Kootenay Savings labour talks stalled over wages and pensions

Contract talks between Kootenay Savings Credit Union and its employees’ union broke down at the end of October, and neither side is releasing any more information on whatever negotiations are taking place.

The Valley Voice contacted United Steel Workers (USW) local 1-405 in Trail, but the calls were not returned. A spokesperson for KSCU said there was no update, and refused to comment on the situation.

The two sides started talks one year ago to renew the collective agreement for the 111 unionized employees at all branches except for New Denver and Nakusp, and two in the East Kootenay. Both South Slocan and Kaslo branches are unionized, and are open for limited hours during the labour dispute.

Negotiations continued until May, when they applied for mediator assistance. Two days of talks took place in June, but were not successful. Negotiations resumed in October, again unsuccessfully.

The union served strike notice on October 17. KSCU responded by serving a one-day lockout notice for October 28 “in an effort to encourage the union to return to negotiations and help us address the critical issues while minimizing impact to our employees and members.”

USW says the staff “will not be returning to work until a collective agreement has been freely negotiated between the parties. The employer has locked out their employees and they will stay locked out until a collective agreement is settled.”

The outstanding issues, according to KSCU’s last media release on November 2, are wages and pension provisions. The union adds several more: working hours for the new Member Service Centre, vacation allotment and scheduling, and improvements to the employee banking benefits provision.

KSCU issued the following statement on the pension issue, which has been edited for length: “…Kootenay Savings belongs to a multi-employer plan where all decisions regarding the plan are made by a Board of Trustees. Out of 25 credit unions participating in the BC Credit Union Defined Pension Plan, we are the only one with collective agreement language that holds us to unlimited financial liability for any changes the Trustees may make to plan benefits. These changes are out of our control, yet we are bound by their decisions.

In these negotiations, Kootenay Savings has proposed to fund a very lucrative supplemental retirement allowance on an annual basis to provide another layer of protection to employees, in the event of future changes if they were to occur. This fund is in addition to a rich retirement allowance that we provided to Defined Benefit Pension Plan participants in 2011. These additional benefits are unprecedented for credit unions, and no other credit union provides anything to the other 3,000+ plan members in the same pension plan, including those of the other Kootenay region credit union employees represented by the Steelworkers.”

USW lead negotiator Dean Lott says “The Credit Union Pension Plan is in good financial shape. The Trustees have made changes during the latest valuation (September 30, 2016) that has vastly improved the position of the plan. The employer is stuck on what may happen, what it’s, and no one has a crystal ball.”

The four Kaslo KSCU employees affected by the lock-out strike have been maintaining a picket line.

Remembrance Day participants parade down Broadway on their way to the village’s cenotaph. Remembrance Day photo spread on pages 10 & 11.
Primeval: Enter the Incomappleux inspires action on park proposal

by Jan McMurray

An ancient rainforest with 2,000-year-old trees stands in the Selkirk mountains along the Incomappleux River, just south of Glacier National Park. The film Primeval: Enter the Incomappleux takes viewers on a journey to this awe-inspiring place – the "crown jewel" of the proposed Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park.

Presented by the Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS), the film premiered in Nelson at the Capitol Theatre on November 9. It will be showing at the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival later this month, and will be on tour around the province over the next year in an effort to put public pressure on the government to create the Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park.

At the Nelson premiere, VWS representatives urged the audience to write letters to the BC government and federal Minister of Environment to ask for the creation of the park. Filmmaker Damien Gillis, biologist Dr. Toby Spribble, and VWS reps were in attendance to introduce the film and answer questions. Craig Pettitt of VWS made a presentation about the park proposal, which the society has been working on for the last 10 years. The proposed park covers 156,000 hectares of land that would provide connectivity between the existing Glacier National, Goat Range Provincial, and Baguabo Provincial Parks. The Landane, East Creek, Duncan, Westfall, and Incomappleux drainages fall within the proposed park area.

"The Selkirks once had a healthy number of mountain caribou but we have been drastically altering their habitat and we are losing these animals," said Pettitt.

Despite the BC government's Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan (MCRIP), which took a significant amount of caribou habitat out of the timber harvesting land base, the number of caribou in the Central Selkirk herd has dropped. From 88 in 2008 to 35 in 2016. "The MCRIP is a dismal failure," Pettitt said.

Thanks to the work of biologist Dr. Toby Spribble, a tremendous number of species of lichens have been found in the Incomappleux, and some are new to science. Because of Spribble’s work, there is a temporary moratorium on logging in the Incomappleux. However, the moratorium could be lifted at any moment, and there are approved cutblocks in the Incomappleux Rainforest.

"When these forests are cut, we’ll never see forests of this stature again," Pettit said.

Pettit explained that when forests are cut, they are replanted as tree farms, with commercial value and profit in mind. "So the biodiversity is lost," he said, "and the new, young forests don’t support mountain caribou. Mountain caribou depend on old-growth forest." In the winter, their staple food is the lichen that grows on the ancient trees.

Pettitt also said that BC Timber Sales is currently building a logging road on the west side of Duncan Lake into Puddingbowl Creek, another area in the park proposal. "We’ve been finding caribou there, so building this road will have quite an impact on these animals," he said.

"Dr. Spribble first went into the Incomappleux in 2002 after meeting the late Colleen McCrory the year before. I have been back 14 times," he said. "I have come back again and again because of the very special things going on here."

Filmmaker Damien Gillis, co-producer and co-director of the award-winning Fractured Land, said he felt privileged to work in the company of people who were working so hard to protect these areas. "There are so few places like the Incomappleux where you can experience the world before humans," he said.

Visit vws.org for more information.

Slocan Valley Wildfire Protection Plan gets support from the province submitted

The Slocan Integral Forestry Co-operative (SIFCo) continues to work for wildfire protection for the Slocan Valley, an issue that is becoming increasingly urgent with climate change. After helping to secure $450,000 earlier this fall for forest fuel management around New Denver, SIFCo just received confirmation that the Province is supporting its Slocan Valley Landscape Level Wildfire Protection Plan with a commitment of $425,000.

The funding was received from the newly formed Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) which aims to advance environmental and resource stewardship of forests.

This FESBC funding is for the first year of a five-year plan released by SIFCo in June of this year.

"Over the last eight years we have focused on protecting villages, homes and infrastructure," says manager Stephan Martineau “but all these investments are still at risk if we do not implement a landscape-level wildfire protection plan. The Province and FESBC recognize the need to manage forest fuels at a landscape level, because this type of work will reduce the chances of a catastrophic event such as the Fort McMurray fire of spring 2016.”

The Strategic Wildfire protection plan for the Slocan Valley is the first of its kind done by a tenure holder.

“We hope that lessons learned with this pilot project will help others in the province, and that working together we will continue to make BC more prepared when it come to wildfires.”

Funds will go toward fuel management on more than 100 hectares of land as well as ecosystem restoration in selected areas. Two public meetings are planned for mid-December to share the overall plan with residents: December 13 at the Winton Hall and December 14 at the Kootenay Hall in New Denver. Both meetings start at 7 pm.
IH wants regional hospital district to pay more for Trail hospital upgrades

by Katrine Campbell

Interior Health has broken with tradition by asking the regional hospital district to pay the whole $16.6 million estimated cost for the first phase of upgrades and renovations at the Trail hospital. The West Kootenay Boundary Regional Health District board typically pays for 40% of the cost of approved projects, while the remaining 60% is funded by the provincial government or through donations provided by local hospital foundations.

“From May to November of this year, world-class mountain biking destination the lodge was destroyed by a fire in and organizations. Formerly a ski hill, referring not only to the trail itself, but also to the collaboration of the many sponsors that day. The MLAs will tour the whole trail network four years ago with the Great Trail (formerly the Trans Canada Trail) network, including the potential impact on the West Arm.” The government had proposed moving the terminal to Queens Bay to resolve problems posed by the narrow outlet to the main lake, including the shallow lakedown at that point on the West Arm. According to the ministry, safety improvements may have to be made at the terminal to eliminate conflicts between highway and ferry traffic, and the aging MV Balfour will have to be replaced.

But Balfour area residents saw the potential move as disastrous. According to the Choose Balfour website: “Moving the ferry terminal out of Balfour would devastate the social and cultural community of Balfour. It would ruin local businesses with a likely loss of over 60 jobs and cause an annual loss of over $7 million in economic activity, plus loss of tax revenue.” The group says these impacts were not considered in the original ministry study. The website also noted the negative environmental impacts of moving the ferry, including a permanent alteration of fish habitat and the riparian area. Concern was expressed that the dredging of the bay and “90,000 cubic metres of sediment” would affect water quality, as Balfour gets drinking water from Queens Bay. The website post by the Choose Balfour coalition in response to the announcement was ecstatic, and thanked a long list of dedicated volunteers and political advocates, including regional director Ramona Faust and MLA Michelle Mungall. The coalition was composed of the Kootenay Lake Ferry Landing Partnership, Queens Bay Residents Association and the Balfour Ferry Business Coalition.

“It is our hope the government will continue consultation with the Balfour community regarding the landing as a multipurpose facility. We are also hoping to see a new energy efficient (electric) ferry. A huge amount of gratitude to all who put in their efforts. There was an outpouring of support and work by so many, Thank you!”

Ferry service on Kootenay Lake currently operates between Balfour on the west side and Queens Bay on the east side. The distance is about nine kilometres, with a crossing time of about 35 minutes. The MV Ogopogos provides year-round service, with the MV Osprey providing summer service. The Government of British Columbia invests approximately $29 million annually into the operation of its 4 inland ferry routes.

Silverton Social Drop In Program Silverton Memorial Hall Every Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Socializing, Workshops and Outings Lunch served every Thursday Program is open to everyone over 50, including electrical transformer upgrades: Phase Two, ambulatory care and pharmacy renovation; and Phase Three, facility infrastructure upgrades. As asked in the public hearing about Interior Health’s dealings with the KWB/KBRD board, Rotvold said, “It’s a challenge. I’ve dealt with IH for six years or more and communications are not always the best. They are improving but it takes time.”

“If IH is you and have to work with them; that’s the process we’re trying to do. You’re finding compromise and trying to look at the whole picture from the taxpayers’ perspective.” She cited IH’s approval for the board’s priority, upgrades at Arrow Lakes Hospital in Nakusp, as evidence things are improving.

New Denver Councillor Henning von Krogh, the Village’s rep on the board, is slightly less optimistic. He has been expressing frustration with IH for some time, for not sharing its plans. At the November 8 council meeting, he said “I think they have a plan and is not telling us about it. We keep trying to get a commitment from them that taxpayers will be protected” from a tax hike to pay an increased share of the cost. “They vehemently deny they have a five-year plan, and say they fund year-to-year, but they should have an overall plan.” Mayor Ann Bunka commented that “Interior Health runs like a business, but it wants to be treated like a society.”
The good news of climate action economics

The Paris Agreement on climate change garnered enough signatories, and went into force Friday. Economists see it as a framework for cooperation among countries; those not pulling their weight may suffer penalties such as trade sanctions. Meanwhile, some astute multinational corporations are already seeing the positive economic benefits of climate action.

L’Oréal, a leading beauty company, reduced its CO2 emissions by 56% 2005-2015, while experiencing a 26% increase in production. They had an ambitious strategy of improving energy efficiency across facilities, increasing the use of renewable energy, and developing low carbon innovations.

AstraZeneca, a multinational pharmaceutical company, anticipates an increase in future profits while committing to source 100% renewable power by 2025 and establishing the natural resources capital fund.

These and many other corporate examples fly in the face of the ‘merchants of doubt,’ the glib and seasoned marketers who profit from the idea that climate change is a hoax and would have us believe that the idea that climate change is a seasonal phenomenon. They had an increase in future profits while experiencing a 26% increase in production.

In Kaslo, our credit union – Kootenay Savings – is imbedded in our local community, provides great services along with very competitive rates, and is one of the main economic pillars of our community. Imagine that if closed, citizens and businesses would need to make the long-haul trek to Nelson just to do their banking; jobs would be lost and Kaslo would be diminished in terms of encouraging new businesses and tourism here.

If the BC government wishes to walk the talk, they should support the credit unions in acknowledgement of the impact services they provide to our rural communities. Perhaps this move has been in response to the heavy lobbying of the ‘Big Five’ banks who would probably like nothing better than for these financial alternatives to disappear?

Mostly privately, TELUS Mobility is an option for some, available through your smart phone or other wireless device, but the cost is more expensive. Red Mountain Internet has limited bandwidth, outdated equipment, and a declining client base. Red Mountain Internet serves a lot of people from Red Mountain, Rosbery and Hills but I don’t believe the Village of Nelson to just do their banking; jobs would be lost and Kaslo would be diminished in terms of encouraging new businesses and tourism here.

Silverton internet

Silverton presently has three internet providers. They are Red Mountain Internet Society, Columbia Wireless, and TELUS Mobility. Columbia Wireless provides the best value for the money and most residents of Silverton can access this service, which is funded mostly privately. TELUS Mobility is an option for some, available through your smart phone or other wireless device, but the cost is more expensive. Red Mountain Internet has limited bandwidth, outdated equipment, and a declining client base. Red Mountain Internet serves a lot of people from Red Mountain, Rosbery and Hills but I don’t believe the Village of Nelson to just do their banking; jobs would be lost and Kaslo would be diminished in terms of encouraging new businesses and tourism here.

Silverton has an essential service needed by all the other two service providers as options. All of the Red Mountain Internet Society’s infrastructure is located outside the village and therefore should be managed by someone other than the Village of Silverton. We don’t need local governments providing services that the private sector provides with good service and value. Perhaps the Village of Silverton should look into a broadband project like the Village of Kaslo has implemented in their downtown core with fibre optic service. It would be a much more beneficial project that would make it more viable for internet-based businesses to set up in Silverton. Has Red Mountain Internet Society asked Columbia Wireless to take them over?

Jumbo’s current condition

The following is based on recent information from my government contact person in the Mountain Resorts Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations. The Mountain Resorts Branch (MRB) did receive a new plan for a smaller Jumbo Glacier Resort (JGR) from the proponent, Oberto Oberti. However, it's the government’s way of forcing ‘consolidation’ on this sector, but with the MRB requirements.

Because there is no timeline to the JGR proposal, the Master Development Agreement with its complex structure is still in place (no doubt eagerly awaiting Mr. O.O.’s next attempt at resorting in Jumbo). As well, the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipal councillors are working diligently with many knotty requirements representing that bustling urban sprawl, and, of course, are happy to receive their regular pay cheques as well as government’s annual dole to urban communities.

The Judicial Review appeals are proceeding by: the Ktunaxa Nation, which asserts that the proposed resort will jeopardize their sacred Quat’Muk; and the West Kootenay EcoSociety, which contends that the creation of the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality is a sham; and, Oberto Oberti, who insists that the proposed JGR did make a substantial start, taking every opportunity to talk of how much time and money has been spent while jumping through the many required hoops.

As far as work at the proposed resort site is concerned – there was none this season. However, next season the Environmental Assessment Office plans to send a compliance person to see how the unsustainably started concrete foundation slabs and capped wells are doing.

Eco-Justice contends that the ‘no substantial start’ decision means the proponent’s existing paperwork should no longer be relevant to any new proposal.

And since I’ve had no reports that the fat grizzly is singing, it’s safe to say that Jumbo is in good condition.

Please write a letter to Minister of Environment Mary Polak, thanking her for helping to keep Jumbo Wild, and reiterating that while the moose count is down in the Kootenays and gizzly bear habitat is shrinking, grizzly bears and moose are thriving in the Jumbo Valley environs, as are all wild fauna and flora.

Email: envir.minister@gov.bc.ca; Mary Polak, Minister of Environment, P.O. Box 9077, Stn Prov Gov, Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2.

Rovenia Eloise Argenta, for the West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild
Open letter to Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Clarke

I write to respectfully advise that when you both congratulate President Elect Donald Trump on his successful bid to become one of the key leaders in the world, you are not speaking for the world. Each Remembrance Day, I remind myself that half my father’s high school classmates were injured or died so that I and others could be free and equal. I watched two of them take 20 years to die from war and internment wounds and have an older cousin who never knew his father, who died in the Battle of Britain. I therefore cannot extend any kind of congratulations to a soon to be global political leader who has extolled the virtues of groping a woman’s genitals, and ask every British Columbian and Canadian man (and yourselves) to consider how long a female political leader would be found acceptable if she extolled the virtues of groping by men with their genitals and pulling on their pensises against their will?

Further, as a small child I was told by an older uncle that my entire family had been placed on a death list (my last name is Shadrack) for purposes of extermination. If not for the fact that the Nazis have successfully invaded England. Knowing that 50 million people eventually died during the struggle to end what started out as a simple acquiescence to a country’s leader who believed in categorizing people by reason of their religion or race or country of origin, but who ended up in actually killing millions, I cannot accept as legitimate anyone who uses race, religion and country of origin as the basis for how we will treat each other and behave towards each other.

This is the 21st century, and through the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we have agreed that we are all equal now. Too many people have fought and died for those principles for me to turn a blind eye and look the other way. So I will simply ask who will join with me in standing alongside women, persons with disabilities, those of different race, religion, sexual orientation, etc. to ensure we do not go back down that path again?

Andy Shadrack
Kaslo

Fear of nuclear II

In the YouTube video, How fear of nuclear power is hurting the environment, Michael Shellenberger says that the percentage of clean (no CO2) energy is declining. Michael said that this percentage drop of 5% is equal to the amount generated from nuclear plants or 900 Topaz solar farms.

So I would like to know how many nuclear plants or solar farms it would take to raise this amount from 31% to 100% and what would be the cost difference between these two. What is unknown is how much the demand for more energy will increase in the meantime?

So there is a rough estimate for the immediate requirement. Using Google, I learned that the Topaz solar project covered 9.5 sq. miles and cost $2.4 billion. A nuclear high pressure water reactor plant is estimated at $9 billion today.

To reach 100%, the number of Topazes needed to be increased from 900 to 12,000 or 13,000. That is enough energy to make it possible to manufacture gasoline or diesel from CO2 and reverse the CO2 in the atmosphere and ocean. We have the technologies to do that. Michael Shellenberger said that he and his colleagues went to China to see how they are progressing with their nuclear program. China has announced a new pebble bed reactor that they will be running by next fall. They hope to see selling nuclear plants on the world market in the future. They also are working on thorium reactor technology and hope to have them on the market by 2040. Michael asked if they could speed that up by 10 years. They replied by telling him that they were a new model, but untested.

Frank Nixon
Winlaw

Standing Rock fundraiser

A recent fundraiser for Standing Rock was held in Nelson and advertised as being hosted by the Sinixt. After the event, several members of the community approached me, stating that they had attended expecting to hear a Sinixt perspective on this issue. They were confused by the lack of a Sinixt presence at the event. They also asked where the funds that were raised were going. I told those who asked that had not been asked or invited to the event by the organizers. I was not involved in the organizing of the event and am not accountable for the funds raised.

For more information, I want to state that I fully support the actions at Standing Rock and the protection of water.

I also want to state for the record that I have no problem whatsoever in promoting the fundraiser and sending financial donations to Standing Rock.

I have a huge problem with appropriation of any kind. If community members want to hold a fundraiser, why can’t they, as settlers, support an action at Standing Rock by Indians? Are only Indians allowed to openly support and host events for Indians? From all accounts, it has been the open support of settlers at Standing Rock that, in my opinion as an Indian, has dampened the savagery by police and military security directed toward the water protectors by the authorities during their water, lands and sacred sites.

Decolonization is a commitment by all of us to actively pursue better relations. Support for actions by an ethnic we have to say, “Stop that behaviour!” It matters not your motives and intention... don’t do that! Don’t hide behind brown skirts (skimis) for that reason. Such beliefs are a part and simple appropriation of the most insidious kind, settler over Indian. As an Indian and as the matriarch representing my kin in Sinixt unceded territory, I can state from experience that we have suffered settler good intentions to our fill. STOP the behavior that causes us to feel humiliated by everything in your power to stand for the reversal of the declared extinction of the Sinixt in Canada.

If you as a settler want to support Indians anywhere, please do so as a settler supporting Indians. If you want, ask, and I will support you supporting Indians. If you as a settler witness or attend something that feels questionable to you... please... ask the questions of those bringing those questions to your mind. To those who held this event, it isn’t the first time you have inserted yourselves in questionable colonial behaviour and I am asking you to stop that particular behavior. What I do not want is to see the others choose who the right or wrong Indians are. Stop it NOW!

Marilyn James

Kaslo sawegrore

When the Specified Area Utility infrastructure was being promoted in the mid '90s for the waterfront in Kaslo, the politicians at the time and some members of that specified area would not have to pay for any costs associated with it. Now it appears that the politicians have not only broken those promises but are contemplating fee increases to our taxes of $3000 a year. The original design was to allow for development along the waterfront but with empty developments the Specified Areas and the millions there, that hasn’t happened.

At a public meeting on June 23, Village CAO Neil Smith said that the project was not involved in the organizing of the event and am not accountable for the funds raised. For more information, I want to state that I fully support the actions at Standing Rock and the protection of water.

I also want to state for the record that I have no problem whatsoever in promoting the fundraiser and sending financial donations to Standing Rock.

I have a huge problem with appropriation of any kind. If community members want to hold a fundraiser, why can’t they, as settlers, support an application for a grant for urgent repairs to the sewer treatment plant and to get it ready to take on Lower Kaslo in the future, with a municipal contribution of up to $15,000, and $20,000 (by the original motion). They said $50,000 of the Village contribution would come from the operational surplus from the sewer utility and $50,000 would come from the general accumulated surplus, and the final $50,000, if needed, would come from borrowing. I think they rescinded the original motion because they were spoilt after I sent a letter in which I stated that I don’t think they are allowed to use taxpayers’ money from outside the specified area, as it is a levy.

So it is unreasonable to think that the council has ulterior motives after several delays and a statement (inferred in the original motion) that the sewer is not a utility?

Well, after looking at the village water system map to confirm that a water line is on the road to the former Scout Hall site, I think the real reason the building was demolished was to make way for a sewer line. A letter dated October 28, 2015 from Smith seems to confirm my suspicion as he says the reason the former Scout Hall was being demolished is that most of it is located on that road.

Now, depending on who you talk to, the sewer treatment plant needs to be completely rebuilt, moved to a new location, or just fixed up. But when I look at the cost over-runs on the fire hall and public washrooms, I would not trust this council to do anything but the minimum required.

All they seem to be good at is spending our money and when they need more, they raise taxes. But, unlike us, they don’t have to figure out how to earn it to pay for their dreams.

Patrick Mackle
Kaslo

Sustainable development input to federal Ministry of Environment

In the summer of 1986, myself and a small group of West Kootenay concerned citizens peacefully stopped the BC NEDP and Kootenay Lake (6 Mile office) Ministry of Forestry from an experimental aerial spraying of agent orange 2, 4-D as a broad leaf suppressant to release small planted conifers on clearcuts above the Meadow Creek Spawning Channel in the domestic watershed of the small stream rainbow trout habitat in Meadow Creek. It turned out to be, we were informed by our Conservative MP at the time, a continuation of a US-based military experiment that was started before Vietnam War in Cagetown, Nova Scotia.

BC’s NEDP and Forestry Ministry needed a cheap key to catch on to the huge backlog of uncutted clearcuts. These unsustainable industrial logging practices filled timber barons and bunkers’ pockets with loot and started the massive extinction of caribou, grizzly, Wolverine and basically every wild species in North America… quite an accomplishment really. Not the power of love but the power of greed. The question you folks need to ask is how can we stop this greed?

There is now a mad rush by BC Ministry of Forests and huge logging companies (banks) to get ahead of what appears to be a real carbon tax at some point. For example, over the next few years, something like 400,000 truck loads will be cleared from the west side of Duncan Lake (north of Kaslo). This is the southernmost largest intact tract of what has become known as the inland temperate rainforest1 on planet earth. This unravelled area supports huge deposits of carbon in the deep soils of the old growth/ancient red cedar/ hemlock. This area, if properly managed, would offer long-term sustainable economic benefits for local communities like Kaslo, Meadow/Cooper Creek, and at a source level for value-added forest products and limitless revenues for old-growth tourism. As it currently stands, there are no longer any hills in the north of the West Kootenay. Two thousand years of sustainable growth gone. What happened? Why are we exporting this resource so quickly? Why are we destroying tourism possibilities and so blantly willing the extinction of mountain caribou, grizzly and other near extinct species?

I would like to see federal environmental experts begin to turn around your obvious efforts to cause the extinction of species, and turn toward what will help our future generation enjoy the baby boomers have exploited.

You could begin by helping us here in the North Kootenay Lake area to work with similar communities (banks) and the Forest Ministry to create a process where we would have input into the plan for 400,000 logging trucks that will rip up and increase danger on our highways. You could help develop a study to compare how much safer, cheaper and cleaner (less carbon) it would be to return timber down Kootenay Lake instead of trucking. This same study could also compare the cost of harvesting chips trucks down Arrow Lake from Revelstoke to the pulp mill in Castlegar vs. chip trucks on the highways. This might be the beginning of real sustainable development in our area.

Kaslo is here to help you on this matter. Is it a human right to have a future for my grandchildren?

Tom Prior
Nelson

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Cutting trees raises concern, but few show up for public meeting

by Katrine Campbell

A second round of interface fuel treatment will take place around New Denver over the next two years. At a public meeting November 8, eight people showed up, along with Village council, to receive a full explanation of the work to be done from SIFCo manager Stephan Martineau and forestry supervisor Tom Bradley.

SIFCo (the Slocan Integrated Forestry Co-operative) will clear out underbrush, remove some trees, and limb the rest. Martineau explained that trees with a diameter less than 17.5 cm (seven inches) will be thinned to 500 per hectare; those over that size will be spured, but all will have lower limbs pruned to a height of three metres. Those dry lower limbs on evergreens become a ladder for the fire to climb to the tops. Once that happens, you have a crown fire where the flames leap from tree to tree across the forest. The wood will all be chipped and spread in a layer less than 10 cm deep, which will not be a fire hazard. If the chipper can’t reach the site, the crew will burn the debris in several small fires which will be extinguished at the end of the day.

Large rotting logs will be left in place; they are also not a fire hazard but host fungi, insects and other small critters. In addition, scattered patches of irregular shape but about 100 square metres will be left untouched as shelter for small animals and deer. Deciduous trees are left to grow; they actually slowly down fires because they don’t burn well.

The public meeting was called because SIFCo’s crew will be working around the village for the next couple of years, and they want people to understand what they are doing and why. “We will tailor our work to your needs,” Martineau said. One man at the meeting said he thought it meant chemicals would be sprayed. Martineau thanked him for bringing it to their attention, and asked for alternate wording so the next batch of tape would be more reassuring.

Martineau and Bradley also talked about the effects of climate change and predicted drought, and wetter and dryer weather, bringing more fires. The ecosystem is changing, and different tree species are moving in. The south Slocan Valley is drier than the north, and by 2030 it will boast a climate that is “a mix of northern Utah and Grand Forks.”

Because of the growing danger, SIFCo has been working on a comprehensive landscape-level approach which will include all the valley, not just the villages. “We want a Fort McMurray type event,” said Martineau. There will be more presentations on these paths, as the co-op builds and expands on its existing work. This includes a computerized model of how fires will burn. By using climate data, weather patterns, precipitation and other data, they can see a pattern of what fires like to do and where they want to go. SIFCo has identified 15 main travel paths for fires in the valley, and will put fuel breaks on these paths.

SIFCo was formed in 2007 as a community forest, just in time for the economic crash of 2008. After the fire season, the community forestry association spent an extensive effort by water, land, and air. The RCMP is currently considering additional resources.

Taylor was last seen on November 2 at about 7:30 pm in Slocan, as he was leaving by boat with his dog to return home to Pebble Beach on the west side of the lake. Later that evening, his neighbours heard a dog barking; they believed it was coming from the lake. Concerned because Taylor had not returned home, they contacted the RCMP around 9:45 pm. New Denver Fire Rescue, Arrow Lakes Search and Rescue, Castlegar Search and Rescue, Nelson Search and Rescue, and the Wildfire Protection Program began in a few locations outlined in the mapping process that had very high or high risk and consequences where fire was a threat. The project aimed at enhancing community safety and fire preparedness by reducing fuel loading. Work was carried out by a six-person crew of displaced forest workers with one supervisor.

2012-13: worked with Silverton, investing $400,000 to treat 47 ha between the village and Red Mountain.

2013-14: worked with Slocan, investing $295,000 to treat 35 ha above the highway.

2015-16: Silverton again, investing another $395,000 to treat 39.2 ha north and east of the village, tying in with the 47 ha done in 2012-13 and making a band of protection around the entire village.

2016-17: phase two in New Denver starts.

Wildland-Urban Interface Program

The public meeting was asked to call the Slocan Lake RCMP at 250-358-2222.

Christmas Tea for Seniors coming up, December 3

This event is made possible with the generous sponsorship of many local businesses as well as a great crew of volunteers. A free bus, provided through the support of the RDCK, is available to pick you up at your door in Castlegar, so call today to reserve your seat. For more information or to reserve your seat on the bus call Slocan Lake Recreation at 250-226-6008.

Search for Slocan Valley man suspended

Anyone with information or to reserve your seat. For more information or to reserve your seat on the bus call Slocan Lake Recreation at 250-226-6008.

The next day, November 3, the 14-foot aluminum boat and Taylor’s dog were found beached on the west side of the lake. The dog has been taken in by a Slocan resident.


Search and Rescue, RCMP Inland Water Patrol, and RCMP Underwater Recovery Team. They used ground searchers, boats, a helicopter, an RCMP float plane, SONAR, and an underwater camera.

Taylor is 60 years old, 5’7” with thin grey hair and a grey beard. He was reportedly wearing grey coveralls and a yellow jacket.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Slocan Lake RCMP at 250-358-2222.

The search for Slocan Valley resident David Taylor, who went missing November 2, was suspended on November 8 after an extensive effort by water, land, and air. The RCMP is currently considering additional resources.

Taylor was last seen on November 2 at about 7:30 pm in Slocan, as he was leaving by boat with his dog to return home to Pebble Beach on the west side of the lake. Later that evening, his neighbours heard a dog barking; they believed it was coming from the lake. Concerned because Taylor had not returned home, they contacted the RCMP around 9:45 pm. New Denver Fire Rescue, Arrow Lakes Search and Rescue, Castlegar Search and Rescue, Nelson Search and Rescue, and the Wildfire Protection Program began in a few locations outlined in the mapping process that had very high or high risk and consequences where fire was a threat. The project aimed at enhancing community safety and fire preparedness by reducing fuel loading. Work was carried out by a six-person crew of displaced forest workers with one supervisor.

2012-13: worked with Silverton, investing $400,000 to treat 47 ha between the village and Red Mountain.

2013-14: worked with Slocan, investing $295,000 to treat 35 ha above the highway.

2015-16: Silverton again, investing another $395,000 to treat 39.2 ha north and east of the village, tying in with the 47 ha done in 2012-13 and making a band of protection around the entire village.

2016-17: phase two in New Denver starts.
Batik art on auction to help refugee family

submitted

The Slocan Valley Refugee Coalition is holding a silent auction of Indonesian fine art batik as a fundraiser for the family they have sponsored. The auction is hosted online at slocanvalleyrefugees.org. The final day of the online auction is Saturday December 3, where the auction moves to the Silvertown Christmas Market. All works will be on display in the balcony of Silvertown Hall and bidding will be accepted in person until that time.

The batiks were donated by Bill Finley, and along with a few other privately donated batiks, prints and paintings, comprise the SVRC’s auction offerings.

Where to hold info session on Site C dam

by Katrine Campbell

A ‘Feast for the Peace’ will be the first in a series of information sessions about various issues of interest to valley residents, hosted by the VIVA Centre at The Whole.

If you’re interested in hearing more about the Site C dam, from both sides of the controversy, go to the Whole at noon on Sunday, November 20.

“Take a big lunch; admission is $2 and includes a bowl of Gary Yakimchuk’s ‘famous’ squash and apple soup.”

The session will be organized by Moe Lyons. As a non-profit, RARTS (Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society) can’t take sides on Site C, which the dam would be designed to make a serious effort to find someone to speak in favour of the dam. As of November 11, she was still looking.

“I talked to a guy who works in power distribution and generation and asked who might speak in favour. He said no one – only the government thinks it’s a good idea and is in favour of it. I didn’t totally believe that so I went looking. The provincial Chamber of Commerce… said cheap power is good, but the Chamber in Fort St John won’t endorse the project because some of its members don’t think it’s a good idea.”

The Site C dam will be built on the Peace River, close to Fort St John in northeastern BC. Work has already started despite the many protests from ranchers and farmers, environmentalists and First Nations, scientists and concerned citizens. The Peace region is largely agricultural.

Lyons quotes agronomist Wendy Holm as saying the region could produce enough food to feed one million people per year.


“It’s a really hard time finding support” for the dam. “In doing all the research I thought I’d come out with a balanced perspective but all the information is negative.”

“I want to offer not only the anti- Site C presentation that this event usually is, but also to dig up the information for Site C and put it on the table as well, so that it becomes a fully fleshed discussion of the project. I want to put both sides of the argument forward as well as I can so people are making up their own minds.”

Lyons invites everyone to attend, and promises civility during the discussion.

• The next session at the Whole will be on December 2. The topic is ‘cannabis.’

Cannabis presentation at the Vallican Whole

submitted

The Vallican Whole Community Centre invites you to a presentation on ‘Cannabis: Science and Local Economic Development’ will take place at 6:30 pm on Friday, December 2. ‘Cannabis: Science and Local Economic Development’ will take place at 6:30 pm on Friday, December 2. The event will be held at the Vallican Whole Community Centre.

In July the SVRC was matched with a Somali family whose arrival they are now awaiting. The visa office is in its last stage with the AbuKar family and the coalition hopes they will arrive soon. The Abukars have now “met” their classmates at Lornece University through exchanges of emails and videos, and excitement is building on both sides.

The SVRC will be putting money raised from the silent auction towards a travel fund for the family. With the exception of the special initiative for Syrian refugees in early 2016, the Canadian government requires all refugees to repay, with interest, the cost of their transportation to Canada.

Advocates for refugees believe that starting life in Canada with no personal resources and a significant debt load undermines refugees’ ability to contribute to their full potential in their new home. Refugees often have to postpone educational upgrading or foreign ESL classes in order to work long hours to repay their loans. The potential to save back their long-term integration and self-sufficiency.

The Slocan Valley Refugee Coalition took shape almost a year ago with the aim of sponsoring a family with children to come to New Denver and spend at least their first year in Canada experiencing the warmth, safety and supportiveness that a small community like ours can so capably provide. Donations from those in the area, both financial and in terms of time and goods, have been generous. During the 1980s, former New Denverite Bill Finley and his wife Dot operated Cinta Batik Gallery. They travelled annually to Java, Indonesia to procure batiks from a dozen highly-regarded batik artists. Dot, an artist herself, studied batik with these masters. Batik is a wax-resist dyeing technique done on pieces of cloth, where the image is layered up progressively from light areas to darker.
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Box 70, New Denver, BC, V0G 1S0

Silverton water reports presented by Jan McMurray

Although the aquifer is vulnerable to contamination from Silverton Creek upstream, the Village water supply is protected from contamination because of the depth of the wells, the lateral movement of the water through the aquifer, and the screening effect of the creek. In 2015, all water quality guidelines were met in the monthly water quality monitoring of Silverton Creek done by SLSS.

Johnson mentioned that the community watershed status was lost in 1998, and recommends that the Village look into getting that status restored. He also recommends that water monitoring of Silverton Creek continue, that any activity that could potentially affect the watershed be monitored (i.e. mining, logging, recreation, construction), and that surface spills near the wells continue to be reported.

In response to a question from Councillor Bell, Johnson explained that there is no danger of contamination of the drinking water from septic systems, as the lateral movement of the water out from either side of the creek pushes everything away from the wells.

Council will discuss the reports and their recommendations at a Committee of the Whole meeting.
November 17, 2016   The Valley Voice

THE ARTS


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.

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

Richard Cannings, MP

RichardCannings.ndp.ca

Richard Cannings, MP

“I am pleased to offer Slocan Valley residents pop-up constituency offices on the listed dates in New Denver.

You will now be able to meet with staff (and sometimes me) for help with federal programs without a long drive to my Castlegar Office.”

Pop-Up Offices

2016

May 27  Jun 24  Sep 30
Oct 28  Nov 25

NEW DENVER

Outlet Youth Centre—Main St.

For info or to make appointment contact: 3-350-627-3388 or Richard.Cannings.CP@parl.gc.ca

Got Empties?

Support your community by donating your returnable bottles and cans.

100% of donations support Nakusp & Area Youth Recreation, Sports, Arts & Culture

Apply for Group Funding Today!

Funds Raised To Date

$4000

Proudly Supported By

PEOPLES PHARMACY

The people have spoken. Winlaw artists Rabi’a and Carl won the People’s Choice Award in this year’s Castlegar Sculpturewalk. They give big thanks to everyone who voted for ‘Imagine the Stories,’ which is installed at the Railway Museum until April, and then will be moved to its permanent location in Castlegar. The awards were presented on November 5. In 2012, Rabi’a tied for second place in the People’s Choice category for ‘Dancing Myself,’ which has been permanently placed next to Touchstones Nelson.

Kate Tupper of Nakusp won third place in the Artistic Merit Category for ‘All Strings Attached’ in this year’s Castlegar Sculpturewalk.

The Slocan Lake Gallery Society invites everyone in the community to a complimentary lunch at the Silverton Memorial Hall November 27 at noon. Soups from Soup du Jar and more will be served while Rebecca Fudge plays piano.

This is the AGM, an opportunity for the community to hear and discuss plans, exchange ideas for programming and give feedback to the board. Membership is of prime importance this year as, due to the New Societies Act, the board will ask later in the year for members’ votes on changes to its bylaws.

What is most encouraging for the gallery is that Silverton has a CAO, mayor and council that have the vision to see the gallery’s importance in improving both quality of life and economic progress. The Village has applied to the BC Rural Dividend and the Western Diversification Program for grants which would cover the cost of renovating the building, when added to matching funds from the Village and grants and donations to SLGS.

Over the last year the SLGS has been involved in more than 20 events including the popular spring break workshops for children and youth, Art in the Park watercolour classes, pumpkin carving, theatre improv workshop, memoir writing, the marionette show ‘Robin and the Timeless Forest,’ coffeehouses, Hanukkah, Eloise Charet-Calles’ book launch, and concerts.

The SLGS administers the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance grants and consistently over the years has put forward more grants to help individuals and local groups achieve their artistic projects than many larger urban communities. The society is looking for help from the community, by way of becoming a member, volunteering for events, or simply supporting our events.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

The veterans gave us the gift of freedom. We remember their sacrifice and service with sincere gratitude and thanks.

We must all do our part to ensure that our children are taught the sacrifices that were made for us all.

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself. – Joseph Campbell

Lest we forget

We shall remember

We will Remember...

Katrine Conroy, MLA Kootenay West
1-888-755-0556
Katrine.conroy.mla@leg.bc.ca www.katrineconroy.ca

PAUL PETERSON
Director, Area K

PAUL PETERSON
Director, Area K

The secret of happiness is freedom. The secret of freedom is courage. – Thucydides

There never was a good war or a bad peace – Benjamin Franklin

Katrine Conroy, MLA Kootenay West
1-888-755-0556
Katrine.conroy.mla@leg.bc.ca www.katrineconroy.ca
November 17, 2016   The Valley Voice

The Valley Voice wishes to recognize the contribution of our veterans to building peace in the world.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

In peace the sons bury their fathers, but in war the fathers bury their sons.
~Croesus

Lest we forget

Valor is stability, not of legs and arms, but of courage and the soul.
~Michel de Montaigne

We thank our veterans for the freedoms that we enjoy today.

In peace the sons bury their fathers, but in war the fathers bury their sons.
~Croesus

The Village of Kaslo

Lest we forget.

Kaslo Mohawk

If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.
~John McCrae

Smokey Creek Salvage

With the tears a Land hath shed
Their graves should ever be green.
~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The Village of Silverton

In peace the sons bury their fathers, but in war the fathers bury their sons.
~Croesus

Mountain Valley Station

We thank our veterans for the freedoms that we enjoy today.

355-2245   Slocan, BC

Front Street Market

411 Front Street, Kaslo
250-353-2331

"Those who desire to give up freedom in order to gain security will not have, nor do they deserve, either one."
~Benjamin Franklin

RCMP officers march from the cenotaph towards the Kaslo Legion for the Remembrance Day service.

The Remembrance Day Parade in Slocan.

The Nakusp Remembrance Day ceremony.

The Village of Slocan

We will remember.

Laurence Binyon

Waterbridge Steel

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.
~Laurence Binyon

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Although no sculptured marble should rise to their memory, nor engraved stone bear record of their deeds, yet will their remembrance be as lasting as the land they honored.
~Daniel Webster

Remembering those who have given their lives in the service of our country.
Lest we forget.
Nakusp Celebration of Light

Friday December 2, 2016

Business Decorating contest judging on December 1
9:30 - 8 - Holiday Celebration Sale all day at Downtown Merchants, great sales and promotions
10 - 2 - Stuff the bus/food bank donations at Overwaitea
1 - 6 - Fringe Friday at the Old Firehall Collective
3 - 5 - Free Skate with Santa at Arena - hosted by Nakusp Minor Hockey
3 - 5 - sumo suits and bouncy house in the Arena Auditorium - hosted by Nakusp Youth Center
Event starts at 4 pm on Broadway Street between 4th & 5th Avenues - Food vendors, music by DJ Matt Mkee, carollers, puppets, dancers and much more!
4 - 4:30 - Carollers, come and sing along
5:30 - 6 - Puppets on the Move
6 - 6:30 - Up Postida
6:30 - Ugly Sweater Contest
7 - Performance by Move on the Kusp dancers
7:15 - Ignight Firedancers

Sponsored by:

The Kaslo and Area Medical Care Society's new medical clinic is taking shape, with renovations expected to be completed by the end of the month. The society received a $5,000 donation for building materials, and the renovation work is being done largely on a volunteer basis by Randy O'Brien (pictured here), Bill Broshen, Len Roper, and Curtis Hewat. Committed to restoring 24/7 medical care in the community, KAMCS has signed a one-year lease for the clinic space and is looking for a physician to set up a private practice there.
School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) Superintendent’s Report
submitted

• Three new students have enrolled at Edgewood and Nakusp elementary schools recently, and one student at Lucerne. Five children from a sponsored refugee family will be going to LESS when the family arrives in New Denver.
• SD 10 hopes to get a $17,500 Shoulder Tapper grant. It would be used to connect students with 13 local tradespeople, makers and builders through the district-wide Design Thinking Initiative; enhance support to students with Aboriginal ancestry through collaboration with the Aboriginal Education Council and Elders and Aboriginal tradespeople and artists; integrate coding in elementary and secondary classrooms through partnerships with SET-BC and GLOWS; involve students in RoboGames in 2017; hold a district Maker Day in 2017.
• An application for $29,563 for coding curriculum support was submitted to Ministry of Education. The district wants to bring strong coding curriculum practices and resources for students and professional learners. The aim is to embed coding and computational thinking across diverse areas of the curriculum from K-12.
• Board Chair Lorrae Lee Brekke and Superintendent Terry Taylor attended a Ministry of Education workshop to help districts become better prepared to enact the new Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity human rights requirements. Processes and practices to promote and support inclusion of all students were shared by members of Out in Schools as well as other district teachers, principals, directors and superintendents. SD 10 will meet with students from both secondary schools and discuss the policy and protocols and encourage PACs to discuss them as well.
• Re-application to the ALR (Agricultural Land Reserve) for the Fausquier School property has been made by the Director of Finance, as additional information was requested. The board intends to ensure that the building and land remains as a community facility for the people of Fausquier, who will choose the best way to ensure long-term access.
• A member of the public has requested that the district provide access to data from the solar panels on a public website. The district IT Manager says opening up solar panel and other infrastructure equipment to the internet is not advisable from a security perspective. Almost all large scale DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attacks that have happened over the last few months across the world have been initiated from people gaining access to infrastructure devices (heating control, security camera, lighting fixtures) and using them for nefarious purposes.
• Once Grade 7-9 Science and Math students at Lucerne have completed analysis of the solar panel data, they will share this information at a public meeting of the Board of Education.
• Burton Academy School continues to grow their business plan in the Entrepreneurship part of their program.
• On November 2, Shari Featherstone met with both CUPE and ALTA as well as district staff to provide more information and planning for Attendance and Wellness Support programs.
• The superintendent is serving on a new committee providing input and feedback to the ministry on numerous initiatives. The Learning Advisory Board meets every two months with Assistant Deputy Ministers, Ministry Directors and the Deputy Minister as required.
• On November 1 and 2, Tyler Christianson from the Ministry of Education visited the district. She was interested in seeing examples of co-teaching, collaboration and teachers integrating curricular areas in their practice. After visiting EES, NES, NSS and Lucerne she was very impressed with the enthusiasm and passion of teachers as well as their innovative practices with students.

The Annual General Meeting of the Burton Community Association
November 29, 2016 (Tuesday)
7:00 p.m.
Burton Community Hall

Winter Tire Sale
Tirecraft
720 10th Ave NW
Nakusp
250-265-4438
Contact David Olson

CBT starts community conversation in Edgewood
by Jan McMurray

The Columbia Basin Trust wants to get something going in Edgewood.
Wayne Lundeberg and Lynda Lafleur of CBT came out to the Edgewood Legion Hall on November 2 to start a conversation with the community about possible projects.

About 30 residents showed up.
“We are not waiting for you to call
anymore,” said Lafleur. “We’re here so you can give us ideas to help me focus on what you need.”

Some of the ideas generated at the meeting were to develop agriculture, develop tourism, create a web presence, build trails, engage the young people (30-40 years old), and install signage to encourage people to turn off the highway and visit Edgewood.

RDCK Area K Director Paul Peterson was at the meeting, and said he would like to see an agricultural study done to determine what commercially viable crops could be grown in Edgewood. Lundeberg added that agriculture is of interest in the Nakusp area as well, and that CBT would be “bringing someone in[to Nakusp], so maybe we could do something here, too.”

Residents brought up some of the challenges in developing an agricultural industry in Edgewood. The lack of three-phase power, the difficulty accessing financing, and the risk of wildlife eating the crops.

Tourism also poses challenges, and one of the biggest is the huge fluctuation in lake levels. “They come in June or September and see 300 or 400 feet of mud flats, and they don’t come back,” said one resident.

Ed McGinnis spoke about the Columbia Basin Revitalization Coalition, which is working on a proposal for a more stable Arrow reservoir. “That reservoir is the key as far as tourism and the future of this valley goes,” he said. McGinnis is optimistic that a stabilized Arrow reservoir is possible. “In 2024, there will be on-call flood control, so there’s an opportunity to do something positive. We have a plan and the central feature is stabilization of the reservoir. Something can be negotiated – it’s doable.”

Signage to welcome visitors is something the community has consistently requested, Lafleur said. Residents agreed that signage would be helpful, and suggested that there be signs at both the ferry and the junction; a sign at the ferry would give people time to consider turning off the highway at the junction.

At the end of the meeting, the CBT representatives promised to come back in January to continue the conversation.

“I am serious about working with the community instead of waiting for you to come to us, so let’s keep the engagement going,” said Lundeberg. “We can’t do everything, but if there are smaller, manageable things we can do easily and immediately, I have told Lynda to work with you to see what we can make happen.”

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.

In the Sticks’ drummers from Slocan performed at the Art Party in Nakusp November 12. This was the second Art Party, created by Kate Tupper with the help of her friends.

The event showcases visual and performing arts, and interactive installations and activities in a dance party setting. Proceeds go toward public art projects in Nakusp.

[Image 36x695 to 463x901]
Hugh Walker receives official Canadian honour for outstanding volunteerism

by Jan McMurray

Hugh Walker was also honoured as Kaslo Citizen of the Year 2016. He has served on the Kaslo Restorative Justice Committee, the OCP Committee, the Kaslo Housing Society, the Kaslo Seniors Association, and the Kaslo Victorian Hospital board. He is a volunteer at the Kaslo Community Church and the monthly men’s breakfast, and volunteers at the Kaslo Extended Health Unit’s weekly church service. He has been a member of the Masonic Lodge for over 50 years and is a service officer for the Legion. He visits shut-ins, has provided countless rides, and has tutored and mentored children. He has been very generous to numerous organizations and individuals in the community.

Hugh Walker was presented with the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers, which recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians. Kaslo Mayor Suzan Hewat made the presentation.

Kaslo’s old ‘Scout Hall’ was demolished on October 19-21

by Jan McMurray

The demolition of the Kaslo Scout Hall building October 19-21 brought a few residents out to say goodbye to the old community hall, and the place they and/or their kids went to Scouts and other youth programs.

According to George McCuaig’s book, Kaslo – The First 100 Years and information from the Kootenay Lake Historical Society archives, the building’s long and varied history starts in 1940, when the Kaslo Rod & Gun Club built it as a fish hatchery for Kamlkoos trout. The trout were hatched in the building and then moved outside to ponds under the shade of the Camperdown elm tree, which still stands today in the campground. From 1942 to 1945, it was used to house Japanese Canadians, and then it was returned to the Rod & Gun Club so they could resume hatchery activities. In 1953, it became the Scout Hall, with the boy scouts meeting there twice a week. In 1955, a volunteer group of scouts, parents, and community members laid a fir floor in the hall. Unfortunately, the following year, Kootenay Lake rose so high it flooded the building. To save the floor, it had to be cut into sections and raised onto sawhorses. In 1962, the Kinsmen renovated the hall and it served as a community hall for years. It became the youth centre in 2010.

Village CAO Neil Smith reports that in 2006, it was deemed no longer safe for larger gatherings without significant repairs or upgrades, due to fire regulations. Subsequently, the insurer required a structural assessment, which revealed rotten foundations and other structural issues. Repair costs would have been in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, Smith said. No proposals to purchase the building were received. The possible resale was complicated by about 70% of the building sitting in municipal road allowance. Further expenditure on surveying would have been required before it could have even been offered to third parties for sale.

“If a serious or credible proposal had come forward prior to the demolition award being made, council would have looked at it,” said Council will similarly look at serious and credible proposals with respect to the land once its future has been more fully discussed,” he said.

The Hunt Hall in Kaslo was demolished October 19-21.

Kaslo council, November 8: Public Arts Committee takes on ‘Pocket Park’

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo Public Arts Select Advisory Committee is taking the lead on the ‘Pocket Park’ project next to the City Hall, where the fire hall used to be. A concept design for the park by Laurence Moss was accepted by council in September 2015. The committee will draft a grant application for the project to the Ministry of Art and Heritage’s ‘Building Communities through Arts and Heritage Legacy Fund,’ and the application will be formally submitted by the Village.

• Council received a Kaslo River Dike and Bank Remediation Plan from Austin Engineering out of Trail. The remediation plan was commissioned in September, after Public Works had identified four sections of the river bank and one section of the flood protection dikes that need remediation. The report states that none of the sections need emergency remediation, but repair works will be required within the next five years. The estimated cost of the repairs is $284,004. Council will treat this as a priority project and will share the report with landowners who could be impacted, the Ministry of Transportation to further urge the replacement of the Hwy 31 bridge, the Kaslo Trailblazers, and relevant RDCK services.

• Council received minutes of a Sustainable Economic Development Commission meeting held October 25. The committee will soon disband and be replaced by the Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission. This commission of the RDCK will include the Mayor of Kaslo, the Area D director, three people from the Village of Kaslo and four people from Area D.

• Any fees collected from the campground operator for winter pad rental will be placed in the Parks reserve fund.

• Councillor Glorioso reported that several members of the public are concerned that videos of council meetings are not being posted to YouTube, and that council authorized the purchase of microphones but they haven’t been ordered. Staff will look into this and report back to council.

• Council approved a Development Variance Permit for Angry Hen Brewing Company, which plans to open a craft brewery in the Front Street building that housed the Live Art Shoppe this summer. The DVP allows for the rear lot line setback to be reduced from 4.5 metres to 0 metres, and the number of parking spaces to be reduced to four.

Kaslo Mayor Suzan Hewat made the presentation. “I have been asked to retire in 1991 and fast became a much loved and respected member of the community. “Even though I’m limited with my bottle of oxygen, I look forward every day to how I can help,” he said.

According to the website, the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers, which recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians, was presented with the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers, which recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians, was presented...
November 17, 2016 The Valley Voice

Kootenay West MLA candidate gears up for May election

Submitted

Kootenay West NDP candidate Katrine Conroy hit the streets over the weekend, going door to door in the Village of Slocan, asking residents about what issues concern them and gathering signatures on a petition requesting the BC Liberal government stabilize funding for education in the province.

“Education is an issue of particular concern to people living in the Slocan Valley,” the incumbent MLA said. “With both WE Graham School and Winlaw Elementary School recently being threatened with closure, and only being spared in a last minute funding announcement from the education minister, it’s not surprising that this is a primary issue of concern for a lot of people in this area.

“Education across the province isn’t being funded adequately and finding is not sufficient for the few schools left operating. What the Liberals don’t seem to understand is that in rural areas like the West Kootenay, a school is not just a

school. WE Graham also serves as the local food bank and community garden, they run the Strong Start program for pre-schoolers, they provide access to the computer lab for the community and support for seniors who are just learning the technology – the school is part of the community as a whole. The Liberals discount the value of rural schools.”

Conroy’s initiative to get out and talk to residents in the constituency is an early start on campaigning for the provincial election, scheduled for May of next year. Conroy was confirmed as the NDP candidate for Kootenay West at a regional constituency meeting in August, one of the first in the province to be confirmed as her party’s candidate in the next election.

She said she felt it was important to get out in her constituency to try to get a picture of what the residents in her area are thinking and what concerns them.

“As MLA since 2005, I have a good understanding of the major issues of this region but it is also important to get out to communities and listen to people. I know that you can’t take anything for granted in any election, you have to get out and work for it,” Conroy said. “Getting out to communities gives me a chance to hear the issues directly from the people. It also allows me to talk about the things that are important to me, to NDP leader John Horgan, and to people across the province. I think the people of BC have had enough of the Liberal government. I think people are ready for a change in Victoria.”

Free film challenges sexism in the media

Submitted

Written and directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Miss Representation exposes how the mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America.

There will be a free screening of Miss Representation on December 3, 7 pm, at the Arrow Lakes Theatre in Nakusp. Free popcorn and beverages will be provided as well as travel subsidies for those travelling more than 30 kilometres to attend. The film is recommended for people ages 13+. After the screening, there will be a community/panel discussion led by Carlee Hughes and Debbie Pitaoulis.

Miss Representation includes stories from teenage girls and provocative interviews with politicians, journalists, entertainers, activists, and academics like Lisa Ling, Nancy Pelosi, Condoleezza Rice, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, Rosario Dawson, Jackson Katz, Jean Kilbourne, and Gloria Steinem. The film offers startling facts and statistics which will leave audiences shaken and armed with a new perspective.

“I made Miss Representation because we live in a society where media is the most persuasive force shaping cultural norms, and the collective message the media send to our young women and men is that a woman’s value lies in her youth, beauty, and sexuality, and not in her capacity as a leader,” Newsom said. “I wanted to shed a light on this problem, because if we don’t question that thinking and work to change it, we are going to continue to be marginalized.”

In response to overwhelming public demand for ongoing education and social action in support of the film’s message, Newsom founded the organization that has become The Representation Project in April 2011. Using film as a catalyst for cultural transformation, The Representation Project inspires individuals and communities to challenge and overcome limiting stereotypes so that everyone, regardless of gender, race, class, age, sexual orientation or circumstance can fulfill their human potential. Learn more about The Representation Project, including its second film The Mask You Live In, and guidance on how to join the movement, at www.therepresentationproject.org.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FOR
ARROW AND SLOCAN LAKES
COMMUNITY SERVICES
AND
HALCYON ASSISTED LIVING
SOCIETY
MONDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, 2016
6:30 PM @
Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services Boardroom
For more info, or inquiries about becoming a Board Member, contact Tim Payne @ 250-265-3674 ext: 210

New Nakusp and District Museum President Linda Dixon points out the original Nakusp street names on a 1942 village map. At the society’s AGM on October 22, the following directors were elected: Linda Dixon (chair), Heather Peter (vice-chair), Anne Barrington (treasurer), Grant Kilbourne (secretary), Charlene Duncan, Jay Moh and Rodney Koeneman. The new board members thank previous directors and volunteers, and remind the community that they are always looking for volunteers to make the museum the best it can be.

Katrine Conroy, NDP candidate for Kootenay West, spent a Saturday gathering feedback from residents while canvassing the Village of Slocan. She is seen here with Councillor Madeleine Perriere.

The community mailboxes that were vandalized along Hwy 6 in the Slocan Valley on September 9 have been replaced with these new models. During the two months of waiting for the new mailboxes to be installed, customers received their mail at their local post office.
**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**THE HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY**

**AGM** will be held on Saturday, November 20 at 2pm at the Gallery, 803 Kildare St, New Denver. Everyone is welcome.

**SILVERTON CHRISTMAS MARKET**

10-4 Saturday, December 3, Silvertown Memorial Hall. Exciting crafts, piano music by local musicians, raffles, yummy treats. Come out, mingle and support our talented craftpeople! Vendor call 358-2476.

**BOOK LAUNCH & THANKS**

**REFLECTIONS:** Wandering, Paintings and Poemssing from the forest by Barbara Brown’s. First-ever book! Readings, conversation, film, paintings, and a truly beautiful book. Saturday, November 5, 1pm Kootenay Gallery, Castlegar. Thursday, November 17, 7pm Hidden Garden Gallery New Denver; and Saturday, November 26, 3pm Bookshop & Bar. admission.

**FEAST FOR THE PEOPLE**

Sunday November 20, Noon - 2:30. Information and discussion about the Site C dam proposal on the Peace River. Soup provided, bring a bag lunch and a toonie. Hosted by the Vallican Whole Community. Exciting crafts, piano music by local musicians, raffles, yummy treats. The Vallican Whole is currently receiving worldwide rave reviews. Come and enjoy this opportunity to hear their great music.

**MOTHER GOOSE**

A program that shows newcomers to this world how astonishing, beautiful, capricious, dancey, eccentric, funny, haphazard, joyous, kindly, alive, meloduous, naughty, outrageous, romantic, silly, unexpected, wonderful, and zany it is! It reminds grown-ups of these very same things. Bring a 0 to 4-year-old down to the Knox Hall in New Denver on Wednesdays at 10 am for one hour of singing, playing, stories and snacks with Lila and Julia in the fun! Sponsored by CBAL. Contact Julia at julia@silverton.bc.ca.

**BACK AFTER A SOLD-OUT FIRST SEASON**

THE VALICAN WHOLE’S UP CLOSE AND INTIMATE series of exceptional entertainment, with ‘Le Cabaret Intime’ performed by local musicians, raffles, yummy treats. These popular musicians are currently on tour to promote their new album Shufflin’ The Blues, a mix of Chicago, Delta and original blues. Their latest release, recorded live at the Silvertown Gallery, is currently receiving worldwide rave reviews. Come and enjoy your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

Advertise in the Valley Voice. It pays!
CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY
CRAFT FAIRE: Sunday, November 20, 10-3 pm at the Slocan Legion Hall, 502 Harold St., Slocan. Sales will be held between 11 & noon. Admission $0.50 – you might win a door prize! Everyone welcome.

WANT TO BE A PERFORMER: The Whole School’s 18th annual Blue Moon Coffee House takes place Saturday December 3 from 6:00 to 11:00 pm. Musicians interested in performing call Shuggy at 226-6784 or shuggy@telus.com

REAL ESTATE
MADDEN TIMBER CONSTRUCTION INC.
30 Waymore Way, Castlegar, BC
250-355-2922

Wanted: 1 Bedroom 1+1 bedroom modern furnished home. Would be used 6-10 days per month from December to end of March. Must include appliances and utilities, net and Wi-Fi would be appreciated. References available. Home will be maintained by local housekeeper. Call 250-304-1971 for photos or a must. 275-215-3817/cheris@blueclick.ca

CRAFT FAIRE:
CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY
Sunday, December 10, 6:30 pm, Silverton
Christmas Tea for Seniors: Tea for Seniors Sat Dec 3, 1:30 p.m, Free. Slocan Park Hall.
226-0008 • www.rock.bc.ca

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Go to www.proudofmydog.ca

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Your dog’s home away from home, no kennels, acres of fenced play area and river swims. Call now to book your dog’s vacation. 1-250-448-6553, www. bell, xplornet etc; antennas, boosters, home theatre, wired & wireless systems: James; 250-226-7326, jftworks.com

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VULCAN LOP CRUSHERS • SAND & GRAVEL • ROAD CRUSH • ROCK & GRAVEL • CRUSHED ROCK • DRAIN ROCK • ROAD CRUSH • SAND & GRAVEL • DUMP TRUCKS • EXCAVATORS • CRUSHED STONE • SITE PREPARATION

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DI’S ESTHETICS: Full Service Salon from manicures and pedicures to facials and lash tinting, and everything in between! Winter Prep Special – 15% off all services. Refer a friend and get 10% off your next service, your friend will get an additional 10% off their first booking, too! Visit Di’s Esthetics Facebook page for full menu, prices, etc. Call for appointments: 250-226-7318.

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION
Christmas Tea for Seniors: Tea for Seniors Sat Dec 3, 1:30 p.m, Free. Slocan Park Hall.
226-0008 • www.rock.bc.ca

PERSONALIZED DOG CARE - WINLAW. Your dog’s home away from home, no kennels, acres of fenced play area and river swims. Call now to book your dog’s vacation. 1-250-448-6553, www.valleyvoice.ca

THE INWARD JOURNEY: Monday morning 9-10:15 and Thursday afternoon 4-5:15. Honour your body by reducing stress, building strength, flexibility and an awareness of the finer...
Slocan Valley artist Katya Coad's bright paintings offer seasonal relief

1973 and lived there for many years. Frank was predeceased by his parents and sisters, Eva Beunruit and Joyce Fox. He leaves his wife of 12 years, Somjit Armstrong; son Tom Armstrong and daughter-in-law Lisa Farr; daughter Kay Armstrong and step-daughter Tak Rattanang along with 4 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren and many good friends. He met his first wife, Gwen Armstrong, in Outlook and they were married in 1955. In his early years, Frank farmed with his father Tom in Saskatchewan, and eventually became an electrician. Following a back injury, he emigrated to the University of Saskatchewan and earned his teaching credentials in 1968. Frank had many hobbies and interests and was never afraid to take a risk. A lifelong Social Democrat, he dabbled in politics and was an environmental activist in the 1960s. In 1978, he joined Alcoholics Anonymous, and remained a faithful member of AA for the next 38 years, attending meetings all over the world. He helped many people find sobriety over the decades.

A celebration of his life will be held in the spring of 2017 in New Denver, BC; more information to follow.

For more information, please visit the Valley Voice online at www.valleyvoice.ca.
Holly & Jon launch Shufflin’ the Blues CD and tour

by Art Joyce

There’s no blues like old blues, yet old blues is endlessly new again. Longtime Slocan Valley favourites Holly and Jon have just released their new CD, Shufflin’ the Blues, and are supporting the album launch with a series of live dates across the Kootenays. The album was recorded live at a Silverton Gallery concert held August 15, 2013 and is already doing well, hitting #12 in Canada on the Roots Music Charts and #2 on the Acoustic Blues Charts. Locally you can see them at the Legion Hall in Edgewood as part of the Fire Valley Concert Series on Sunday, November 20, 8:00 pm; Friday, November 25, 8:00 pm; and Saturday, November 26, 8:00 pm at The Front Room in Nelson.

This is classic blues, all down the line. Jon gets his guitar tone exactly right, no small achievement in a live setting, where even the most rehearsed songs can be subverted by bad acoustics or unexpected PA system fails. There’s a sweet fatness to his tone, not ripped up fuzz like Johnny Winter but just a little south of B.B. King’s clean, lean and pure guitar tones. Holly’s bass work is the engine of the duo’s rhythm section with drummer Marvin Walker. But where she really shines is in her interpretations of old standards. As if born to the blues, she nails it every time. Resonant, rich and deeply expressive, Holly’s vocals propel these songs to another level. Having been in the room the night this set was recorded at the old Silverton Gallery three years ago, I can safely say this recording captures the swing, the sweetness and the soul of that special evening.

Jon too on that night was in probably the best voice I’ve ever heard him. Holly and Jon are dealing from the Classic Blues deck, reminding us why generations continue to be inspired by it. In addition to Muddy Waters’ Blow Wind Blow Jon uses a nimble slide to pull Robert Johnson’s Come On In My Kitchen out of the battered body of a guitar known as Gonzo, Holly’s originals Let’s Boogie, Lowdown Blues and Get Your Own Man swing and sway as naturally as if they were themselves old blues standards. When she gets into the scat vocals on Shushy Blues, the room warms up yet another notch. Here she’s as good as the blues spirit: “I feel so cold / living in this right-handed world / with my left-handed soul…” Blues, by making social problems deeply personal, roots them in the real. This takes them from something esoteric to something anyone can relate to. It’s something black people have known since the earliest field chants, with their coded messages about “the man.”

Black Crow is an utterly wonderful original with a lovely acoustic guitar line anchoring and propelling the song. The lyrics represent a fascinating growth in the duo’s songwriting: “So much possibility / so many answers / so much probability… So many questions / so many answers / will they meet up in the end?” This is a questioning, questioning soul, keen to make the most of possibility, and aware that it requires a crow’s watchfulness, its legendary ability to shapeshift into a new form to meet life’s challenges. Holly takes us gracefully shuffling home in Shushy Blues, leaving you wishing there’d been time for about 10 more songs. This is the magic of the blues—you walk out half on air.

For more information visit: http://www.hollyandjon.com

COMMUNITY

Forresty Worker Positions Available

The Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) is carrying out seasonal wildfire hazard reduction work in the Slocan Valley.

This wildfire hazard reduction work is at outdoor worksites. Work duties include cutting regeneration and saplings with power saws, pruning low branches on larger trees, and piling burning and/or chipping cuttings.

Work involves lifting, walking in rough terrain, and outside work in inclement weather. One vacant position is also available.

If you have applied for a position with us in the past, do apply again. All new applications will be considered.

Interested forestry workers and/or settlers should apply by mail using an application form downloaded from: http://sifco.ca/integral-forestry/waf/

sent by 4:00 pm Monday, November 21, 2016 to:

SIFCo
Box 189
Winlaw BC
V0G 2J0

Only parties selected for interviews will be contacted in reply.

THANK YOU

On Behalf of the Board of Directors for Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS), we would like to thank The Arrow Lakes Health Care Auxiliary for their generous donation of $95,600.40 to purchase the new Medical Bus.

ASLCS appreciates the amount of volunteer hours that goes into your organization in order for you to do the kind of things that you do for Nakusp and the surrounding area.

The bus purchased will be used to enhance the current medical transportation commitments and to ensure that medical appointments, especially for our senior population are consistent, dependable, comfortable and safe.

Thanks again to the Arrow Lakes Health Care Auxiliary for the phenomenal resources you provide and for the amazing work that you do.

Sincerely,

ARROW AND SLOCAN LAKES COMMUNITY SERVICES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandi Scott, Cheryl Nishida, Anne Ralston, Inga Ivany, Alice Watson, Pat Treherne

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Ages 13 and up

You can’t be what you can’t see.
‘Deck The Walls’ is back at Studio Connexion Gallery

Submitted

This Christmas, give the gift of art. The Christmas show and sale ‘Deck The Walls’ is back again at Studio Connexion Gallery. After a busy summer season with more than 1,050 visitors and a short trip to Québec, curator Anne Béliveau felt it was important to provide an opportunity to shop locally and especially to showcase the work of some of the best artists in the region. The gallery will be open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from November 24 to December 23.

Even though people often go to the Okanagan to do their shopping, or buy online, Béliveau thought it was important to offer something different, something unique and original by very talented artists who live here. There will be paintings in oil or acrylic, engravings on metal, soft pastels, watercolours, original and printed cards, sculptures, a limited quantity of premium quality maple syrup and sugar, and the beautiful 2017 West Koot Route art calendar.

Some of the artists are regulars at SCG, others are coming back from hiatus and some are new: Tim Andrew, Sharoon Bamber, Brigittje Desbois, Roni Jurgenisen, Denyse Marshall, Patrizia Menton, Phil Soucy, Kate Tupper and Holly Woods to name a few.

The ‘Deck the Walls’ event will be launched Thursday November 24 from 5 to 8. Come see what we have to offer. Refreshments will be served.

Regular hours are 11 am to 4 pm. Please note the gallery will be open as well from December 18-23. For appointments, contact Béliveau at 250-265-3586. Studio Connexion Gallery at 203 Fifth Avenue NW in Nakusp.

COMMUNITY

Candlelight and Cake Ladies Night in Nakusp

On Wednesday, November 30 from 6 to 9 pm, Fourth Ave and Broadway will once again be festive of the best gift shopping in the whole valley!

Each location presents special seasonal treats and ‘one night only’ specials and discounts to guarantee a fabulous evening for all. Enter the Candlelight Draw for a chance to win two gift certificate packages worth $100 each.

Bring your girlfriends along and discover gift items in personal care, health, home decor and kitchen items, amazing jewelry and accessories, clothing and much more. Make your gift giving easy, affordable and fun this year by shopping locally and joining the annual Christmas girlfriend party.

CORRECTION

In the article, ‘Silverton council discusses bear attracts with WildSafeBC coordinator’ in our last issue, we quoted Bree Lillies as saying that we are “human conditioning” bears. In fact, she said we are “food conditioning” bears. Bears that start using human-provided foods can become food-conditioned. Once a bear using human-provided foods can lose their natural wariness of humans and become what is called human-habituated. A habituated bear tolerates humans in much closer proximity than what is safe for both bears and humans.

WildSafeBC is a profit organization. The ‘Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays’ column in our last issue, the new Village Heath Restaurant in New Denver was described as a co-op. This is incorrect. The Village Heath is a social enterprise, owned by the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley, a non-profit organization.