is welcome.

SILVERTON CHristmas MARKET: 16-4 Saturday, December 3, Silverton Memorial Hall. Exciting crafts, piano music by local musicians, raffles, yummy treats. Come out, mingle and support our talented craftpeople. Vendors call 358-2475.

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WORKSHOPS facilitated by Sue Mistrutta, M.A. at Hand and Soul Wellness Centre, Silverton. Creating Mandalas (1 Day) on Wed Nov 16 (10 hrs) $25. Healing Through Art & Imagery (3-week Series) on Wed, Nov 23, 30 and Dec 7 $75 ($70 if paid by Nov 17). Explore mind/body healing, find balance and direction using the Expressive Arts. For more details visit www.handsandsoil.ca. To register call 358-2177 or soulgardens8@gmail.com.

HOME BUSINESS POP-UP SHOP: A fun evening of music, door prizes, concessions, silent auction and more! Everyone is welcome.

AGM for the HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY (GEM) Program starts November 9, 2016 at 19h00. The revised By-law will be presented for approval. For more info or to book a table, call Crystal at 250-365-1878.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT
AUTOMOTIVE
A VAILABLE IMMEDIATELY: 1 bedroom 2+ bathroom modern furnished home. Would be used 6-10 days per month from December to end of March. Must include appliances and utilities, hot tub and Wi-Fi would be appreciated. References available. Home will be maintained by local housekeeper. Call, email or text photos a must. 778-215-9057 chris@blocksplus.ca

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Dr. Michael Brennan • Chiropractor www.activebalancechiro.ca Appointments can be scheduled by contacting TUES – SAT 9am – 1pm.

SILVERTON CHRISTMAS MARKET: 16-4 Saturday, December 3, Silverton Memorial Hall. Exciting crafts, piano music by local musicians, raffles, yummy treats. Come out, mingle and support our talented craftpeople. Vendors call 358-2475.

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Food Guide revision, Healthy Eating initiatives for a healthy Canada

As part of the revision, Health Canada launched a consultation with Canadians, which will run to December 8, to determine how it can provide better dietary guidance that meets the needs of Canadians. This revision is part of a multi-year Healthy Eating Strategy. Health Canada will use every tool at its disposal—legislation, regulation, and education—to create a better dietary guidance and education—to create conditions to support healthy eating. The Strategy outlines how Health Canada will achieve the commitments set out in the Prime Minister’s mandate letter to the Minister of Health related to sodium, trans fats, sugars, food colouring, marketing to children, and the Nutrition North program.

In Canada, four out of five Canadians risk developing conditions to support healthy eating. The annual economic burden of obesity in Canada is estimated in the billions of dollars.

The Province is investing approximately $66 million in arts and culture this year to further support a thriving creative economy. Supported within this funding, the BC Arts Council is providing $24 million to help artists and cultural organizations flourish in more than 200 communities throughout the province.
Enter Lt. Governor’s community music program submitted

Entries are now being accepted for the fourth season of Sing Me a Song, a music program to promote community spirit and personal health. The Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, has announced.

Sing Me a Song is an opportunity for musical groups of all ages and genres to write and sing an original song in the lead-up to Canada’s 150th birthday celebrations in 2017. Groups are encouraged to write a song about what Canada’s sesquicentennial means to them or their community.

“As we approach Canada’s 150th birthday next year it is an opportunity to reflect on our values and our accomplishments as Canadians,” said Guichon. “Sing Me a Song is a chance not only to demonstrate community pride, but also to promote and profile some of the exceptional student and amateur musicians found throughout the province.”

Each entry will be reviewed by a panel of musicians from around the province and an award of $1,000 will be granted annually in each of three age categories. Whether it is a school or community choir or other amateur musical group, all submissions must have a minimum of eight voices and musical accomplishment is welcome. Each song must be original content, no longer than five minutes in length, and be based on the Canada 150 themes.

For younger age groups adults may assist in the creation of the musical content. Musicality, spirit, and originality are highly encouraged.

For more information and to enter, visit www.lg.gov.bc.ca. Entries are due by March 31, 2017.

Volunteers trained to help seniors with advance planning submitted

Area volunteers recently took two days of training on completing legal documents for personal planning, and

Student transportation services improve for SD 8 submitted

Families in School District 8 (Kootenay Lake) will benefit from improved transportation services, thanks to $419,602 in funding under the new provincial Student Transportation Fund.

The board of SD8 approved applying for funds to be used in three major ways.

Tourism numbers are higher for August submitted

The August international visitor numbers are in and they are proof that this past summer has been an exceptional time of growth for tourism in British Columbia. Year-to-date figures show an 11.5 per cent increase in international visitors over the same period last year (January to August). That represents close to four million total overnight international visitors (3,990,574) during the first eight months of this year.

In August alone, 789,783 international visitors came to BC, a 7.5 per cent increase compared to August 2015.

There are a number of factors contributing to the growth in visitor numbers, including increased air access and capacity to Vancouver, a low Canadian dollar and personal advance care planning which is a step towards having screened volunteers available to assist people to complete documents for health and legal advance care planning. Individuals from Kaslo, the Slocan Valley, Nelson, Balfour, the East Shore, and Salmo attended the training, and all are committed to helping people in their communities.

Also, a cross section of organizations are now prepared to support this activity on their home turf. The Nelson & District 8 (Kootenay Lake) early childhood professional program to promote community decision making and provide increased support for school-based decision making.

Support activities in Nelson for the month of September included:

• Music is a powerful tool to engage families
• Music is a universal language

Columbia.

In addition to supporting this activity on their own, organizations are now prepared to help people in their communities.

Interior Health names new chair submitted

Interior Health board member John O’Fee of Kamloops has been appointed incoming chair for the Nelson-based Interior Health board member. O’Fee will replace Erwin Malzer when he completes his tenure on December 31.

To improve patient and care provider access to health information, Malzer championed investments in technology including the launch of MyHealthPortal, which gives patients 24-hour electronic access to their health information, and broadened the reach of telehealth services.

In his new role, O’Fee will guide Interior Health’s board of directors as the organization continues to realign its resources with a goal of shifting the focus of health care from hospitals to enhanced primary and community care. The intent is to support people to live healthy at home and in their communities for as long as they can.

O’Fee has served Kamloops and the region as a school trustee and board chair, city councillor, regional district director, and chair of the Thompson Nicola Hospital District. Other service includes a term as a director of the BC Municipal Finance Authority, president of the Kamloops Airport Authority Society, as well as president of the Thompson Rivers University Foundation.

Et cetera

November 3, 2016 The Valley Voice

COMMUNITY

For more information visit: www.forbo-flooring.com

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VINYL 12" FLOORING SPECIAL
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Coral Welcome is an entrance flooring system made with Econyl® 100% regenerated recycled yarns, and the primary backing from recycled PET bottles. Forbo works closely with suppliers who share our determination to make ever greater use of regenerated and recycled materials. With its contemporary linear design and rich, deep pile, Coral Wel comes packs the style and aesthetic appeal of a luxury carpet. It makes an unequivocal statement in any entrance area. MANY STYLES AND SIZES AVAILABLE
Slocan Valley Painter launches first book: *Sylvan Reflections*

Submitted

Everyone is invited to a unique presentation combining visual art, love of nature, contemplative thought, and spiritual connection, a book launch unlike any other.

**SYLVAN REFLECTIONS: Wanderings, Paintings and Ponderings from the Forest**

is Barbara Brown’s first-ever, self-published book. The dates for this launch are Thursday November 17, 7 pm at Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver; Saturday November 5, 1 pm at Kootenay Gallery in Castlegar; and Saturday November 26, 3 pm at Booksmyth, 338 Baker in Nelson. The artist/writer will be on hand throughout the event to read from her book and to discuss why she chose this way to share her deep love of nature. Her paintings will be on display, and she will present a short film that tells the story of how her book came to be.

Every dog Brown walks in her forest, and steps into a world of subtle beauty and transcendent splendour. For her, the trees and bushes simply glow with life and spirit.

“I look at all this around me,” she says, “and I wonder: ‘Is this just for me?’ Gradually she realized she needed to share her vision. Remarkably, with her art she makes it possible for all to see the forest through her eyes. It will never look the same again.

Brown is no stranger to Kootenay residents and travellers since for many years, as Raven Creations, she produced the annual West Kootenay, Nelson and Castlegar maps. She has taken the skills gained throughout these years to present her art to the world.

This beautifully designed book features 16 original oil paintings as well as numerous other illustrations and musings on the forest. It is also enriched with nature lore and inspirational quotes from some of the writer’s favourite muses. There are even three pages you can download and colour yourself. This is a book you will pick up again and again.

Fall author’s reading in Slocan

Submitted

The Slocan Community Library invites you to attend a presentation by Donna Macdonald on Sunday, November 6 from 1 to 2 pm. You might recognize the name; this is the winner of the 2016 Richard Carver Award which recognizes emerging writers based on the quality of their book and involvement in the local arts scene.

Surviving City Hall, published in May, is relevant to communities and the people who care about them. Based on her 19 years as a city councillor, the book is educational and entertaining, will be funny, surprising and even shocking stories, readings and comfortable conversation. Macdonald’s unique book, both educational and entertaining, will be available for sale and signing.

FREEZER PACKAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1 PACKAGE</th>
<th>#160</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 lbs Pork Chops Centre Cut</td>
<td>8 lbs Chicken Breast - Bone in</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 lbs Lean Ground Beef</td>
<td>5 lbs Sirloin Tip Roast</td>
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<tr>
<th>#2 PACKAGE</th>
<th>#215</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 LBS Lean Ground Beef</td>
<td>5 lbs Rib steaks</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 lbs outside round roast</td>
<td>5 lbs Chicken Breast - Boneless</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 lbs Beef Stew</td>
<td>5 lbs Pork Chops Centre Cut</td>
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<tr>
<th>#3 PACKAGE</th>
<th>#225</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 lbs Pork Sirloin Steak</td>
<td>8 lbs Pork Breaded Cutlets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 lbs Pork Tenderloin</td>
<td>8 lbs Pork chop cuts &amp; roast - Boneless</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 lbs Ground Pork or 7 lbs pork sausage</td>
<td>10 lbs Ground Pork or 7 lbs pork sausage</td>
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For more information and a glimpse of her work, go to BarbaraBrownArt.com.

**Fallen Cedar/Rising Dragon**, oil painting by Barbara Brown.

For PS: Don’t forget to turn back your clock Saturday night, or you’ll miss the event!