Another attempt is being made to get the Rosebery to Summit Lake rail corridor designated as a public trail. This time, the proposal includes alternate routes for motorized users, and an extension of the non-motorized Galena Trail from Rosebery to the Girl Guide Camp at the head of the lake.

Prior proposals have failed, largely because of the differing views in the community around motorized vs. non-motorized use. In an effort to get the two sides to come to an agreement, a planning group comprised of two people from each side have been in discussions for the past year. The discussions have been facilitated by John Cathro of Kaslo, who was hired by Rec Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC).

Now, “RSTBC, through the planning group and RDCK, would like to move forward to the Section 57 referral stage,” says RDCK Parks Supervisor Cary Gaynor in a written report to the RDCK board. RSTBC has submitted an application to FrontCounter BC for a ‘Trail and Recreation Facilities on Crown Land Authorization’ under Section 57 of the Forest and Range Practices Act. The RDCK board agreed to support the application in principle at the November board meeting.

The application includes the rail trail and “associated bypass trail.” Alternate routes that bypass sensitive habitat areas on the rail trail are proposed for motorized users. “Sensitive habitat areas are recognized and several bypass options are proposed,” says Gaynor in his report.

The application also includes a proposal to extend the Galena Trail from Rosebery to the Girl Guide Camp at the head of the lake in Hills. Currently, the Galena Trail runs from Three Forks to Rosebery and is managed by the RDCK under a licence of occupation with the Province. It is a designated non-motorized trail. If the Section 57 application is approved, the RDCK “will enter into a partnership agreement with RSTBC for the Rosebery to Girl Guide section of the trail through a Licence of Occupation,” says Gaynor, and this section will also be non-motorized.

The application will be referred to stakeholders and the public for their input. General public referral is not always done for Recreation Sites and Trails applications, but the ministry says that in this case, a public referral notification will go out in the coming weeks. There will be a 60-day window for public input.

“The planning group has reached agreement around what should go out for referral,” reports John Cathro, planning group facilitator. He says the whole group met together six times, and there were also several field trips to the trail in smaller groups.

“I commend the four people at the table,” Cathro said. “They never found it easy to be there, but they stuck with it. They’re the ones who put in the effort and I have nothing but respect for everyone involved.”

The four people in the planning group include Bill Beavin of the Slocan Lake ATV Club, Ernie Knecht of the Arrow Lakes ATV Club, and Richard Allin and Mike Koolen, who sat on the Rosebery to Summit Lake Steering Committee in 2014-15. The Rosebery to Summit Lake Steering Committee drafted a management plan for the trail over the winter of 2014-15. Residents of Area H North voted overwhelmingly in favour of the management plan in a poll held in summer 2015. However, the plan proposed limited motorized use on the trail. This was unacceptable to the Arrow Lakes ATV Club, which encouraged New Denver area ATVers to form a club and get involved.

The draft management plan completed by the steering committee in 2015 outlined the 15-year history of the community’s efforts to get the rail corridor designated as a public trail.

New Rosebery to Summit Lake Trail application will be made public in coming weeks

by Jan McMurray

by Jan McMurray

New Rosebery to Summit Lake Trail application will be made public in coming weeks
Kootenay Savings Credit Union employees back to work after ratifying new agreement submitted

KSCU unionized employees returned to work the morning of Wednesday, November 30, and all unionized branches resumed regular operations at 12:30 pm that afternoon. Following 12 months of bargaining and a 27-day labour dispute, the Kootenay Savings Credit Union and United Steelworkers Locals 9705 and 1-405 bargaining teams ratified a new four-year collective agreement on November 25.

The ratification vote ends a contentious month-long dispute that began October 28 when the employer locked out their employees. The ratified agreement contains wage and benefit improvements for the unionized employees and shores up the protective pension language in the collective agreement while also providing some certainty for the employer by capping their liability.

"We returned to the table on Tuesday and the employer came back with a clear change in the approach to resolving the pension issue," said Dean Lott, United Steelworkers Staff Rep and lead negotiator for the union. "Their offer of a minimum annual contribution of $200,000 to cover any potential shortfall if pension changes were made gave our members comfort that their pension level would be protected while at the same time giving the employer certainty in their liability."

"That’s if there are any changes made to the pension plan. If there isn’t, there’s no impact on the employer or our members."

With provincial mediator Dave Schaub’s assistance, once the pension issue was agreed to, the next outstanding issues fell into place on Wednesday. At two ratification meetings in Trail and Kimberley on Friday, the new agreement was ratified, ending the dispute.

Details of the new agreement include:

1. $1,000 cash bonus in year 1; $1,000 cash bonus in year 2; 1.5% wage increase in years 3 and 4 in year 4;
2. 4-year agreement expiring December 31, 2019;
3. resolution of the pension protection language issue; improved vision care benefit to $500 annually; increased heath care spending account to $500/annually; increased paramedical benefits from $200 to $500 annually but capping rise at $500 annually; improved staff banking benefits; no change to hours of work; return of third floater for full-time employees lost with the declaration of BC Family Day in 2013.

CBT board announces new president and CEO: Johnny Strilaeff submitted

Colombia Basin Trust board of directors has announced that they have appointed Johnny Strilaeff to the position of president and CEO. Strilaeff has been with the Trust since 2005, most recently as the vice-president and chief operating officer. Strilaeff moves into the position following the unexpected passing of long-time President and CEO Neil Muth earlier this month.

"Johnny was our unanimous choice. It is a comfort at a difficult time when we have to make difficult decisions, we knew with complete confidence that Johnny could step into this role," said Rick Jensen, board chair.

"Johnny was born and raised in Castlegar and is a graduate of Selkirk College as well as the University of Calgary. When he joined the Trust in 2003, he was responsible for the investment program. In recent years, he has been the role of vice-president and chief operating officer and has been an advisor to the CEO and a member of the executive management committee.

"I am humbled and honoured by the board’s decision and have committed to work diligently to continue Neil's legacy of strong community relationships, support for Basin priorities, and maintaining the Trust as an effective and efficient organization," Strilaeff said.

Strilaeff’s appointment as president and CEO is effective immediately.

"Under Neil’s leadership, the Trust matured into a robust organization with talented staff, and as a result, we can continue meeting the needs of Basin residents in mind as well," said Rick

Site C: Corky Evans plays devil’s advocate

by Katrina Campbell

About 20 people showed up at the Valliican Whole November 20 for the first in a series of discussions on various issues of concern. The topic was the Site C dam, now in the first stages of construction in Peace Country.

Organizer Moe Lyons said although she’d been hoping for more participation, “it worked out well because it was a good size group for discussion.”

She was unable to find anyone to speak in favour of the project, so she prepared four pages on why proponents thought it was necessary. However, former MLA Corky Evans showed up to play devil’s advocate. Using his experience as a cabinet minister with several portfolios, he talked about how Site C and other big projects are owned and operated.

“Although he presented a pretty passionate social argument for the dam, he said ‘I can make an intellectual argument for this but I can’t support it in my heart,’” Lyons said. Another man, who works for a power company, came forward and spoke about job creation and trades development but he, too, said he couldn’t support Site C. A third man, who has worked on the project, said he came to the same conclusion.

Photographer Louis Beckner presented a slide show of the Peace River, the dam site, and the people.

“The event really resonated with the people there,” said Lyons. “They felt they got a really in-depth discussion.”

A group called the BC Hydro Ratepayers Association has launched an application for judicial review of the decision of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans “to issue a permit authorizing destruction of fish, fish habitat and fisheries for the construction and operation of the massive and ill-conceived and unnecessary damaging [sic] of the Peace River by the Site C Project.”
MoT keeps its promise to pull DEV Galena from service

by Katrine Campbell

When the Ministry of Transportation announced in 2012 that a new ferry would be built for the Upper Arrow Lakes run, it said the two existing ferries would be kept as back-up for two years after the new one entered service.

The MV Shelter Bay is already gone, and now the DEV Galena will be pulled out on December 31, leaving no back-up for the Columbia.

Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling says she’s very frustrated by the lack of response from different levels of government, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Todd Stone and his staff.

“We met with Stone a year ago. We knew they were planning to take the Galena out and we felt it was important that it stay there. They said they had to remove it because it wouldn’t receive certification [from Transport Canada] any more. We told him we’re very worried because if there’s a shutdown, it would affect the economy. I made that point but he said it doesn’t carry much weight. Stone said every highway shuts down at some time.

“I’m not happy about it. I’ve talked to his staff, talked to him, and followed up with his staff but it’s not going anywhere. You try to bring your community’s concerns forward. We’ve done everything we can. I don’t know what else I can do. I really need the Housing Society gets more than it asked for

The new seniors’ housing project in Slocan just got a huge boost from BC Housing, when its request for $400,000 was rejected in favour of a $500,000 grant.

The money is provided by the provincial government, administered through BC Housing.

“We were thrilled,” says Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society spokesperson Rita Moir, “and yes, we did receive more than we requested.”

The total budget for the 12-unit project is about $1.5 million. Whenever possible, the society will hire local craftspeople and contractors to build the facility.

“The $500,000 provincial grant administered through BC Housing, with land provided by the Village of Slocan, with donated professional services, a start on donated materials, and the pre-construction funding we’ve received from so many organizations and the public, we are very positive about ongoing fundraising and our ability to proceed,” says Moir.

“It’s a major problem.”

Maybe if there’s lots of support the ministry will listen and take another look at it.”

The Valley Voice contacted the ministry’s senior branch and received the same prepared response that others have: “The ministry is committed to providing safe reliable ferry service…the DEV Galena will retire on December 31, 2016. The MV Columbia was designed and built to be as robust and reliable as possible. The MV Columbia is equipped with hatches to facilitate the quick replacement of propulsion equipment, and the operator [Waterbridge] has a full set of replacement parts for all major components.

“In addition, the vessel’s equipment and systems can be fully serviced from the car deck or inside the vessel. The Needles ferry has recently undergone a refit to ensure this boat is readily maintained while in service, and as already announced, the Arrow Park vessel is being replaced as part of the cable ferries replacement project. It is important to recognize that many ferry routes don’t operate with a back-up vessel.”

Last April, the Columbia hit a submerged log and damaged a propeller. It was out of service for seven days, waiting for a part that had to come from Germany. When they asked why they would risk shutting down without a replacement ferry on hand, especially if there was a problem in the busy summer season, a ministry spokesperson said: “While it may be an inconvenience for motorists, there is road access in the unlikely event of an extended mechanical issue with MV Columbia. The MV Columbia has the appropriate capacity to handle demand.”

KASLO AND AREA D COMMISSIONS

Request for volunteers

The Village of Kaslo and Electoral Area D are looking for individuals that are enthusiastic to volunteer and represent their communities.

The following commissions are looking for volunteers for a two-year term:

- Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission
- Kaslo and Area Regional Facilities, Recreation and Parks Service Commission
- Glacier Creek Regional Park Commission

You must be a resident of the Village of Kaslo or Area D and a letter of interest has to be submitted to Aimee Watson (Area D) or Suzan Hewat (Kaslo) by December 23, 2016. Please indicate on the letter the commission you are interested in volunteering for.

Aimee Watson
Director Area D
awatson@ddc.bc.ca
(250) 304-5842

Suzan Hewat
Director Village of Kaslo
mayor@kaslo.ca
(250) 353-3311

Two Evening Presentations – Mark your calendar!

Feb. 1st 2017, 7pm, Knox Hall in New Denver
Feb. 2nd 2017, 7pm, Winlaw Hall

Please note that the previously advertised dates for Dec. 2016 have been CANCELLED

Slocan Valley Wildfire Protection and Climate Change

How will climate change affect us in the Slocan Valley?
What are some of the challenges we may face?
What can we do to increase ecosystem resiliency?

Come hear conservation ecologist, Greg Utzig, answer these questions, and learn about SIFCO’s Strategic Wildfire Protection Plan.

SIFCo

Two Evening Presentations in Kaslo and New Denver

Gift-giving Ideas at Vince DeVito Shoes...
How willing are we to change our behaviour?

Although the automobile was not ‘legislated’ to replace horse-drawn transportation – that change forced a re-thinking of skill sets.

As a global community, we are having to face the reality that we have entered a time when we can no longer continue with some of the behaviours we have taken for granted.

Our introduction into the fossil fuel age not only replaced horse-drawn transportation, but it also provided, what seemed at the time, an affordable source of energy along with countless byproducts such as plastic. We are all experiencing the body’s immune system to cure what was wrong with it. This serum also proved effective against skin problems, many cancers and many other afflictions. It even took a boy paralyzed by polio from his bed to his bicycle. What a wonderful medicine.

Nothing more was heard about this until recently. A young man in Vancouver was to go to Seattle for a special operation. It cost $250,000. He could not afford it. He died. In a later broadcast, it was announced that the method of treatment was to stimulate the body’s immune system to cure what was wrong with it. One can hardly believe when used to treat leprosy in India it cost $250,000 per treatment.

What are crimes against humanity anyway?

Who decides?

Ed Varney
Vallican

Federal carbon price is essential

With the election of Trump to the presidency in the US, PM Trudeau has been under increasing pressure to dump plans for a federal carbon tax. Thus far he has remained strong, claiming that a national green technology sector is a key part of a healthy Canadian economy. He’s right.

Globally, clean technology represents a multi-trillion dollar opportunity. Because of a lack of federal policies to incentivize investment between 2008 and 2015, such as a strong and transparent price on carbon, Canadian innovations were manufactured in China and sold back to Canada, with the majority of the jobs and profits staying in China, not in Canada. China is fast becoming a clean tech powerhouse, representing close to 40% of growth globally.

Let’s leave the dinosaurs like a Trump-led US behind to wallow and sink in their tar pit. The PM should stick to his guns, move forward with clean-tech pioneers like China, Europe, and India and invest in a renewables sector that will establish the jobs and manufacturing that come with being a world leader in the clean tech industry. A federal carbon price is an essential first step.

Paul Grace Campbell
Kaslo

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau

Even though a large majority of Canadians want some form of proportionate representation, it seems from recent comments on your part and also on Minister Monse’s, that you are looking for ways to wiggle out of your commitment during the election.

This is very bad. You were elected on the basis of a new approach to governance, in contrast to the Harper government. Instead, your government looks just like ‘Harper lite.’ Here are a few examples. You gave the permits necessary for Site C, saying it was just housekeeping from the former government. You approved the LNG facility on Lelu Island, near a hugely important salmon habitat. Instead of announcing the promised tanker ban on the BC coast after the spill near Bella Bella, you talked about billions to remediate spills.

The list goes on – your support of so-called free trade bills like CETA and TPP is hard to understand, especially since a majority government doesn’t need to go in for much debate on issues. And, if you walk away from your commitment about changing the way we vote, you’re actually voting for continued more of the same – monolithic majority governments impervious to the opinions of all but the oil and gas industry and corporate voices in general.

The voices ignored are those of the majority of Canadians, especially those who see the futility of continuing to develop resources like the tar sands. For those of us who see the policies of the government accelerating climate change while talking about reducing carbon dioxide emissions, the dissonance is unbearable. At the recently concluded yearly conference at Marrakech, the US, Canada, and Mexico joined Germany in tabling plans for deep cuts by 2030: the US and Canada by 80% from 2005 levels. And yet the Trudeau government might approve the Kinder Morgan pipeline. It’s coming to the point that the only forum left to those who disagree with the direction government is taking is widespread civil disobedience.

Decision making grounded in the industrial mentality of 100 years ago is insanity today. We need to plan a post-industrial economy based on clean energy and cut off our support for the oil and gas industry. I guess the real question is ‘Do campaign promises mean anything? Did we all bite, again?’

Harvey Armstrong
Argenta
The results are indisputable. Since then, Justin Trudeau and Minister Maryam Monsef are giving every indication that they are trying to back out of their promise. In October, Trudeau told Le Devoir newspaper that since we like him so much, the desire for change is diminished. Monsef echoed Trudeau’s sentiment when she said that “there is no consensus,” adding, “I can’t promise you that I’ll be advocating for PR because I haven’t heard that from an overwhelming majority across the country.”

With only days before the ERRE committee delivers its final report to the government, the Liberals are once again looking for feedback, this time in the form of a postcard directing us to a website. According to NDP democratic reform critic, Nathan Cullen, the government is spending $2 million to conduct a ‘pop psy survey’ aimed at producing the result the government wants to hear.

Canadians have spoken loudly and clearly. An overwhelming majority of us want a proportional representation voting system, that is, 30% of the vote equals 30% of the seats critical of the power. No more, no less.

Maryam Monsef says she wants to hear from Canadians on values to strengthen our democracy and improve our political system. In the wake of the last election where 59% of the electorate voted for the centre, why would anyone believe she is not doing that?

The workers at the credit union took two separate strike votes to show management they intended to protect their pension’s integrity. They could have initiated strike action at any time, but they did not. Management enacted a ‘one-day lockout’ to intimidate workers into submission and give themselves the right to manage without a contract. Management fired the first shot. The workers put up a line of defense in response. That’s the fact.

As a member who moved most of my assets to support the credit union some years ago, I am ready to pull my accounts and push my money elsewhere if the direction continues in this manner. I can’t believe the workers and their comments like “It’s going to get pretty cold soon,” management should respect them by negotiating a contract that reflects the workers’ value to us all, or resign.

Cindy McCallum Miller
3rd VP of the Women’s Labour Council
Thurso

Let’s get a pro rep voting system

Last June, Justin Trudeau promised to “make 2015 the last election under First Past the Post” and to “make every vote count.” He even went so far as to say “If you have any say to what is going to happen in your home space.”

So, watch, and watch out. Hey and amen.

ERS, the all party electoral reform committee, spent the summer listening to expert witnesses from home and around the world. 88% spoke in favour of proportional representation. In the fall, Bill C-16 was moved, turned into a stronger, strong message and it was an election promise. We believed him.

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BC Hydro replaces expired analogue meters with smart meters

by Jan McMurray

BC Hydro was in the Nakusp-New Denver area on November 17 to remove 24 expired analogue meters. “We are legally obligated to ensure our meters meet all Measurement Canada requirements and once the Measurement Canada accuracy seal expires, we have to remove the meter,” explained Mary Anne Coules of BC Hydro.

Many customers were taken by surprise when the workers showed up to exchange the analogue meter with either a radio-off or radio-on smart meter. BC Hydro had sent letters to customers with expired meters – but that was back in February. Coules said the nine-month delay between sending out notices and showing up to do the work was due to scheduling. “The way we prioritize our work is determined by urgency. Unfortunately, scheduling didn’t allow us to complete these exchanges until November,” she said.

The Valley Voice received reports from citizens of installers not knocking on the door before changing out their meter, and of getting a radio-on smart meter instead of a radio-off meter. In one case, the meter base broke in the exchange process, leading to an extended power outage. Coules says that anyone with concerns about the way the meter exchange happened should call the Customer Service Department at 1-800-224-9376, and anyone who received a meter they didn’t choose should call the Customer Metering Department at 1-800-409-8199.

One New Denver resident refused to allow the removal of the analogue meter and says he was told BC Hydro would periodically return to attempt the meter exchange at a charge of $65 each time, and would eventually cut the power off if unsuccessful. Sharon Noble, director of the Coalition to Stop Smart Meters in BC, is not surprised at the reports received by the Valley Voice. She says she has also received many reports from around the province of installers not knocking on the door or showing identification.

Because there is a brief power outage during the exchange, she says it’s very important for the installers to knock on doors and notify people, especially those on lifesaving equipment.

Noble reported that the class action suit against BC Hydro claiming that forcing smart meters on people is in violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, didn’t make it to court – it didn’t pass the first step, which is to be certified by a judge. The lawsuit was organized by the Citizens for Safe Technology and the Coalition to Stop Smart Meters in BC.

Noble explained that they didn’t pursue the suit because of cost – they had already spent $100,000 on it – and because they felt the argument was too narrow to achieve what they wanted. “The judge said it was a valid argument but she wanted more in the way of information. She wanted us to be able to present it differently. We decided not to pursue it because it would have cost us way more money, and it wouldn’t address the fire hazard and cybersecurity issues. When we started in 2014, we were focused on the health issue.”

In 2012, a human rights tribunal case organized by Citizens for Safe Technology on behalf of people with the medical condition called electrohypersensitivity (EHS) was also denied on the grounds that the complainants wouldn’t be able to establish that exposure from smart meters resulted in symptoms of EHS.

Noble says a lot more science has come out since then in support of the health argument and agreed to a preliminary report that has been submitted to BC ridings, including both Richard Cannings and Wayne Stetski, making the case that the federal infrastructure plan should be based on local expertise.

Municipalities deliver cost-effective solutions to local needs in ways that tackle national challenges – like creating jobs and reducing GHG emissions. To bring that strength to Phase two, they are urging Ottawa to provide the predictable allocations communities need to plan, tap local know-how and move forward. They say cost-sharing should be modernized so local fiscal limits don’t block progress. They also recommend dedicating most of the Social Infrastructure Fund to affordable housing.

“Ottawa just committed billions to rural and northern infrastructure needs specifically. If they get those program details right, we can look forward to better roads recently been released by the US government’s National Toxicology Program. The study finds increased cancer in male rats from cell phone radiation (malignant gliomas in the brain and schwannomas of the heart). “These are very strong results. We are watching closely for the final report in the next few months,” she says.

Noble has been concentrating on the fire hazard issue. She filed a complaint with BC Utilities Commission which resulted in an order for BC Hydro to report all incidents where a meter or meter base could be the cause of a fire. BC Hydro must make these reports to BCUC (via the Valley Voice). The first report is due at the end of January 2017. Noble is currently working on another argument to BCUC on the fire issue.

RDCK director takes local infrastructure priorities to Ottawa and bridges, better water and waste systems, more affordable housing, and a boost for our economy and quality of life,” she said. And rural communities will not be limited to applying for Phase two funding only under the rural stream – they will still be eligible to apply under other programs that will be announced in budget 2017.

The federal government’s Fall Economic Statement expanded its Phase two infrastructure commitment to $81 billion over 11 years, while announcing dedicated support for smaller and remote communities. Program details for Phase two are expected no later than Budget 2017.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ 2,500 member communities represent more than 90% of Canada’s population. Main serves as a member of FCM’s Board of Directors.
by Jan McMurray

The Westbank First Nation has acquired a piece of land in Faquier, and submitted an application for rezoning from farmland to residential. The RDCK has sent a letter to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, requesting that the federal government continue the public in Faquier on the issue.

The 4.6-acre parcel of land at 7834 Starlite Rd., in a residential area in Faquier, was given to the Westbank First Nation when they gave up a reserve land they gave up to allow for the construction of the William R. Bennett Bridge on Hwy 97 through their community.

At the November RDCK board meeting, the board received a request from the Westbank for a letter stating that the RDCK has no concerns with the land being added to the Westbank reserve. Area K Director Paul Peterson told the board he had refused to sign off on this, even though the Westbank had assured him that they would use the land for camping and band matters, “because chiefs and councils change, and priorities change, and our land use bylaws have no provision for First Nation reserve lands. They could put up casinos or whatever they want.”

The RDCK board agreed to ask for public consultation in Faquier before they consider the Westbank request to provide a letter signing George detachment, Constable Bellamy and his fellow officer Constable Scott Johnston disarmed a suicidal male and prevented him from further harming himself.

While working at the Ashcroft detachment, Constable Cunningham rescued a woman and her children from their vehicle after becoming trapped during a flash flood. Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Morris presented the awards. Recipients were selected by a committee comprised of representatives from the BC Association of Chiefs of Police and the Ministry’s Police Services Division.

This was the 35th annual Police Heroes’ Night, recognizing members of independent municipal police forces, the RCMP, and First Nations and transit police services which have acted in an exemplary manner.

More funding approved for South Slocan Greenway Project

by Jan McMurray

Dec. 1, 2016

The South Slocan Greenway Project has been approved for an additional $40,900, bringing the total amount of funding to $200,000. The project is being funded through a CBT Recreation Infrastructure Grant of $250,000, the $115,000 Community Works Fund from the five electoral areas of the RDCK, a Bike BC grant of $92,000, and an Area H Community Works Fund grant of $200,000. The Province will be paying for the $440,900 South Slocan tunnel and trailhead.

Kootenay Rideshare website re-launched

The RDCK board approved $115,000 in funding for the South Slocan Greenway Project at the November board meeting. The total project cost is estimated at $1,159,700, and most of it has been confirmed.

The $115,000 is coming from Community Works funds (gas tax) from five different electoral areas; Area H $30,000; Area F $30,000; Area I $30,000; Area J $20,000, Area E $5,000.

The project is expected to go out to tender in early 2017, and to be completed by November 2017. The greenway extends from South Slocan to Crescent Valley Regional Park. At South Slocan, there will be a new trailhead for the Slocan Valley Rail Trail, a new tunnel for pedestrians and cyclists under Hwy 3A, a bike rack, and signage for the Slocan Valley Rail Trail, the Trans-Canada Trail, and Crescent Valley Beach Park. The trail from South Slocan to Frog Peak Café in Crescent Valley will be paved in 2017. Further improvements will be made at Crescent Valley Beach Park, including widening of some existing trails and improvements to surfaces, installation of crib stairs and erosion control, decommissioning of outdated assets of the South Slocan area.

The South Slocan Greenway Project was conceived when the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure announced that the bridge on Hwy 3A in South Slocan was going to be replaced with fill. This would have meant losing the trail under the bridge, which was used by local people to access the Slocan Valley Rail Trail and other recreational sites. Public outcry prompted discussions between the RDCK, the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society, Rec Sites and Trails BC, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. These agencies agreed to work together to enhance the recreational assets of the South Slocan area.

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Stanley Frank Barkley
March 9, 1922 - October 14, 2016
Beloved Father, Grandfather, and Great Grandfather and long-time resident of Baker Road. South Slocan, BC. Stanley Barkley passed away peacefully at Mountain Lakes Retirement Home in Nelson, BC after a short hospitalization. Predeceased by his Father (Robert), and Mother (Ruth). Survived by his daughter Penny (Pete) Stuyt of Cherryville, BC., his sons David (Marcie) and Peter (Deb) Baker, his grandchildren Marcie-Lyne (Shawn) Gilarowski of Ottawa, Ontario and Margaret (Carey) Benson of Kelowna, BC. and his great-grandchildren, gracie and madison. Stanley was also a big brother and is survived by his other left behind brother Bruce. He lived an active life in the outdoors and in practical skills of all types. We are all so much richer for it.

Stanley Barkley was born in Winnipeg on March 9, 1922 to Walter and Margaret Barkley. He served in the Royal Canadian Navy on a number of destroyers in the North Atlantic. He arrived in Nelson, B.C. accompanied by his wife Nancy in early 1948 shortly after being discharged from the service. He was a man of many talents. He studied the great outdoors and was always an active volunteer for the community. He volunteered for the South Slocan Recreation Centre, the Volunteer Fire Department, the Ben Shaw and Consul on a tour of the Nikkei Centre and Kohan Garden.

Along with Bree Lillies, she hosted the Japanese Consul General. The RDCK supported, in addition to the community of Nelson which hosted the Nikkei Centre and Kohan Garden.

The RDCK supported, in principle, Recreation Sites and Trails BC’s approval of the Gadsden Trail to include the Rosebery to Summit Lake section.

RDCK Resource Recovery bylaw #272 was approved on April 27, 2016. Fees in Waste Recovery will be by weight rather than a flat rate. The fees will be $100. (This will apply to landfill sites and transfer stations). There is still a few go.

She attended the Village of Slocan celebration of its 70th year anniversary.

Slocan VALLEY
Slocan Valley council applies for funding for waterfront development strategy
by Barbara Curry Mulcahy
• At a special meeting October 27, council authorized an application to the BC Rural Dividend Program for the “Village of Slocan Waterfront Development Strategy.” If accepted, the grant will allow Slocan “to recruit a professional consultant to create a long-term waterfront management and development strategy… focusing on lakeside property west of the mill site.” The strategy… focusing on lakefront property development and new parks. He was a member of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, the Ben Shaw and Consul on a tour of the Nikkei Centre and Kohan Garden.

Along with Bree Lillies, she hosted the Japanese Consul General. The RDCK supported, in addition to the community of Nelson which hosted the Nikkei Centre and Kohan Garden.

The RDCK supported, in principle, Recreation Sites and Trails BC’s approval of the Gadsden Trail to include the Rosebery to Summit Lake section.

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Slocan VALLEY
Slocan Valley council applies for funding for waterfront development strategy
by Barbara Curry Mulcahy
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COMMUNITY

RDCK board, November 17: Directors want to talk about pot by Jan McMurray

• The annual elections for board chair and vice-chair resulted in no change. Karen Hamling, mayor of Nakusp is board chair and Lawrence Chernoff, mayor of Castlegar is vice-chair for another year.

• A moment of silence was observed for Neil Muth, president and CEO of the Columbia Basin Revitalization Coalition from 2005 until his unexpected death just recently. Chair Hamling said Muth was “a good friend, excellent colleague, and I cannot imagine how he can be replaced.” Director Binks, RDCK representative on the CBT board, added, “This is a tragic loss to all of us in the Basin, not just in the RDCK.” He also said that unfortunately, the news of Neil’s passing hit social media immediately before his family was ready.

CBT will be “moving forward with business,” he said, although it will be slightly slowed down.

The RDCK will provide $5,000 per year to a scholarship fund in the name of Neil Muth.

• There is an appetite around the board table to talk about cannabis dispensaries and medical marijuana production facilities. The issue was raised by Nelson Alternate Director Daly, who reported that Nelson has six cannabis dispensaries. Although they are illegal, he said there is “no federal law,” only some court judgments. “The cannabis industry is becoming legitimate. It’s an economic development opportunity and we have to start thinking of people in that business becoming legal.” Director Cunningham added that rural directors will have to address this issue, as well, as medical marijuana production facilities are being established in rural areas. CAO Horn said zoning bylaws are the only tool available to local governments to address this. Director Watson said she has a marijuana production facility in her area, run by “very questionable people” and “no one wants to deal with it.” There is no zoning in Area D, so she is very interested in a discussion on this.

• A delegation from the RDCK will attend the February CBT board meeting to discuss the possibility of the Trust providing home insurance. The delegation will include CAO Horn, Chair Hamling, Director Davidoff and Director Cunningham.

• A total of $109,000 in Community Works funds will be contributed to the Fields Forward project to purchase a mobile fruit & vegetable press. The press will be stored in Creston, but will be available to groups throughout the RDCK. Area D, H and K each contributed $5,000 to the project.

• The Request for Proposals document for the Agricultural Liaison for the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary and East Kootenay has been prepared by CBT. The contract will be awarded in the first eight weeks of the new year. Each of the Regional Districts and the CBT is committing $60,000 per year for three years (2017, 2018, 2019) to the project. The annual project budget is $240,000.

• Director Faust reported that the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIBAC) will be launching a new website, which will be a repository for information regarding rural communities.

• A report on the question of collecting taxes to support BALS – the Protecting Animal Life Society in Nakusp – will be produced by RDCK staff. Nakusp, Area K, New Denver, Silverton and Area H North are all willing to consider collecting taxes for the service. Staff will prepare a service case analysis and report back to the board on the implications of establishing a service for this.

Area D

• Community Development grants were approved for the mosquito abatement program ($11,000); JV Humphries PAC ($3,175.20); and the Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission ($4,635.70).

Area H

• The Winlaw Regional and Nature Park Commission has submitted its proposed 2017 budget of $13,000, broken down as follows: $1,500 (picnic table replacement); $6,000 (treadpath resurfacing and road crush for multiple locations); $500 (new sandbox for above beach area); $1,000 (boardwalk board replacement); $2,500 (regular beach maintenance contract); $500 (tool replacement for info sign in the parking lot); $1,000 (miscellaneous expenses). This will be considered during RDCK budget discussions.

• Community Development grants were approved for the Capitol Theatre Restoration Society ($500); Red Mountain Internet Society ($3,500); Silvery Slocan Historical Society ($2,000), and the WE Graham Community Service Society ($4,000).

Area K

• The proposed Burton seniors housing project is inching its way through the bureaucratic process. The application to subdivide the 14.3-hectare piece of property owned by the RDCK to create a one-hectare piece for the housing project is being considered, and proof of water supply is required for the subdivision. The property is just outside the water service area. An RDCK bylaw sets a $10,000 fee to expand the service. The RDCK board agreed to waive the fee.

• Community Development grants were approved for the Columbia Basin Revitalization Coalition ($700), Inonoaklin Valley Reading Centre ($1,000), Nakusp Community Radio Society ($2,000), and the Nakusp Farmers Market ($5,000).

Transit offers Two for One Tuesday submitted

Every Tuesday in December will be a Two for One Tuesday in the West Kootenay. In these days, all passengers who bring a travel buddy on board will pay only one fare.

Passengers who bring a travel buddy on board will pay only one fare. Please note that this promotion does not apply to handyDART and Silverton social Drop In Program

Silverton Social Drop In Program

Silverton Memorial Hall

Every Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 am - 10:00 pm

Socializing, Workshops, and Outings

Lunch served every Thursday

Program is open to everyone over 50.

KAREN HAMLING (mayor of Nakusp) and Lawrence Chernoff (mayor of Castlegar) were elected by acclamation as RDCK board chair and vice-chair respectively for another year. This marks the beginning of Hamling’s third term as chair and Chernoff’s fourth year as vice-chair.

DID YOU KNOW...

We offer free weekly delivery to Slocan! Call to arrange for your prescriptions to be delivered to the Slocan Village Market.

New Denver Community Pharmacy

309 6th Ave • 250-358-2500 or 250-353-2224

Winter hours

Open Monday-Friday

Mon. Tues, Wed, Fri: 10-5 • Thurs: 10-2
KASLO & AREA

Kaslo council, November 22: Businesses support Community Toilet Scheme

by Jan McMurray

• Councilor Knoll reported that he had completed surveying local businesses about a Community Toilet Scheme in Kaslo, and the response was generally positive. He said that the Community Toilet Scheme, where participating businesses open their washrooms to the public and the Village contributes to the cost of supplies, may not be the permanent solution but could “ease the gap.” He recommended that council go to the next step, which is to issue a Request for Proposals or Request for Expressions of Interest, asking interested businesses to provide more detailed information about the cost of providing the service, and the type of facilities they have available (i.e. wheelchair accessible, change tables).

First, the CAO will contact the stakeholder group and convey the information gathered in Knoll’s survey. The stakeholder group includes representatives from council, the Chamber, North Kootenay Lake Community Services, Jazz Fest and the North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Council. This group met October 19 to discuss options for public washrooms, and agreed to have Councillor Knoll survey local businesses about the Community Toilet Scheme.

• Waterfront management guidelines will be developed by April 2017, if all goes according to plan. Council directed staff to issue an RFP for $16,500 for the development of standard operating guidelines for waterfront management, particularly beach grooming of the Moyie and Kaslo Bay beaches. The intent is for the guidelines to be submitted to the Village for review by March or April. The Village received a $10,000 grant from the Province to go towards the development of the guidelines.

• The cost of paving the section of the Back Road that is causing dust problems will be estimated and considered during budget discussions. At the October 15 Committee of the Whole meeting, council received a petition and letter from Phil Trotter, asking for more dust control in the fall. Council agreed that paving would be more cost effective than dust control in the long run.

• Venture Mechanical Systems of Castlegar was awarded a contract for $5,025 to do sprinkler retrofit work on the main floor of the Kaslo City Hall. The sprinkler heads will be re-elevated, as they are a bit short for the ceiling that will be installed, and some will be relocated to suit the new layout. The work will be paid for with funds from the Community Works Reserve. The CAO added that the company has also had a look at the SS Moyie sprinkler system and will be reporting back.

• Thanks to the work of Kootenay Rockies Tourism, the Kaslo campground is listed on www.travelbritishcolumbia.com and www.campingvbc.com websites and has a complimentary one-year membership in the BC Lodging and Campgrounds Association.

• The Inter-Community Business Licence (ICBL) Bylaw was adopted. Businesses with the licence can do business in Nelson, Castlegar, Creston, Rossland and Kaslo.

• Councillor Largen reported that the bulk volume rate at all transfer stations in the Kootenay Lake subregion of the RDCK, including the Kaslo Transfer Station, is increasing to $100 per tonne. The CAO said this would not affect the cost of bag tags or waste collection in Kaslo at Kaslo Bay Transfer Station and said she would advise council right away if this changes.

• The Building Asset Management Report will be discussed at the December 13 council meeting. The report was issued in accordance with the 2015 Business Plan, and the CAO said she would advise council right away if this changes.

KiN celebrates 20 years of rural service

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities recently noted that a “broadband gap” remains a reality in rural areas of the country. "The power to transform rural and northern areas of tenacious grant writing, KiN received its approval to expand its infrastructure. This allowed KiN to build radio towers in the North Kootenay Lake region, bringing faster and cheaper bandwidth to deeply rural residents. For the following six years, the organisation’s primary focus was on the rural area of Kaslo, both itself being served by Telus and/or Telus wholesale Netdela.

Seeing the lack of services, in a few good people – or in this case, a lot of KiN. The organisation's primary focus was on the rural areas around Kaslo, the village and cheaper bandwidth to deeply rural residents. For the following six years, the organisation’s primary focus was on the rural area of Kaslo, both itself being served by Telus and/or Telus wholesale Netdela.

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Kaslo Light Up
Saturday, December 3
Front Street closed 3 pm - late

- Parade starts at 6 pm
- Kids’ Crafting Booth
- Gift-wrapping by Youth Centre
- Santa’s Workshop
- Bonfire
- and much more!

The festivities culminate in a ginormous bonfire at the top of the street, which will be lit at 4 pm and carry on till 8.

The Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce organizes the Light-Up celebration every year. This year’s event is sponsored by the generosity of the Columbia Power Corporation and the Village of Kaslo.

Eric's Meat Market & Deli
Family-operated business for more than 75 years
- InStore Deli
- Fresh Meat & Cheese
- Import Items
- Fresh & Frozen Fish
- Freezer Orders
- Party Trays made to order
- Homemade Sausages
- Fresh Turkeys and Hams
425 Front Street • Kaslo, BC • 250-353-2436

Kaslo Clothes Hanger
Affordable Choices for Gift Ideas & Stocking Stuffers
400 Front St., Kaslo • 353-9688

Front Street Market
One-stop shopping for all your holiday cuisine!
Front Street • Kaslo • 250-353-2331

Kaslo InfoNet celebrates 20 years
continued from page 10
the service will never become obsolete over the foreseeable future.

Stable, high-speed Internet access is becoming as important to a community’s well-being as access to electricity and telephone. Without KiN, the north Kootenay Lake region would have become a digital backwater. KiN’s visionary and hard-working volunteer Board of Directors has created British Columbia’s first rural fibre-optic-enabled community-controlled Internet service provider. KiN’s innovative model is already proving to be of interest to communities throughout the Columbia Basin, and in time will spread to the rest of rural BC.

Kaslo celebrates Light-Up Saturday, December 3rd

Cornucopia
Light Up Special — All Day — Saturday Dec 3rd
Made in Kaslo
Products are 10% Off
Regular Price
Drop by for a Coffee

Kaslo & Area Great Gift Giveaway

Over $2000 value in prizes!
*Prizes in local gift cards & merchandise

Try us first and WIN BIG!

Choose local participating businesses to enter draw and win!

From Nov. 26th 'til noon Dec. 17th

Support your friends and neighbours by Choosing Local this holiday season!
Local film festival announces People’s Choice award

submitted

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival is partnering with three local businesses to offer a People’s Choice Award for the 2017 event. Valhalla Mountain Touring (VMT), Ambler Mountain Works and Ice Creek Lodge have contributed towards the cash prizes of $300, $200 and $100 for the best three films voted by the audience at the March 4 event in Silverton.

“We hope this award will encourage more Kootenay photographers and film makers to make submissions to the North Valley Festival,” said co-ordinator Myles Berney, thanking the businesses. “We receive excellent submissions from local artists every year and anticipate that the quality will continue,” added Berney. “Our goals haven’t really changed. We strive to provide a community venue for emerging and professional media artists to showcase their work. We think that by offering this award, and advertising in nearby communities, we can provide that homegrown grassroots vibe, while at the same time expanding to a more regional event.”

Submissions are now open for the 2017 North Valley Mountain Film Festival and will be accepted until the January 31 deadline. The NVMFF is looking for films or slideshows that showcase passion for the outdoors or the environment, preferably with a Kootenay connection.

For submission guidelines and event information, please visit the festival website at northvalleyfilmfestival.com or direct inquiries to northvalleyfilmfest@gmail.com.

The annual celebration is made possible through the contributions of local artist and volunteers, and this year the NVMFF organizing committee is thankful for support from Shore’s Bike and Ski, Sufferfest and the Columbia Basin Trust through the Community Initiatives Funding Program.

LESS to hold shoe memorial

submitted

Lucerne School along with credit union staff will hold a shoe memorial December 9 at 11:15 am in front of the Kootenay Savings Credit Union in New Denver. This marks the culmination of a social justice campaign at LESS that started November 25 with the theme ‘Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.’

Students, staff and community members will lay down shoes in front of KSCU, one pair at a time, to remember those women who, due to violence, are no longer with us. Shoe memorials happen annually in other towns and cities to create awareness and remember all missing and murdered women.

It has been 27 years since 14 female engineering students were killed at Montreal Polytechnique. December 6, the anniversary of that massacre, is Canada’s National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

The community is invited to join in. If possible, bring a pair of women’s or girls’ shoes, any shape, any style, to contribute to the memorial, at any time during the day. At the end of the day, the shoes will be collected and donated to a woman’s shelter or charity.

Violence against women affects everyone, and everyone should be part of the solution, say the students.

Advertise in the Valley Voice It pays!!! • Call 358-7218 for details • email: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca
Welcome to all from 5-8 pm in the cozy Hot Cocoa and Cookies!

Rutabaga’s Whole Foods
Main Street, New Denver

3rd Annual

Merchants’ Night Special:
18-hour Smoked Texas Brisket w/ Maple Baked Beans, Mac & Cheese, Sourdough Bun, Dill Pickle & Vanilla-Peach Cobbler

$14 per person

Warm holiday wishes to all our friends and customers!

nuru coffee bar

513 6th Avenue, New Denver 250-358-2733
Proudly serving BC Wines & Beer

Welcome to all from 5-8 pm to enjoy Hot Cider and Cookies!

Rutabaga’s
Whole Foods
Main Street, New Denver

Come join in the cookie decorating

The VILLAGE HEARTH
kootenay cuisine

NEW DENVER MERCHANTS’ NIGHT DINNER SPECIAL
Pork or Bean Taco Plate with hand pressed tortillas – Regular Menu also available

All dinner guests can enter our draw for the chance to win a dinner for two (max $80 value)

– Live Entertainment –
Christmas gifts available for sale: Village Hearth Gift Certificates and The Talking Spade local gardening book

Reservations recommended: 250-358-2449

The Village Hearth is a farm to table restaurant, The Village Hearth, will be open for dinner, so consider calling ahead for a reservation on Merchants’ Night. For the second year in a row, the Outlet Youth Centre will be hosting Merchants’ Night Cookie Decorating, sponsored by New Market Foods.

Thank you to the Columbia Basin Trust and the Columbia Power Corporation for their ongoing event sponsorship, making Merchants’ Night possible. Just as important are our local merchants and volunteers who make this night a success. Merchants’ Night is a great time to shop locally, supporting our local year-round stores as the holiday season approaches.

Plus there’s a draw prize! Pick up a merchants’ card at the Valley Voice, have it initialed at all the shops listed, and return it to the Valley Voice office before the end of the night. The draw for a basket full of items donated by local businesses takes place at the Valley Voice at 8 pm – another reason to thank your local merchants!

Come out to Merchants’ Night in New Denver Friday, December 9

submitted

Every December, the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce hosts Merchants’ Night in New Denver. This year it’s on Friday, December 9 from 5 to 8 pm.

The stores in New Denver will be open late for shopping and socializing. Main Street will be closed between Highway 6 and Josephine, but don’t forget to veer off the beaten track. Nuru Coffee Bar (serving brisket and other treats) and New Market Foods (offering 10% off) are open east of the highway, and above the liquor store on Josephine Street there will be an artists’ studio open house you won’t want to miss.

Santa will arrive by fire truck outside KSCU at 6 pm, ready to hear your Christmas wish list. New Denver’s royalty and friends will be serving free hot dogs, hot chocolate, and goodies baked by Robin McNabb at a table outside Kootenay Savings Credit Union (KSCU). All the while, members of the Community Choir will be out caroling along main street (Carolers: meet at 6 pm outside the post office).

New Denver’s new farm to table restaurant, The Village Hearth, will be open for dinner, so consider calling ahead for a reservation on Merchants’ Night. For the second year in a row, the Outlet Youth Centre will be hosting Merchants’ Night Cookie Decorating, sponsored by New Market Foods.

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Nakusp Celebration of Light

Friday December 2, 2016
Business Downtown's annual fundraising event on December 1
9:30 – 10:30 – Holiday Celebration Sale - all day at Downtown Merchants, gift cards and presents
10:30 – 11:30 – Stuff the NeedFeed - donation at Overwaitea
Free admission with a donated toy or toy donation for the Annual Toy Drive
12:30 – 1:30 – Pique Friday at the Old Forest Collective
2:30 – 3:30 – Five Skills with Simka at Stairs - hosted by Nakusp Minor Hockey
3:30 – 5:30 – Free tours and history talks in the famous Nakusp Astoria
Hosted by Nakusp Youth Center
Event site at the corner of Broadway Street between 6th & 8th Avenue
Free snacks, music by DJ Matt Wren, carolers, paper, streamers and much more!
4:00 – 4:30 – Carolers, come and sing along
5:00 – 5:30 – Popcorn in the Movie
6:00 – 6:30 – Light Up Parade
9:00 – 9:30 – Santa Contest
7:00 – 7:30 – Performance by Women on the Kusp dancers
7:45 – 8:00 – Fireworks
Sponsored by

NAKUSP CELEBRATION OF LIGHT
The Valley Voice December 1, 2016

Looking for a Unique Christmas Gift?
The Nakusp Hot Springs has GIFT CERTIFICATES for its Chalets and Hot Springs in the denomination of your choice.

Happy Holidays!
Nakusp Hot Springs Gift Passes:
Available in packs of 5 • Adults - $42.50 • Youth/Seniors - $40.00
Passes available for purchase until Dec. 31, 2016 at the Village Office.
For further information, please call 250.265.4528 or Village Office 250.265.3689.
The certificates can be purchased onsite at the Nakusp Hot Springs, at the Village Office or by phone.

People’s Pharmacy staffs Kyle, Shannon and Cheryl present a cheque for $1,000 to Bea Anton for the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation’s annual Light Up the Hospital Lights. The campaign is underway, with Pledge Day being December 2 at Overwaitea and the Broadway Deli. The goal is to raise $14,155 for a wheelchair washer and an ankle brachial index system to assist with the detection of peripheral arterial disease.

Mike George has retired from the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation board. A founding director, he was very actively involved in the work of the foundation from its inception in 1981 until he stepped down at the AGM in August this year. The foundation’s newsletter states: “His selfless dedication and contributions he personally made to support our hospital, its staff and the people of our community has assured the success of the foundation in the future.”

Holiday Celebration Sale
One Day Only - Friday, December 3
30% off Ladies Wear
30% off Fabric (.50 min cut)
Open 9 am to 8 pm
416 Broadway, Nakusp / 250-265 3644

Nakusp Waterfront Lighting Celebration!!
The Waterfront Lighting installation has been finally completed, and we are going to switch it on for everyone to see!

The opening ceremony will take place:
When: December 17 (Saturday) at 4:30 pm
Where: Waterfront near the Boat Launch

We hope you will come and help us celebrate.
Coffee and hot chocolate will be there waiting for you!!

Rotary Club of Nakusp
December 1, 2016  The Valley Voice

Christmas light-up in the village of Slocan planned for December 4

submitted

The Spirit of Christmas committee is preparing to celebrate the third Christmas tree light-up in the village of Slocan. This year the celebration is on Sunday December 4 at 6 pm in the village square by the library/wellness centre.

' ’Tis the season! Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah – come sing and celebrate the advent of winter.

On Sunday December 18, the Vallican Whole Community Choir invites you to join voices with the biggest contingent of enthusiastic and harmonic singers ever. Director Sharon Lang contributes to the energetic vibe of the choir every week.

This seasonal concert and sing-along is a five year tradition of community spirit filled with music, camaraderie and nibles. Once again a Doukhobor choir will bring a multicultural flavour to the afternoon.

Everyone is welcome to the event, at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, 3762 Little Slocan South Road, from 3 to 5 pm. The choir will provide mulled apple cider and sweet and savoury goodies at this festive occasion where cedar boughs will set the stage.

Admission is by donation and proceeds will be shared between the Slocan Valley Food Bank and the Vallican Whole Community Choir.

Celebrate the season with song at the Vallican Whole Community Centre

First FLIKS of the new season at the Whole

submitted

Transpecos plays at the Vallican Whole, Friday November 25 at 7:30 pm, the first FLIKS (Film Lovers in the Kootenays) offering of the season.

On a remote desert highway a makeshift Border Patrol checkpoint is manned by three agents. Flores (Gabriel Luna) is one of the old guard who believes that the border where the line between right and wrong shifts like the desert itself. Desert, dilemma and a wee bit o’ shoot’em up to get the blood flowing, although nothing like Django Unchained. The folks in Kaslo loved it. See the trailer at Facebook.com/FLIKS.ca.

The Vallican Whole is at 3762 Little Slocan 5 Road.

Supervised children are welcome at this family affair.

Choir members look forward to sharing the beauty of what they have been learning, as well as filling the air with familiar songs of the season. Add your voices! Or just come to listen.

Kootenay Furnace
Slocan City • 250-355-0088
K.F. Kootenay Furnace Ltd., proud recipient of the 11th Better Business Award & 14th Blaze King Award, would like to thank our customers with a pre-Christmas PST savings on any Wood Stoves in stock. Call for models available: 250-355-0088

Katrine will be hosting a Holiday Open House with Richard Cannings, MP on December 19, 2016 1:00 PM—5:00 PM. Light snacks and refreshments will be served! Please bring a non-perishable item for the food bank if you are able.

Castlegar Recreation Centre 2101 6th Avenue Castlegar, BC 250-304-2783 1-888-755-0556

BRING IT HOME
5 YEAR TERM DEPOSIT – EARN UP TO 2.35%

ONLINE: WWW.HERITAGECU.CA

The Vallican Whole Community Choir invites one and all to the annual winter concert on December 18 at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, 3-5 pm.

This seasonal concert and sing-along is a five year tradition of community spirit filled with music, camaraderie and nibles. Once again a Doukhobor choir will bring a multicultural flavour to the afternoon.

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Slocan celebrates phase two of JCP project

by Barbara Curry Malcady

About 75 people came to Slocan’s campground on November 21 to celebrate the completion of phase two of the Slocan Tourism Enhancement Project – another giant step in Slocan’s transition from mill town to eco-tourist destination. “We are absolutely thrilled with the outcome of this project,” says Mayor Jessica Lunn. This year’s project focused on the waterfront and Slocan’s campground. The berm at the waterfront was brushed and the breakwater was re-planked. Retaining wall lock-blocks were ordered and will be installed next year. The campground was expanded and improved. Nine new sites were created, although some were not completed. Nineteen sites were upgraded. Cement pads were poured, picnic tables built, and fire rings constructed. A new loop road was built in the lower campground, opening up an area to motor homes that was accessible only to smaller vehicles and tenters before. A new wash station was installed in the lower area. New trails were constructed to connect to the informal network of trails behind the campground. Additional sites were hooked up to water, electricity, and the sani-dump. The project also included improving other areas of the village. Expo Park was brushed and trees limbed; public garden beds were improved and repaired; a backboard at the tennis court was constructed and installed. In her speech at the open house, Mayor Lunn spoke about the drastic changes the Village has gone through since 2011. When the Springer Creek sawmill closed, the Village lost 50% of its tax revenue and the region lost more than 100 well-paying jobs. However, with this crisis also came an opportunity and it didn’t take long for others to see the potential in Slocan, she said. Once the mill was demolished, there was “a tremendous increase in visitors to our community – and to our municipal campground.” Understanding that the Village needed to improve what it could offer to visitors, Slocan started on a three-year makeover last year. Phase one of the Slocan Tourism Enhancement Project saw the former forestry wildfire fighting camp transformed into the Owl Walk. Beside the rail trail, the Owl Walk meanders through a lovely enclave for the endangered Screech Owls that nest in the area, and has interpretive signage. The project has been funded through the provincial government’s Job Creation Partnerships (JCP) program. Funding is provided for projects of benefit to the community while creating jobs to assist unemployed EI-eligible clients with opportunities to gain meaningful work experience. At the open house, Mayor Lunn thanked the Province, CBT, the Municipal Insurance Association, and Sockeye Enterprises for the financial support for phase two. The total project cost was approximately $122,000. Slocan’s project employed one manager and four participants, who received training in safety orientation, wildfire mitigation, and surveying, and received certifications in chainsaw safety, first aid, CPR, and WHMIS. They received career counseling from the Kootenay Career Development Society (the local WorkBC office). JCP Participant Mike Beteau says his new skills, work experience, and career counseling have given him “the confidence and drive to move towards my dreams.” He will use the skills he gained in this project to help him start his own business. He loves cooking, and has applied to the Community Futures program to start a food truck business at the beach in Slocan. He plans to use his new construction experience to renovate his garage into a home office and to build picnic tables to set up by the food truck. Phase three is still in the planning stage, but will likely include the removal of the existing berm at the waterfront and the installation of a 175-metre retaining wall with 40 metres of handrails where the wall is over deep water, and the completion of the campsites started this year.
practices like pasteurization don't just—it helped him understand that industrial 'discovered' the art of beer brewing. And the first Mesopotamians might have—him to speculate intelligently about how—virtually the same product, with different—once wrote: "The stage had been reached—had a lockdown on Canadian beer—Big Three – Molson, Labatt and Carling—Canada had a monopoly. According to—the 'micro-brewery' movement that—dominance by corporate brewers, much—scale or artisanal brewing, not home—now used to refer to the revival of small—had his memoir,—likely agree with. Appleton has just—God loves us and wants us to be happy." Franklin once said, "Beer is proof that—by Art Joyce

Cultivated by Appleton. It was an instant—by Appleton himself. The rest, as they—afterward, Mitchell and Appleton created—cultivated by Appleton. It was an instant—The Valley updated its finance policies as well, which among other things means a slight increase in the mileage rate paid to staff traveling on Village buses from $0.90 to $0.53 per kilometre. The Marina/Village joint account is no more, so the policy was rescinded. Also, the annual budget process was seen as a procedure rather than a policy, so the policy was rescinded.

There were 29 people at the North Road residents meeting about extending water and sewer service to properties—The Highway Bypass on First Road was also born Western Union in 1982. It was "overkill." "The vitamins in the beer were destroyed by the heating, and we were altering the flavour — for the worse," Gradually this awareness spread further and now no commercial brewers use pasteurization.

After emigrating to Canada from Britain in the early 1960s, Appleton first put his talents to work for Brewing companies in Vancouver. But gradually he became disenchanted by the corporate culture's insistence on profit over quality, and his callous treatment of employees. So when he met John Mitchell, another expat Brit, the two were ready to challenge the brewing establishment. By this time Appleton had purchased his Edgewood acreage and was just starting to settle in, earning his living as a journalist during the heyday of magazine journalism. Their timing was impeccable: immediately, craft breweries attempted to infiltrate the British market with bland Canadian lager had sparked a "Real Ale" revolution that spread all the way back to Canada. Meanwhile the corporate conglomerates on beer culture had begun to change with the election of the first NDP government in BC and subsequent relaxation of liquor licensing, TEULUS and ICBC, there will be free Wi-Fi available at different locations throughout BC. Councillor Ulli Mueller recommended that council, and he sent a letter to the Transportation Minister because the service had been a request made at UBCM.

Councillor discussed a proposed code—adding pasteurization, Appleton writes, was "overkill." "The vitamins in the beer were destroyed by the heating, and we were altering the flavour — for the worse," Gradually this awareness spread further and now no commercial brewers use pasteurization.

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**Kaslo Sourdough nominated for People’s Choice award**

Small Business BC, the province’s premier resource for entrepreneurs, and the Insurance Bureau of Canada, opened nominations and voting for the 14th Annual Small Business BC Awards on October 1.

Kaslo Sourdough has been nominated for the Premier’s People’s Choice Award. The Top 10 will be announced as finalists on December 12, 2016. The winners of each category will be announced on February 23. The Small Business BC Awards is the largest such competition in Canada.

The winners are also offered a one-year all-access pass to Small Business BC education, resources and experts, and one-on-one business mentorship opportunities with notable advisors from the award sponsors.

**Kootenay Co-op celebrates 15 years**

Kootenay Co-op Radio started with a few community minded individuals dreaming of starting a radio station for the people and by the people. More than 15 years, 4,000 members and too many hours to count of volunteer-run homegrown radio later, Co-op Radio is still here. And stronger than ever.

To celebrate this momentous occasion KCRR is throwing a few different birthday celebrations. The first one is Elle’s Stomp at December 10, with doors opening at 3 pm and the movie starting at 4. Tickets can be bought at Otter Books for $8-10.

**Celebrate the Light! Coffee House and circle dancing in Silverton December 10**

LV Rogers High School’s Amnesty group will host a Harry Potter Gala December 10 to raise money for the UN Refugee Agency. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) protects the rights and safety and advocacy to refugees and displaced persons from Syria, Iraq, South Sudan and other war-torn and dangerous situations. This event is a great way to learn about and raise funds for the UNCHR, while enjoying a magical adventure to the world of Harry Potter!

This year the film shown will be Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. The event will be at the Civic Theatre on Saturday, December 10, with doors opening at 3 pm and the movie starting at 4.

Tickets can be bought at Otter Books for $8-10.

LV Rogers High School’s Amnesty group hosts a fundraiser Harry Potter Gala at the Civic Theatre.

Everyone is encouraged to come in costume; there will be door prizes, trivia, and other fun activities for people of all ages!
local families on the new website. We are hosting a photo contest to showcase Years Council is upgrading our website.

CONTEST!
The West Kootenay Early CHILDREN & FAMILY PHOTO School 250-265-3638.

been victims of violence. Bring a pair of KSCU to remember all women who have SHOE MEMORIAL December 9 at 11:15 on December 8 with renewed enthusiasm. forward to welcoming our guests again public access and patronage. We look Appreciation” event which will exclude our regular time on Thursday, December 8.

December 7, will be closed for one day bc.ca connects Heaven with Earth. eckankar- FREE CD AND BOOKS - A Sound that

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winning, hand-stretched artisan pizza. Award

December 1, 2016 The Valley Voice

ART STUDIO OPEN HOUSE. Artwork for sale by Morgan Baradi and Nadine Stefan. Open for Merchants’ Night. Dec. 9 from 5-8 as well as Saturday and Sunday from 10 - 3. Stains located above the liquor store.


COME FOR LAUGHS! Seussified Christmas Carol by Peter Bloiod. A play performed by grade 4-5 Lucerne students. Boun Hall Thursday, December 1 at 5:30. Hot dog and popcorn concession. Friday, Dec. 2 at 7 pm. No concession. Admission by donation.


For all your INSURANCE needs 265-3631 1-800-685-6010

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I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.”

I was there when you were but a child with a life unfold. when you are old

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And it will come and bend again

FAITH TO SUIT YOU

The Valley Voice

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FAITH TO SUIT YOU

The Valley Voice
Lucerne students take swimming lessons in Castlegar

submitted

The 13 Lucerne students in grades 1-6 rode the bus to Castlegar once a week for seven weeks this fall to complete a level in swimming. More than half of the students had never had a formal swim lesson before. Formal swim lessons go through ten different levels. Most of the New Denver area students are below level four, while 12 are level 5 or 6, and one is in level 8.

Many said they appreciated learning the skills in the pool, and found they were more successful in improving technique in the pool than in the lake. “But this is not an attempt to replace the lessons in the lake,” says Lucerne teacher Katrina Sumrall. “We certainly hope to continue the summer lake lessons, but it was great to be able add to the skill foundation for our local youth at the pool this fall.”

In addition to taking swimming lessons on the weekly trips to Castlegar, the students had the opportunity to ice skate, visit Castlegar Fire Department, explore Zuckerberg Island, and enjoy a celebration day with a cake from Fomi’s and lunch at a Castlegar restaurant. Swim lessons were supported with funds from Hills Rec Society, Rec Commission #6 and Lucerne PAC. Parents also contributed to the cost of the lessons.

Marguerite Thring (nee Campbell), devoted and loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother and active community member passed away peacefully at Minto House, Arrow Lakes Hospital in Nakusp on Remembrance Day, November 11th, at the age of 91. Marguerite was born on a farm near Fairlight, Saskatchewan on June 1, 1925, the third child and first born girl to Leslie Roy Campbell and Hazel May Campbell (nee Nesmith). In 1935, the Campbell family made their way to British Columbia, buying a dairy just outside of the scenic community of New Denver in the West Kootenay region of the province. It was at this dairy, the Campbell Ranch, nestled against the backdrop of Goat Mountain that Marguerite and her three brothers spent their childhood, blessed with a view of Slocan Lake, the Valhalla Range and the New Denver Glacier. Marguerite loved to tell stories of her three brothers, their walks to and from school in New Denver, and her pitching days for the girls’ softball team. After high school graduation, Marguerite travelled to Regina where she attended commerce school and this led to a job as a teller at the Bank of Montreal in Trail in the late 1940’s. In the meantime, Walt Thring, also a native of New Denver, returned from his overseas duty for the Canadian Armed Forces to a job at Cominco. After a year-long courtship, Walt and Marguerite were married. They moved back to New Denver, purchasing a grocery store, Thring’s Shop Easy Market. Their three children, Doug, Leslie Ann and Shelley were born and raised in New Denver. Community service was important to both Marguerite and Walt before and after retirement. Marguerite worked as secretary to the New Denver Hospital, the Ministry of Social Services and finally as secretary for Kam Kotsa/Dickinson Mines. Walt and Marguerite enjoyed traveling and escaping Kootenay winters in Arizona. In 1989, Marguerite’s (age 63) world collapsed when Walt passed away suddenly at the age of 71. Marguerite filled the void by spending as much time as she could with her grandchildren, doing volunteer work, and singing in the Valhalla Community Choir and Golden Oldies Singers. At the age of 89, Marguerite moved into Minto House at Arrow Lakes Hospital. She passed away peacefully, daughter Shelley at her bedside. Marguerite leaves her three children, six grandchildren, eight great grandsons and one brand new great granddaughter. The Thring family would like to thank Dr. Brian Skrenes and Dr. Michael Magar at Slocan Community Health Care Centre, Dr. Norm Lea and the Minto House staff at Arrow Lakes Hospital in Nakusp, for their excellent care over the years. Special thanks to the many, many thoughtful and caring friends and acquaintances in New Denver and area who made Marguerite’s life as special as it was. Thanks as well to everyone in Nakusp who made Marguerite’s transition from her beloved home in New Denver easier by welcoming her to their community.

A CELEBRATION of Marguerite’s life will be held at the Bosun Hall in New Denver on JULY 20th, 2017 at 2:00 pm; everyone who knew her is welcome to attend.

Wilderness Committee presents Toad People

The Wilderness Committee is taking the documentary film Toad People on a BC-wide tour. Toad People is an inspiring documentary about communities across BC fighting to protect species at risk, such as the western toad and barn owl. The documentary features stories from citizens in Summit Lake, where western toads are at risk during their annual migration across a busy highway and in Chilliwack, where people are working to protect barn owls displaced by urban development. The documentary premiered at Simon Fraser University this week, and will go on tour soon.

Low cost dental care at TEETH satellite in Nakusp

Families with an income under $30,000 can now get a break on their dental bills without having to travel to Nelson. A new TEETH satellite clinic has opened in Nakusp, at Dr. Don DeSandoli’s Saddle Mountain Dental Clinic. There are also new satellite clinics in Trail as well as a mobile dental hygiene service provided by RDH Andrea Noel.

West Kootenay Community TEETH Clinic Society has been providing low cost dental care since 2014. In January it won first prize in Pacific Blue Cross’ 75th Anniversary ‘Share the Care Giveaway’ which enabled the board to create partnerships to increase access to care in outlying areas from Nelson.

The primary location for TEETH services is Dr. Matthew Osepchook’s dental office in Nelson, when his own practice is closed.

Clients interested in seeking dental services from TEETH clinics must first register to become a client. There are various intake locations throughout the Kootenay-Boundary region where trained volunteers can assist individuals in the registration process. Applications are also available online at www.healthco-op.ca. Once you are a registered client either the TEETH administration staff or the satellite dental clinic staff will call you to set up your initial dental appointment. No walk-ins will be accepted; all appointments must be pre-arranged.

For more information, such as intake locations or how you can get involved in a partnership, please contact: TEETHClinicWK@gmail.com or 250-352-6560.
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