by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp Waterfront Walkway can now be enjoyed by night as well as by day. The Nakusp Rotary Club’s Waterfront Lighting project is complete, making an evening stroll along the walkway a very pleasurable experience.

Despite the bitter cold on the evening of December 17, quite a crowd turned out for the Waterfront Lighting Celebration. After a few words from Rotary Club President Dan Nicholson, Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling, and Candace Weimer of Artistic Lighting, several people walked the length of the walkway and checked out the 144 lights along the way.

Candace Weimer and Jordy Olsoff of Artistic Lighting in Kelowna designed and installed the lighting. In an interview, Weimer said they used LED, low voltage lights, and most are dark sky compliant so as not to interfere with star gazing. If placed properly, she said the LED lights give off the same amount of light as incandescent lights, and they use much less power. “This project will cost $250 per year in power charges, so it’s the way to go for municipal projects.”

Although colour lighting was under consideration, Weimer explained that no suitable colour product was available. The lights they used have a 15-year warranty, whereas colour lights were only warranted for one year.

The idea to light up the waterfront originally came from Rotarians Laurie Loumsbury and Len Balogh, and was championed by Mayumi van der Pol. Mayumi contacted Artistic Lighting, and they agreed to come to Nakusp and do a demonstration at no charge. Representatives from Village council and CBT, and Ray Nikkel, who designed the waterfront walkway, were all invited to the demo at Spicer Garden in the summer of 2014.

“Everyone liked it, so we raised the $50,000 we needed,” Mayumi said, “and then we found out that we didn’t have a source of power. We had to set up three kiosks to supply power to the waterfront. I was so discouraged because that doubled the budget and I didn’t know where to find another $50,000.”

Most of that shortfall came from a $30,000 CBT Community Initiatives/Affected Area Funding grant, thanks to the huge community support on voting day. The project was funded with grants from NACFOR, the Nakusp and Area Community Foundation, Rec Commission No. 4, the RDCK, Rotary District, and cash and in-kind donations from several local businesses and the Village. The Nakusp Rotary Club contributed more than $6,000, and Artistic Lighting donated $6,500 in kind. “Because it was a municipal project and publicly funded, and a non-profit group was taking the lead, we thought we should contribute as well,” said Weimer.

Weimer encourages other municipalities to consider projects similar to the Nakusp Waterfront Lighting project. “The real reason we’re out there is for Nakusp residents to enjoy the amazing beauty they have all around them, and to attract more residents and tourists to the waterfront at night.”

Nakusp Rotary Club lights up the Waterfront Walkway

"Your independently owned regional community newspaper serving the Arrow Lakes, Slocan & North Kootenay Lake Valleys."
Regional Districts collaborate to establish EV charging stations

by Art Joyce

With electric vehicles (EVs) finally beginning to come within the price reach of middle class consumers, three Regional Districts are collaborating to establish a network of charging stations across the Kootenays. The two-year $1 million project is part of an EV strategy on the part of the Regional Districts of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB), Central Kootenay (RDCK) and East Kootenay (RDEK).

SLOCAN VALLEY LEGACY FUND 2017 GRANTS

Are Now Available!

Thanks to the support of Kootenay Savings Credit Union, we have $12,000 for the 2017 granting cycle, with grants of up to $4,000 for each project.

Guidelines for the granting process, as well as applications, are now available online, at www.slocanvalleylegacy.com. Grant applications are due by March 10, 2017.

SLOCAN VALLEY LEGACY FUND

Village of New Denver
PUBLIC NOTICES
INFORMATION SESSION – COMMUNITY HALLS

Residents of New Denver are invited to attend an open house to learn about the outcomes of the two recent structural assessments done on the Knox Hall and the Bosun Hall.

Steven Thomson, Principal Engineer from 9dot Engineering Inc. will be presenting the results of the structural assessments and will be available to answer questions directly related to the contents of the two reports.

WHEN: 7:00 pm, Monday, January 23, 2017
WHERE: Bosun Hall – 710 Bellevue Street, New Denver, BC

PDF copies of both of the structural assessment reports are available on the Village’s website at www.newdenver.ca/documents/reports-and-studies and a printed copy can also be viewed at the Village Office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., weekdays except statutory holidays.

DOG LICENCE RENEWAL REMINDER

Dog owners in the Village of New Denver are reminded that all dogs residing in the Village of New Denver are required to have a current dog licence, which can be obtained from the Village Office.

In accordance with the Village of New Denver’s Animal Control Bylaw, residents of New Denver are reminded that there is a $15.00 reduction in the licence fees, if the licence for the current year is purchased prior to January 31st or within 30 days of the date that the owner first comes into possession of the dog.

2017 BUDGET NOTICE

In accordance with Section 166 of the Community Charter, the Council of the Village of New Denver invites public consultation in the preparation of the Village’s 2017 Five Year Financial Plan.

Council welcomes public input from residents of the Village with regards to items they would like to see addressed in the budget.

To ensure Council’s consideration please submit your comments to the Village of New Denver Municipal Office no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, January 27, 2017.

Funding was provided by the RDEK, Columbia Basin Trust, BC Hydro, and FortisBC.

“While increased adoption of electric vehicles by Kootenay residents will reduce our transportation emissions and support local climate action commitments, electric vehicles are also the future of travel,” said Rob Gay, Chair of the RDEK. “They will save residents money on fuel and provide a superior driving experience through our beautiful and remote region.

EV charging stations will be built to link Cranbrook to Golden on Highway 95 as well as connecting the Okanagan with the Crow’s Nest Pass to Alberta via Highway 3. There will be a limited number of ‘fast chargers’ that can charge a car battery in about 15 minutes. “So essentially you’d be stopping for the same amount of time as you’d be stopping for at a gas station,” says Megan Lohmann, Community Energy Manager for the RDEK.

The network will also include 40 ‘level 2’ chargers that take 4-6 hours to charge a battery bank. The Slocan Valley will likely get two of these chargers. Elevation and temperature affects EV batteries and the charging network has taken this into account, so that even in minus 20 or 20 you’ll still be able to reach your destination.

“Basically they’re sited strategically where we can maximize connectivity,” says Lohmann. “The nice thing about them is that someone will be in your community for a few hours while charging, so maybe they can visit a local restaurant or if you’re in New Denver go for a paddle on the lake. Ideally they can bring some benefit to the community by spending money there and eventually encourage people to feel comfortable purchasing an EV. We’d like to see one in every municipality eventually.”

Although the Tesla corporation already has ‘superchargers’ installed all along Highway 1 from Vancouver through Banff, these stations are proprietary, meaning only Tesla EVs can use them. Lohmann says the Regional Districts wanted a local EV network that the public can access.

Phase V of the Arrows wireless Rotary Villa seniors’ housing project set to start this spring

constructed on a lot that currently has a house on it that the society purchased last year and is now ready for development. Frerichs says they plan to bring their mass-market model, the Tesla 3, into production in early 2018, with an estimated wait time of up to 420 miles (675 km) with a full charge and a full tank of gas. New Denver is going ahead, thanks to the support of Kootenay Savings Credit Union, we have $12,000 for the 2017 granting cycle, with grants of up to $4,000 for each project.

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Bears euthanized in Burton and Kaslo in December

by Jan McMurray

The bear season continued right up to the end of December, keeping the Conservation Officer Service (COS) busier than they’d like to be during hunting season.

“It was non-stop this year,” said Sergeant Cynthia Mann of the COS. “When you throw in the other things hanging around the community all month, according to Herb. The bear was shot in the Dumont’s fenced orchard.

“This will be a big relief for everyone around Burton,” Dumont said. “The bear was skin and bones, and was wounded. There were a lot of sightings in Burton. We were persistent, and finally got the Conservation Officer and an RCMP officer out here to euthanize it.”

Herb reported that he and Sharon called the COS on December 26. An RCMP officer attended, and along with a neighbour with a rifle, an unsuccessful attempt was made to shoot the bear. CO Smienk came out two days later.

Sergeant Mann confirmed that the bear was limping and had poor body condition. “He had no fat storage and because he was an older bear, he wasn’t a candidate for rehabilitation,” she said.

The Northern Lights Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre generally accepts only cubs of the year.

Mann also reported that a cub of the year was euthanized in Kaslo just before Christmas. Again, the cub had no fat storage. “The decision to euthanize an animal is not taken lightly,” she said. “We make our decisions in conjunction with the wildlife biologist here. None of the officers like to do it; sometimes the situation just requires it. Some of the cubs of the year are not good candidates for rehabilitation.”

Mann said they ear tag a couple of last year’s cubs and released them, and one was sent to Northern Lights. “We were sending bears to Northern Lights in December,” she said. “Over the season, more than a dozen bears were sent to the rehab centre from the West Kootenay. Most were sent in August and September.”

Initiative petition launched to ensure no strikes or lockouts in ambulance service

by Jan McMurray

For the past 26 years, paramedic from Victoria, doesn’t believe the ambulance service should be subject to any service disruptions, and has launched an initiative petition process in an effort to make it so.

The initiative petition process, unique to BC, allows a registered voter to propose a new law or amendment to an existing BC law.

The voter must collect signatures from 10% of the registered voters in each of the province’s electoral districts for an initiative petition to succeed. This process was used successfully to end the HST in 2010. Of the nine initiative petition applications approved by the Chief Electoral Officer in BC, only the HST one has been successful.

Henshaw’s initiative proposes that paramedics, ambulance workers and ambulance dispatchers be moved out of their current collective bargaining structure, where strikes and lockouts can happen, and be placed under the Fire and Police Services Collecting Bargaining Act.

“The Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act is a pretty simple legislation that says if you negotiate with your employer and can’t come to an agreement, an arbitrator will come in and the arbitrator’s decision is binding, so there can be no service interruptions – no strikes, no lockouts. I believe it’s absolutely in the public’s interest for paramedics, ambulance workers and dispatchers to be under there because there shouldn’t be any strikes or lockouts with such an important service.”

Currently, ambulance workers are in the Facilities Bargaining Association under the Health Authorities Act. “The fundamental problem here is that we don’t belong in the Facilities Bargaining Association. The Facilities Bargaining Association is sort of a catchall under the Health Authorities Act – there’s over 270 job classifications in there and they’re mostly hospital support staff like maintenance staff, activity aids, admitting and booking clerks, and cleaning staff. So when we go to bargain in such a large and multifaceted group, it’s fairly dysfunctional bargaining, and creates situations where strikes and lockouts can happen. We represent less than 10% of that bargaining group. At one point, they voted 94% for a strike mandate, and so being a minority in that group, it doesn’t matter what we vote. If the larger group votes to strike, the BC Ambulance Service is on strike.”

Henshaw was touring the Kootenay’s last weekend, signing up canvassers. The canvassers’ job will be to get signatures from 10% of the voters in each electoral district in the province by April 10.

“We’ve got great support from our members, but we’ve also also got broader community support,” he said. “Lots of members are signing up friends and family members to be canvassers, and community members are signing up to canvass, as well.”

Henshaw says if they get “that magical number of 10% of voters from each electoral district”, they’re in a great position because we have members across the province in every community, and they are generally trusted members of the community. And we’re not asking for a lot; we just want to be included in the proper legislation to protect the public from any service interruptions. When you phone 911, you are asked if you want police, fire or ambulance, so we should be under the same legislation that keeps all those services running.”

Mann reported that no Dangerous Wildlife Protection Orders (DWOs) were issued this season, and violation tickets were issued in connection to one incident only, in Mirror Lake, where a mother and her two cubs were shot by a resident.

“We do have those tools, where we can issue orders to clean up [attractants] and we can issue violation tickets, but we prefer to try and work on education,” said Mann. “A lot of the time, people are not aware that the bird feeder is a bad attractant in the summer, for example. If we had chronic offenders, I think we would be looking at stepping up our enforcement.”

Mann also emphasized that it is not an offence to shoot bears in defense of yourself and your livestock. “Landowners have the right to shoot bears that are being a menace, but they must report to us immediately,” she said. “We had lots of people phone us to say they’d shot a bear. When we get calls like that, we listen to the circumstances, and 99% of the time, they are warranted and valid.” She said that when they are not, COs often give warnings rather than issue tickets.

Mann explained that this is on strike.

Old Fire Hall Collective Society

AGM

January 18, 2017 • 6:30 pm at the old fire hall

90 – 5th Ave. N.W. Nakusp

**SHELLEY BORTNICK,**

**MSW, RSW**

Individual, couple and family therapist

25+ years experience

Offers counselling services involving mental health (depression, anxiety, etc.), addictions, grief and loss, trauma and life transition issues.

For appointment, please call

250-265-3397
Thanks for Nakusp waterfront lighting
Kudos to the Rotory Club of Nakusp on the installation of the delightful waterfront lighting. They are effective and subtle. Highlighting some of the specimen trees and the Fujibayashi sculpture is a wonderful idea and enhances the whole walkway. It is gratifying to see the principles of the International Dark Sky Association being honoured and light pollution limited. Well done, all who made this happen. Thank you.

Molly Bell and Ray Nikkel
Nakusp

What is bear-safe composting?
Composting comes naturally to bears – they are experts at it in their own habitats.

I do not see why we cannot help assure their food supply in those habitats, so that they can remain safely in them.

They came down into the village where we have plenty. Why don’t we just figure out how to get them what they need, where they are?

Can’t we plant fruit trees closer to them so they don’t have to come looking for it here?

How much of it goes to waste? The Jam Factory is not in danger of reopening soon, is it?

RC Weintraub
New Denver

Hopeful signs in the new year
To usher in the new year, here are some hopeful signs that we really are implementing ways to stabilize the planet.

1. News comes that with rising taxes on gas emissions, Sweden’s fell 22% from 1990 to 2013 while their economy grew 58%. Economy grows as use of fossil fuels goes down!

2. Shell Alberta’s Quest program, helped by the federal government, has built a facility for carbon capture and storage, saving on reducing Shell’s carbon pricing, and a Shell executive has stated that Shell should “stick with a carbon tax.” Industry boys!!

3. Edmonton Mayor Iveson sees jobs coming from carbon pricing. Jobs! That’s the best news! Happy New Year to us all!!

Marylee Banyard Nelson

Comment on Site C
The continued construction of the Site C dam is hanging by a thread within the BC NDP platform.

Leader John Horgan said the BC NDP could vote against further expansion of the Site C Dam if the BC Utilities Commission, an independent regulatory body that reviews electrical capital projects, says it’s not in the public interest. Former NDP premier, Mike Harcourt, called Site C “a disaster” destined to go way over the $9 billion tax-funded budget, encouraging Horgan to campaign on a promise to kill the project. Green leader Andrew Weaver said various independent studies have shown it is fiscally reckless to proceed with Site C. The BC Liberals have declined to refer the Site C project to the BC Utilities Commission for review.

What’s Smells stinky...
If BC Hydro is privatized, the impounded water behind the Site C dam will be considered a water commodity by NAFTA. The massive water export scheme, NAWAPA, to transport water to the US, is still very much in process. This reality makes it all the more important that we BC residents know of Horgan’s commitment regarding the Site C dam project and the NDP stance on the privatization of public utilities.

Unfortunately, Horgan says there must be a permit request of the Site C project by the BC Utilities Commission MIGHT after the next election, not BEFORE (if the NDP wins). Surely the BC Utilities Commission can actually release a scientifically and economically rigorous report for all concerned voters to review before the 2017 May election. Knowledgeable voters find Horgan’s lack of commitment exasperating, as we see the project as so egregious it must be stopped.

Presently, Horgan is trying to promote his leadership profile however, his washing on the Site C dam is reminiscent of Adrian Dix’s flip-flop on the Kinder-Morgan pipeline. Will he or won’t he? Why would I vote for a “maybe”?

Susan Eyre Yahik

Gender fluidity issues
Recently passed Bill C-16 essentially adds gender identity and gender expression to the list of protected categories under the Human Rights Code. This seems innocuous, but within the details of the legislation lies a road map towards a future in which holding onto certain views based in reality, such as there are biological differences between males and females, will likely become illegal.

The definition of gender identity on the Department of Justice website reads, in part: “Gender identity is each person’s internal and individual experience of gender. It is their sense of being a woman, a man, both, neither, or anywhere along the gender spectrum.” The nonsensical second sentence removes the notion of gender identity from any sort of scientific or biological underpinnings and flings the door wide open to literally an infinite number of possible gender identities, including non-human (watch Theryn Meyer YouTube video: “This is What a Woman Looks Like in 2016” (strong language), and Steven Crowder YouTube videos: “52-Year-Old Transgender Man Becomes 6-Year-Old Girl?” and “Trans-Species! It’s Here. Girl Claims ‘Born a Cat’.” With gender identity thus defined, there are no grounds by which to deny any absurd claim, and to refuse to play along is now probably illegal. I think this is the sort of coerced denial of reality that is warned about in the age-old story of “The Emperor’s New Clothes.”

Children of all ages are being indoctrinated into this ideology to varying degrees within our school systems. The Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA) is promoting the use of the animated “gender unicorn” for indoctrinating kids into this ideology to “safe and caring discussions about sexual orientation and gender minorities”). Indoctrinating young children into this kind of ideology will no doubt cause harm to some.

In addition to embracing (and possibly encouraging) the feelings of a child who may be experiencing gender confusion, some educators are suggesting children explore the possible use of sex hormones to modify their bodies’ appearance more towards the opposite sex. The American College of Pediatricians has recently issued a position statement about this, titled “Gender Ideology Harms Children.” They state that using puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones are dangerous, that most gender-confused children eventually accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty and that “conditioning children into believing that a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse.”

Walt Heyer, a 75-year-old transgender who counsels transgender people, points out that the only other group with comparably high suicide rates to transsexuals are schizophrenics; that 25% of transsexuals are schizophrenic; that according to suicide.org, 90% of suicides are the result of untreated mental illness; that there is no reduction in the transsexual suicide rate following sex reassignment surgery; and that ignoring these issues is not helping the suicide rate (watch Steven Crowder YouTube video “Former Transgender Exposes Trans Movement!”).

If, after viewing this information, you are similarly concerned and want to discuss the implications, feel free to email me at kevin.cs@telus.net.

Kevin Shaw
Winlaw
Changes at Winlaw Fire Department

by Jan McMurray

Two long-standing members of the Winlaw Fire Department have recently resigned. Jon Wollenberg, member for 17 years and chief for the last 13, and Joe DeSouza, member for 12 years and captain for the last four, have both left the department to pursue other things.

“They were integral members of our hall and will be missed,” said Stephe Whitney, who was just voted in as the new chief to replace Wollenberg. The RDCK board is expected to officially appoint her to that position soon.

Wollenberg says it was very satisfying to watch the department come together over his 13 years as chief. “One day I realized that no matter what we were up against, whether a fire or an MVI, any group of people can come together and make sure everything went smoothly.”

Wollenberg says he first told the department members three years ago that he was thinking of “hanging up his hat,” and Stephe Whitney expressed an interest in the job. “I saw someone who had the ambition, knowledge, and willingness to take over,” said Wollenberg. He worked with Whitney for three years to ensure she had a smooth leadership transition for the department.

Joe DeSouza held the positions of member, lieutenant, and captain over his 12 years with the department. He says he resigned because he felt it was time to step back and do other things. “It was an honour and a lot of fun to be on the department,” he says.

Wollenberg encourages people to join a volunteer fire department. “It’s a great learning experience, both personally and it’s a great way to meet your community neighbours,” he says.

As challenging as it sometimes was for me, it was definitely worthwhile and I recommend that people give it a try.”

Whitney points out that together, Wollenberg and DeSouza gave 29 years of community service. “Wow, I can’t even begin to imagine what 29 years means in the community, both at the local and regional level,” she says.

Wollenberg, along with Whitney and Joe DeSouza, are encouraging others to volunteer with the Winlaw Fire Department.

Slocan Valley Christmas Bird Count results

The annual Slocan Lake Christmas Bird Count took place on December 30 from the south end of Hills to the north end of Red Mountain. There were low clouds and occasional snow flurries but the temperature was only so cold that 25 participants had fun counting and sharing stories over a hot drink at the end of the day.

Eight species were observed with five more recorded during the three days before and after Christmas.

The Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society (SVCLS) is ready to work for a busy 2017. This year the society will distribute $12,000 from the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund.

KSCU announces latest round of grants

The Kootenay Savings Community Foundation has announced a total of $37,700 in grants, along with a donation of $30,000 to be shared between eight locally operated community foundations.

The Healthy Community Society of the North Kootenay Valley received a $1,200 grant for the breakfast program at Lucerne School, and the Kootenay Community Foundation’s Forestry Alternatives project was granted $5,000 for the North Kootenay Lake water monitoring project. Other grants were provided to the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society ($2,500), the Castlegar & District Hospital Foundation ($4,000), Connected through Sport Society ($5,000), Kootenay Regional Library ($1,000), and the Trail Historical Society and Public Library ($10,000).

Can You Help Find Blackie & Joey A New Home?

This is Joey. He has an identical twin brother, Blackie. Together, they are looking for a new home. Blackie and Joey are 4-year-old neutered males, well-mannered, quiet and very sweet. If you can help give them a new home, please call PALS at 250-265-3792.

Slocan Lake has been formed.

A Food Policy Council has been formed.

The council’s strong links with local government will ensure that where public policy can be shifted or created to address the needs identified, the council will determine what can use some support, and what can be done to help ensure that food producers can make a good living here and that our residents have access to healthy food, no matter where they live or what their income level is. The council’s strong links with local government will ensure that where public policy can be shifted or created to address the needs identified, the council will determine what can use some support, and what can be done to help ensure that food producers can make a good living here and that our residents have access to healthy food, no matter where they live or what their income level is.

The council will place this month’s plans to have meetings approximately every six months.

Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society is ready for the new year!

The Kootenay Savings Community Foundation was established in 2000 to support non-profit cultural, economic, educational, environmental, health and social projects. Over $4.1 million in grants, endowments and bursaries has been distributed since its inception.

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As challenging as it sometimes was for me, it was definitely worthwhile and I recommend that people give it a try.”

Whitney points out that together, Wollenberg and DeSouza gave 29 years of community service. “Wow, I can’t even begin to imagine what 29 years means in the community, both at the local and regional level,” she says.

Wollenberg, along with Whitney and Joe DeSouza, are encouraging others to volunteer with the Winlaw Fire Department.

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A Food Policy Council has been formed.

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The council will place this month’s plans to have meetings approximately every six months.

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Halii Raines becomes WE Graham’s Acting Principal

by Art Joyce

With WE Graham Principal Ed Nielsen off to Egypt for a teaching sabbatical, the school has an Acting Principal this year. Her name is Halii Raines and the school couldn’t be in better hands. She’s already been teaching there for six years in the K-2 grades. Raines has pursued her teacher training with a focus on outdoor education, which ideally suits the school’s innovative programs.

Raines, “adding the primary program to the outdoor leadership program. We have lots of support from families and community to get kids spending time outside. My goal is that students gain an appreciation and a love of nature because they are the stewards of the environment. I feel lucky to be here and have the spaces to take kids to, where they’ll learn what it means to take care of it.”

Raines was born in Vancouver but spent her high school years living on Gallochina Island and attending Gulf Islands Secondary School. She began her outdoor ed experience that profoundly affected her. Her family lives there still so she visits often. She finds Gulf Islands and Kootenay Islands to be very common values, making the transition fairly seamlessly. Raines earned degrees in Environmental Studies, Special Education and Anthropology at UVic and completed her teacher’s training at UBC. She’s lived in the Kootenays for about nine years.

Growing up on the Gulf Islands and moving here, the people are very similar, both being rural communities so the same struggles are there in both environments. Especially when it comes to teaching. She’s engaged by the issues of trying to increase enrollment and dealing with lower socio-economic levels.

Despite being born in the city, Raines says she’s always wanted to live there. Although Gallochina Island is only an hour’s travel from Vancouver, it’s a world of difference. “The oceans, the mountains and the lakes are my environment,” she says. “I live in rural areas because I don’t want to live in a city, so it’s like, how can I live close to nature and still have a career?” Working as Acting Principal and teacher at WE Graham is one way she can meet both her professional and personal goals. Eventually she’d like to teach at a university, but she finds deep satisfaction in working with primary-aged students, so leaving that would be hard for her.

We spoke about the urban-rural divide in BC, how these urban-rural divides aren’t unique to BC but the population often means rural communities are left out when it comes to funding allocations. It’s a sociological phenomenon that runs deep, as evident in the differing goals and perceptions of people from urban and rural communities. If she does one day leave to pursue a university career, it would be with the goal of teaching upcoming generations of teachers the importance of rural communities and environmental values.

“I want the rural schools to thrive because I think real vital life experiences are coming from the rural areas. Kids here really get to connect with the wilderness, whereas kids who do a lot of outdoor ed is more limited to the playground or the park. I think we’re always fighting for our rural schools and rural communities but I just hope the people making the policies can see the benefits of them. I think kids in the rural schools are just so lucky.”

Slocan council, December 12: Fire Hydrant Policy approved

by Barbara Curry Malchey

Councillors Jean Patterson and Joel Peltier and CAO Michelle Gordon could not attend because of the flooding.

Councillor Perriere approved the Slocan Fire Hydrant Maintenance and Regulations Policy. Public Works is responsible for performing both preventive and corrective maintenance on Village-owned fire hydrants. When fire hydrants are installed the Village is the custodian, request. Public Works will install additional fire hydrants, alter or relocate fire hydrates, and do external maintenance, including clearing sites for visibility and painting.

Counsellor Madeleine Halls have been completed on the Bosun and Knox Halls. Some of the money for the school’s K-10 grades. LACE would pay all costs.

Council wants input on New Denver halls’ future

by Katrine Campbell

The engineering report on the Bosun and Knox Halls have been completed and reviewed by the mayor and council. Now, they want to share the information and ask members of the public what should be done. A public information session has been set for Monday, January 23 at 7 pm in the Bosun.

Mayor Ann Bunka emphasized that the Village and 90th Engineering would present information on the two buildings and ask for feedback in writing. This would give council time to digest residents’ comments and concerns “so we can make a good decision.”

First, they’re looking for the basics, she said. “What is it we want as a community? Who is the community interested in having in the way of halls? Then we’ll look at the financial implications, and see where all of this fits into the community plan.”

The Village hopes to have a one-sheet synopsis on each building, and questionnaires for people to answer. The Bosun Hall is by far the most contentious issue because of the cost of properly renovating it. The building was put up for sale in the 1970s and part of the floor collapsed. An inspection revealed the building to be in such bad shape that the Village refused to put money into it. After a shutdown of 10 years, LACE approached council and asked to take on the Bosun, to be managed and run. As it stands, the Village agreed on condition LACE would pay all costs.

Between 2010 and the end of 2015, LACE managed to raise about $225,000 from grants, donations, rental income and income from the rental area and tourism. In the same period, it spent almost $115,000 on the hall and $82,468 running the store. The capital costs were estimated at $2,660 per year. 90th’s report, received by council in December, says the hall “exhibits serious structural and foundation issues (including site grading and drainage) that need to be addressed prior to pursuing any renovations to improve the functionality and aesthetics of the building, its user areas, roofing material, and the foundation requirement replace.”

The minimum cost would be more than $500,000; to completely renovate would be closer to $1 million.

Carol Bell, speaking for LACE, said the Bosun “serves a very useful purpose in the village. It provides a gathering place and strengthens the community.” She cited the weddings and funerals that are held there.

Although the fully renovated Silverton Memorial Hall is an alternative, Bell says “go to go Silverton Hall people had to drive. People didn’t do things because they weren’t in Silverton. We felt people would come together more at the Bosun. It would strengthen our community family.”

Asked if LACE could raise the amount needed, Bell said Columbia Basin Trust has been putting money into community facilities. Some of the money raised from the 90th’s study came from CBT. “I don’t know at this stage
New Denver council, December 13: Future of Bosun and Knox Halls to be discussed

by Jan McMurray

January 12, 2017   The Valley Voice

Two council meetings attended the December 13 Silverton council meeting. Most were there to hear Gary Willman, who was there as a delegation to speak against council’s decision to explore the purchase of Telus’ former office building of Red Mountain Internet service.

Willman told council that 89 residents had signed a letter “voicing strong opposition to the direction you have taken and request that you reverse your position,” adding that the move would have tax implications for residents.

During public time, Mayor Clarke explained that council had upcoming meetings with Klosko’s Internet Society, Telus, Columbia Wireless and Columbia Tags. Clarke said he is working on his Telus Hub service, which operates from the cell signal. “We’re trying to find out from Telus what happens after two years,” he said.

Willman asked if a consultant would be hired to look into the RMIS proposal, and at what cost. CAO Darren Garreau said his initial idea was to re-use the service provider’s help with that. CBT recently did an assessment of RMIS, but Garreau says the fees were a more detailed assessment is in order.

“I think it will cost us a company that they should hire,” said Garreau.

“Are we engaging with other providers and CBT. I am having an ongoing conversation with Telus about the hub service – and about ADSL?” What about upgrading the copper for ADSL?

Garreau had spent about 10 hours on this, and council would spend 8 hours at the meetings.

In response to a question from Judy Maltz, Mayor Clarke said that if the Village took over RMIS, Hills and Rosebery would be part of the deal. He added that Area 1 Director Poppoff is supportive and would likely contribute funding.

Willman told Clark that he was surprised to find out the mayor feels at the Village is in discussion with Telus about how to move forward.

SLOCAN VALLEY

Silvertown council, December 13: Campground report received

by Jan McMurray

A very positive report from the campground operator, Tyler Payton, was received by council. Payton has increased bookings at Creekside, and campers appreciated the limit of two hours per day of generator use, as well as the ice machine and cold drinks machine that were installed this year. Payton’s suggestions include a food cache, posters with information on how to camp with a voluntary contribution.

The Village recently approved as follows. January-March: EDCD Consulting was selected to assist with creating a new Slocan Valley Regional Economic Development Strategy. The Village received funding from the provincial Rural Development Program for funding the project partners include the Village of Silverton, Slocan and RDCK Area H. The total budget is $36,430. • The Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw #2016, and the Fire Fighting Machinery and Equipment Reserve Expenditure Bylaw #705, 2016, were both adopted. • The proposed Capital Asset Policy was adopted as presented. Existing family policies was adopted in 2010; the revised version reduces the thresholds for acquisition of a new vehicle, across all classes of assets. The CAO noted the higher threshold was for bigger municipalities, not those like Silverton. He had found out from Telus about the future of Bosun Hall, but had not engaged with council or the community, “so she was going to try to get that going,” said Clarke.

The CAO reported that the 2017 budget process is going smoothly, and

prevent sliding snow from blocking the doors. Estimated cost would be about $1,000. “If snow removal” doesn’t work, well, it will be said,” said CAO Bruce Woodhouse. • Councillor Nadine Raynolds reported on the next meeting of Commerce meetings. Merchant’s Night was a success; the Business Retention and Expansion committee will meet to discuss the effects of the WKTAs receiving funding from Destination BC for marketing the West Kootenay; the Chamber appreciates the village’s offer to review the strategy. • EDCD Consulting was selected to assist with creating a new Slocan Valley Regional Economic Development Strategy. The Village received funding from the provincial Rural Development Program for funding the project partners include the Village of Silverton, Slocan and RDCK Area H. The total budget is $36,430. • The Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw #2016, and the Fire Fighting Machinery and Equipment Reserve Expenditure Bylaw #705, 2016, were both adopted. • The proposed Capital Asset Policy was adopted as presented. Existing family policies was adopted in 2010; the revised version reduces the thresholds for acquisition of a new vehicle, across all classes of assets. The CAO noted the higher threshold was for bigger municipalities, not those like Silverton. He had found out from Telus about the future of Bosun Hall, but had not engaged with council or the community, “so she was going to try to get that going,” said Clarke.

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• Mayor Clarke reported that he and Councillor Main had met with MLA Katrina Campbell about the Willa Mine, and had shared concerns about waste, rock storage, water contamination, traffic volume increase, and wear and tear on roads. He said Conroy was surprised that the mining company hadn’t engaged with council or the community, “so she was going to try to get that going,” said Clarke.

• The CAO reported that the 2017 budget process is going smoothly, and
Hills Nordic starts cross-country season

submitted

Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club (VHNSC) is well into its cross-country ski season. Its seven to eight kms of trails have been fully groomed since before Christmas.

“The snow is excellent!” says board member Kip Drobish. “We have new ski trails which bring energy to our program and a super place to practice. One of the three new sections of trail we built last summer is a magnet for kids that want exciting terrain. The uphills reward skiers with fast downhill turns, roller coasters and small jump options. For those XC skiers with moderate skills, and an ability to snow plow this ‘black diamond’ trail provides a good hardy ski with excellent scenery, and don’t hesitate to side-step if necessary.”

On the racing circuit Kolibri Drobish, training and racing with Revelstoke Nordic ski team, finished second in her Juvenile age class in the 5 km classic race. Drobish consistently finished second in her age group. Also racing were Lukas Pigott from Slocan, Callum and Maeve Hawksbee of Winlaw.

The NorAms are important national team selection races, and were attended by many of North America’s best racers from as far away as Quebec and New England in the older junior and senior classes. In the Under 17 classes top skiers came from Washington, Alberta, BC and a contingent of Ontario Midget racers spent a ski exchange week in our valleys and raced.

Valhalla Hills Nordic skiers will, for the first time ever, have a relay team of racers competing at the Midget Championships (ages 9-12) held near Kelowna this year in February. As this article goes to press Drobish will have just finished third weekend of races at BC Cup Race 1 in Salmon Arm.

The club’s Jackrabbits and Bunnies will have had their first of eight-plus on-snow sessions for the season led by VHNSC coaches. There are 28 eager Jackrabbits and Bunnies will have had their first of eight-plus on-snow sessions for the season led by VHNSC coaches. There are 28 eager Jackrabbits and Bunnies will have had their first of eight-plus on-snow sessions for the season led by VHNSC coaches.

Slocan Valley artist receives Award of Excellence in international competition

submitted

Franzisko Strouhal, a West Kootenay artist well known for his powerful expressions about the human spirit and body, received an Award of Excellence after being juried into the international show ‘New Beginnings’ from Manhattan Arts International with his artwork titled ‘Ojo’. He has also been juried into the Federation of Canadian Artists show ‘Works on Paper’ with his ‘Silence Within and To the Other Side’.

Renée Phillips, MA lidirector and curator of ‘New Beginnings’ said she selected artists “with the highest average scores and who demonstrate cohesive individual styles, superior creative and technical skills, and how well their art reflected the theme.” Concerning the theme, Strouhal explained, “On many occasions I’ve wanted to start over again. But I thought it was nearly impossible, until I embraced the artist in me. Now I’m aware, it is not the past that needs changing, or what has happened that needs to be undone. Only the perspective needs expansion, and a new world emerges of its own accord, like the phoenix out of the ashes.”

The ‘Works on Paper’ exhibition will take place on Granville Island from January 10-22 at the Federation of Canadian Artists’ Gallery. The awards will be announced on the first day of the exhibition.

Strouhal says that his work is a reflection of his own personal renaissance. In an age where everything is driven by technology, he resorts back to antiquated methods that give much more feeling and depth to his work. His surrealistic approach can only be described as psychologically engaging; his work forces one to ponder the deeper meaning of life.

“It is gratifying to be recognized for the work I love to do,” commented Strouhal.

You can view his art on his website www.frantisekstrouhal.com and the ‘New Beginnings’ art show at www.manhattanarts.com/new-beginnings-exhibition. The show closes February 27.

COMMUNITY

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Nelson SPCA’s Pet Photos with Santa day raises $600

There was a great turnout to the ‘Pet Photos with Santa’ Day, a fundraiser for the Nelson SPCA hosted at Dig Garden Centre in South Slocan. Over $600 was raised, with the West Kootenay Kennel Club donating the printed photos and SPCA members serving coffee, hot chocolate and baked treats. Dig Garden Centre supports the Nelson SPCA every month with a donation based on a percentage of sales from the centre’s pet department.

Pictured here are Rob from Nelson SPCA, Shirley from West Kootenay Kennel Club and Lori from Dig.
Sponsors to help Neufeld achieve racing goals

by Katrine Campbell

Janis Neufeld, the driving force behind Kootenay Sufferfest, is “stoked!” that she has landed some sponsorships for her personal 2017 race season. Marta Bikes Canada, Pearl Izumi (clothing, shoes and gear) and Thule Canada (roof racks) are all donating products to support her achieving her goals. Several other sponsors are in the works but not yet confirmed.

She will compete in four events this summer in the US and Canada. The first is in April, a 100k trail run in Zion, Utah. Next is the Oliver Half-Ironman event in June, a 2k swim, 90k bike ride, and 21k run. “I’ve done this one many times before,” says Neufeld. “I’m going for my personal best.” The ULTRA 520k Canada in Pentiction, August 5-7, is a double Ironman; athletes face a 10k swim, 426k bike ride and then an 84k run. Later in August, also in Pentiction, is the Long Course Worlds – a 3k swim, 120k bike ride and 30k run. “I’ll be aiming for age group (40 to 44) wins at all my races,” Neufeld says. “I like to place well. I’m a competitive person, and I’m not in it just to participate.”

“I qualified for the Canadian team to race at world championships and I want to make the podium, to be one of the top three in the world in my age group. For the ULTRA 520k I would definitely be going for the overall women’s win. My secondary goal would be to break the course record.”

Neufeld has 30 years of racing at the elite level and loves the long distance races. “It’s kind of in my bones at this point, more than a hobby. I’m very passionate and take it seriously.”

Despite her athletic record, she believes her sponsorships resulted from her work in community sports, encouraging kids and adults to become active, and the amount of work she has put into Sufferfest.

Sufferfest 2017 will involve events in Nakusp, New Denver and Burton, but not Kaslo, where the event started.

“I don’t live there anymore.” Neufeld explained. “My focus as far as race director is Nakusp. Sufferfest needs a team in other communities to take on events and gather volunteers.”

She says she could do the administration from Nakusp but there has to be a solid core team on the ground. The Kaslo group of volunteers that had been doing it for two years decided they didn’t want to do it anymore, she said.

“It doesn’t mean the end of Sufferfest in Kaslo, but if it comes back, it will be a separate event on its own weekend.”

Winter Day on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail

submitted

This year the annual Winter Day on the trail will take place Sunday, January 15 from 11 am to 2 pm. The crew from the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS) will again set up at the Winlaw station and trailhead. Like last year they will host the very popular ski waxing demo (even the newest skis can benefit). For a $10 donation they may even wax your skis! But come early, to make sure your skis get done.

As well, individual and group lessons will be offered, in both classic and skate skiing, that might make your skiing experience even better. If conditions allow, a track might be set up around the Winlaw School field for some fun races and games.

Of course, everyone is invited to come out and explore the Rail Trail and see what winter has to offer this year. The swans have been seen all along the Slocan River and you might find a few hanging around. There’ll be a bonfire and refreshments are being offered by trail supporters from Winlaw School. It’ll be a great time to catch up on what’s been happening on the trail; a new website has been launched and next winter will see a major development of the Greenway Project taking place in the South Slocan to Crescent Valley segment.

The Winlaw trailhead can be reached from Highway 6 in the Slocan Valley. Watch for the large directional signs located on the highway. For more information contact the SVHTS by trail supporters from Winlaw School. The crew from the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS) will again set up at the Winlaw station and trailhead. Like last year they will host the very popular ski waxing demo again this year.
Kaslo council, December 13: Angry Hen Brewery applies for lounge endorsement

by Jan McMurray

The Valley Voice January 12, 2017

The Village will undertake the community consultation for the Angry Hen ‘Lounge Endorsement,’ pursuant to the Liquor Control and Licensing Act. Angry Hen has applied to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch for a lounge area at the brewery. The brewery will be located in the Front Street building where the Art Shop operated last summer. The lounge area can be indoors and/or outdoors on the premises, and patrons can purchase and consume the brewery’s products there. Food and non-alcoholic beverages must be available at reasonable prices to customers at the lounge, and minors are permitted if accompanied by parent or guardian. An application processing fee of $200 for Lounge Endorsements will be added to the next revision of the Fees and Charges Bylaw.

A council strategy session was scheduled for January 4 at 9:30 am. Mayor Hewat provided a summary of recent RDCK board decisions and meetings. She made specific reference to the Sustainability Service’s examination of new projects and the possibility of a new regional service for wildfire interface work, given the amount of time that RDCK staff from other services spent on such projects.

Councillor Glorioso mentioned that the Kaslo Sofa Society had rented an office at the Langham.

The Village of Kaslo Waterworks Amendment Bylaw 1197 was adopted.

The Village’s property insurance policy with Capri Insurance was renewed for another year at a cost of $47,561.00.

Continued participation in the RDCK Wood Stove Program was approved up to an annual amount of $500.

A draft letter for sewer users was endorsed and will be sent out in the near future.

Aerodrome apron access gate components will be ordered from Kaslo Building Supply at a cost of $11,680.73, including taxes.

The 2016 Strategic Community Energy & Emissions Plan for Kaslo was adopted.

The rental fee for portapotties to Kaslo Sofa Society was waived for the Winter in the Forest event.

Brought forward from in camera was a motion to receive two letters to council from Mrs. Anne Mick concerning financial policy with respect to the 2017 sewer utility budget.

Council appointments were made as follows.

Councillor Lang (December, January, February); Councillor Holland (March, April, May); Councillor Glorioso (June, July, August); Councillor Knoll (September, October, November).


Councillor Holland: Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, Public Arts, Building, Kootenay Lake Partnership (liaison), Municipal Banking.

Councillor Glorioso: Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces; RDCK Emergency Preparedness, LWMP, Housing Society (liaison), Arts Council (liaison), RDCK, Kaslo & Area Facilities and Recreation (alternate).

Kaslo Youth Hub opens in new Front Street location

by Jan McMurray

The back of the former Art’s Desire building, accessed from the back alley entrance, has been renovated into a youth hub, housing the Kaslo Youth Centre, Kaslo & Up the Lake Network (KULYN) office and Regional Youth Services Freedom Quest office.

“It was quite a journey, but we persevere, so we’re pleased that we have our ‘youth hub,’” said Liz Ingles, president of the Kaslo and Area Youth Council.

When the Scout Hall was consecrated, the youth centre lost its home of more than 10 years. It moved into the space on Front Street across from the Blue Belle Bistro as a temporary measure, and continued core programs up until May last year.

Ingles said it was a perfect space for the interim between the Scout Hall and the new Front Street location.

Ingles and Shannon Isaac, KULYN Coordinator and Freedom Quest Youth Counsellor, had a vision for a collective youth hub.

Charges laid against cheetahs’ owners

by Katrine Campbell

Former Kaslo residents Earl Pfeifer and Carol Plato have each been charged under the Wildlife Act with one count of “possessing an alien species without a permit” a year after a cheetah was spotted wandering on Hwy 3A near Kaslo around early December. They are to appear in court in Creston on February 17.

There was no follow-up on the cheetah sighting, and Conservation Officers were unable to find it after several days of searching, leading many to assume the big cat had died in the winter cold. A spokesman with the BC Environment Ministry said it’s never found. However, when reached on the phone from Innsfall, Alberta, Pfeifer told The Valley Voice, “Annie and Robin are both alive and well in Ontario. End of story.” He refused to answer any other questions because the matter is before the courts.

Lower Mainland (22 per cent), the Kootenay region (12 per cent) and the Thompson-Okanagan (12 per cent). The 461 comments represented a broad range of stakeholders, including First Nations, interest groups, academia and industry, as well as the general public.

Participants provided feedback on four main topics, with the principles for protecting BC’s species at risk prominently discussed. All the comments may be viewed online: http://engage.gov.bc.ca/SpeciesAtRisk

The feedback will help form options to improve policies, laws or legislation as part of BC’s Five-Year Plan for Species at Risk.

Pfeifer and Plato have a Facebook page, Runcheetahrun, that has not been updated since August 2015. The page says, “We are the owners of two cheetahs, Annie and Robin, and we need your help in supporting Annie and Robin, saving the cheetahs from extinction, supporting Action for Cheetahs in Kenya and Ann Van Dyk Cheetah Centre in South Africa.”

The couple used to own Kane House in Kaslo, and wanted to start outreach and education programs there, including a program where members of the public could pay a fee to take the cheetahs for a walk.

In May 2014, they asked the Village of Kaslo for a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) to use the property as a cheetah conservation sanctuary or zoo, but council turned them down after receiving written objections from School District 8, two neighbouring property owners, and two residents.

They left Kaslo, and for a short period in 2014, the cheetahs were living at the Discovery Wildlife Park in Innisfail, Alberta.

Kaslo Golf Club (liaison), Kootenay Building, Utilities Coordination, Village Human Resources, Treaty Advisory, Public Arts, Chamber of Commerce (liaison), Public Arts (alternate), Health (alternate).

Councillor Glorioso: Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, Building, Utilities Coordination, Village Human Resources, LWMP, Kootenay Lake Historical Society (liaison).
Nakusp Rail Trail violation discouraging to society volunteers

by Jan McMurtry

Nakusp and Area Community Trail Society volunteers are disheartened. During the first week of January, it appeared that a driver either large or similar large piece of machinery down a section of the rail trail, moving aside the boulders that were placed to prevent road vehicles from entering the trail.

“Although the NACTS doesn’t have the authority to identify the person if he had put the boulders back in place after he had passed through,” said Jerry Van Immerzeel, NACTS volunteer. “We’re not happy that the machine went through the trail, but it would have been nice if the person had consulted with the society.”

The NACTS has an agreement with Rec Sites and Trails BC to maintain the rail trail from Nakusp to Summit Lake as a multi-use trail. Motorized recreational vehicles such as snowmobiles, ATVs, motorcycles and side by side are welcome on the trail, but other vehicles such as cars, trucks and heavy machinery are prohibited, unless authorized.

If the boulders are not put back into position by the person who moved them, the society will have to pay for that to happen in the spring. Society President Bill Choshaw finds this very discouraging, as all of the society’s funding is public, community money and a lot of it is grants, but it seems that it was known that there was a problem right away that didn’t get checked out,” she said. When Riley’s bill became overdue in August, she wasn’t notified then either. “On top of that we have another bill coming in a month and a half or so,” she pointed out. Riley asked that the penalty be dropped and no further penalties be applied while the issue is being sorted out.

Due to overuse utility bills are combined with property taxes at the end of the year, and then interest is charged, so Riley also requested that the city’s understanding and respect for our work,” Van Immerzeel said. “We hope our work is valued and appreciated by the public.”

Nakusp & The Arrow Lakes

Nakusp and Area Community Trail Society volunteers are disheartened. During the first week of January, it appeared that a driver either large or similar large piece of machinery down a section of the rail trail, moving aside the boulders that were placed to prevent road vehicles from entering the trail.

“The ministry had said they would never pull the MV Columbia from service, thus making the DEV Galena unnecessary as a replacement vessel. However, the ferry recently notified the Village that the MV Columbia was indeed being taken out of service between December 14 and 21. In response to emails received by the mayor inquiring what would happen if the MV Columbia does break down and the DEV Galena is decommissioned, Councillor Zelek helped ask how quickly the replacement vessel could be deployed at several of the Province’s multi-purpose vessels could be deployed at several of the Province’s multi-purpose vessels that could be used to pass through but preventing cars and trucks to access, including chip trucks.

At the beginning of the week (January 2 or 3), the piece of machinery was driven from the new parking lot just south of Brook Lodge Road to the golf course, and one set of boulders was moved. Then at the end of the week (January 6), the machine was driven from the golf course to Genick Road near Generals Creek, and two more sets of boulders were moved.

“We’ll just carry on and hopefully people will have come to have a better understanding and respect for our work,” said Van Immerzeel.

Galena is gone: ministry being mysterious about backup

by Katrine Campbell

The DEV Galena was pulled out of service permanently on December 31, 2016, before it had a final run as backup for the new MV Columbia on the Upper Arrow Lakes ferry run. From December 14 to 18, the Columbia underwent a planned maintenance shutdown while the 51-year-old Galena chugged back and forth on the Shelter Bay - Galena Bay route.

Dave Holm, Waterbridge Ferries’ Marine Manager, says the Columbia was shut down for major planned maintenance “because we had to deal with it while we had the Galena. We had a week scheduled for that work but we didn’t want it out of service any longer than necessary. The maintenance crew finished in five days. In addition to the work on the Columbia, part of the process was planning for future maintenance. The ferry shuts down for four hours a night, and jobs can be done at a bit in a time that timeframe, Holm said. An experienced mechanical supervisor and an engineer were on hand so “everybody could get together, see what to do, and make some changes.”

Although many Nakusp and Area K residents are uneasy about no longer having a backup vessel readily available, there might be a solution in the works.

Nakusp council, December 12: Utility bills bungled

by Claire Paradis

• Nakusp council heard from a delegation of citizens about notices of overdue utility fees that some Nakuspians had received. Nakusp citizens Patty Riley and Leslie Hawe told council that they had not received the initial notice that the billing cycle was changing from every 10 months to every five months. The first bill Riley said she received had not only the notice of the change but an overdue penalty. Riley said that some people realized right away that they hadn’t received their bills. “It would seem maybe there was a problem right away that didn’t get checked out,” she said. When Riley’s bill became overdue in August, she wasn’t notified then either. “On top of that we have another bill coming in a month and a half or so,” she pointed out. Riley asked that the penalty be dropped and no further penalties be applied while the issue is being sorted out.

Due to overuse utility bills are combined with property taxes at the end of the year, and then interest is charged, so Riley also requested that the city...
submitted

Many years ago, a young woman turned up with her partner at all kinds of meetings and community events at the Vallican Whole Community Centre. One day she confessed, “You people think we’re big community activists but really, our house is so cold we come to meetings to get warm.” If you’re feeling kind of like that yourself these days, what better way to get warm (and fuzzy feelings) than to come to the Locavores’ Feast at the Vallican Whole on January 21 at 5 pm, dinner is at 6 pm. This is the winter version of the Locavores’ Feast, aka the 100 Mile Potluck, where people search their freezers and pantries for locally grown delectables to share with their neighbours and friends. It’s important to remember everyone tends to load their plates up at these things, so your contribution needs to be big enough to feed everyone in your party, and more besides. It’s not critical that every single ingredient be locally grown, although it’s great if you can do it.

“This is a movement, not a religion,” says one of the organizers. “No one expects you to have locally grown vanilla. We’re here to celebrate local community and to have a good time with friends old and new.” Aft doi nter, local food gives way to local creativity and culture. Next up—Six Slocan Valley Minutes! This is where you get to get up and do anything—-as long as it is not illegal, immoral or disgusting. Or really dangerous. You do not need to sign up in advance, there is a sign-up sheet at the event. While song and dance and the usual sort of thing are welcome (especially if you’ve never done it before!), the best acts are the ones that come from way out in left field: Create a pyramid with six of your friends, show us how to crochet with peaveys or knit with ski poles, build a chair, make sushi, teach us how to yodel, tell us something you’re really passionate about, let your imagination run wild!

Effective Tax Strategies presentation at the Nelson Library

submitted

It’s a new year, and tax time is looming. For those who feel stressed about the subject, help is at hand.

The Nelson Public Library and Chartered Professional Accountants Canada have teamed up to offer a presentation entitled Effective Tax Strategies. This free session takes place Thursday, January 19 at 7 pm in the library.

CPS Anne Drysdale will help participants develop effective strategies, understand basic tax law, learn how to be a proactive tax planner, and gather simple tips and tools to save money.

Support South Slocan freekier to go to worlds by Ian McMurray

Check out Sol Butler’s Go Fund Me campaign. Sol is from South Slocan, and has been invited to compete in the 2017 Junior Freeride World Championships in Andorra in early February.

Four Canadian freekiers – two from Whitewater – are among 29 junior rule freekiers from around the world who were invited.

Sol is raising money so that their coach, Dana, can come along. Visit https://www.gofundme.com/get-sol-to-the-freeride-worlds.

Reminder to apply for arts grants for youth engagement, festivals

submitted

The BC Arts Council is accepting applications from arts and culture organizations for two funding programs with deadlines this month.

The Youth Engagement Program provides support for organizations taking innovative and impactful approaches that engage young people in arts and culture. The application deadline is Monday, January 16.

Project Assistance for Community Arts Festivals’ supports community-based arts and cultural organizations that produce local arts festivals. These awards assist with fees for professional artists and technicians engaged for the festival. Priority will be given to festivals that feature British Columbian and Canadian artists. The application deadline is Monday, January 30.

The ideas behind The Village Hearth Farm-to-Table Restaurant

After a successful fall, The Village Hearth Farm-to-Table Restaurant in New Denver is taking a short break and will re-open January 20 with a new winter menu. Seasonal menus are just one of many ways The Village Hearth and other farm-to-table restaurants stand out from the rest. Farm-to-table restaurants serve up dishes featuring local food in season. This is a healthy way to eat, but that’s not all. Farm-to-table restaurants help to build a resilient local food system by enabling local farmers and food processors to scale up production to become economically viable and meet the increasing demand for local food.

In addition to strengthening local agriculture and local food security, The Village Hearth is committed to providing fair prices and living wages, and to strengthening social, economic and cultural relationships within the community.

The Village Hearth is a project of the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley (HCSC). The restaurant is a social enterprise, which means that the earned income from the restaurant will support the broader community and social development work of the society. The enterprise will be run with careful attention to ‘people, planet and profit’ or a triple bottom line, in which social, environmental and economic impacts are evaluated to gauge success.

The Healthy Community Society was established in 2006 and runs several programs at Lucerne School in New Denver – managing the garden and greenhouse at the school, helping to ensure that food production is part of the curriculum, offering an after school gardening program, and providing healthy breakfasts and lunches using some of the food produced at the school. The Village Hearth is the society’s latest project.

Come check out the new winter menu, and watch for information about Locals’ Month in February! The Valley Voice

January 12, 2017

The Village Hearth is a project of the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley

RE-OPENING JANUARY 20 WITH NEW WINTER MENU!

Farm-to-Table Restaurant on New Denver’s main street
Friday, Saturday, Sunday
5-8 pm
250-358-2449

The Village is a project of the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley

12

COMMUNITY

Eva “Alice” MacLaren (nee Casley)
October 28, 1921 - December 29, 2016

On December 29, 2016 at the age of 95, Alice passed away peacefully at Gills House in Merritt. Alice was born in Arrowsmith, New Denver, BC, the oldest of four children. On November 13, 1938, Alice married Arthur (Art) Cooper in Nelson, BC. Alice and Art settled of four children. On November 13, 1938, Alice married

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Come check out the new winter menu, and watch for information about Locals’ Month in February!
Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

A message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email

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THANKS TO ALL DONORS, including Brendan Murray-Nellis of Raven
and community support for this event
year!! Many thanks to all the organizers
and community support for this event
including Brendan Murray-Nellis of Raven
Acupuncture, Jordan and Jenna of TreeFolk
FirWool, Kelvin and Salders of Columbia
Basin Trust, Ashley Emery for keeping the
fire stoked all day, and for all the vendors
who braved the cold to be outside in this
unique and wonderful market. The event this
year raised $600 for the WE Graham Service
Society’s Christmas Hamper Program. We are grateful to be giving this size of a
donation to this cause. Thanks everyone!!

CLASSIFIED ADS

THANK YOU TO SHARON BLOCK
for Literacy.

Hosted by the Columbia Basin Alliance
for Literacy.

THANK YOU TO MARION BLOCK for 6 years as the Area H Nelson Public
Library Trustee. Join us on January 18 at the
Passmore Lodge Library Outreach day to
thank her in person, from 3:30-5 (program
at 4:00). Refreshments served. Hosted by
CBAL and the Nelson Public Library.

UP CLOSE AND INTIMATE – Back
by popular demand. Sold out last season!
Exceptional events right here at home in
the Slocan Valley, February 18, Le Cabaret
Intime, with Laura and Paul Landsberg •
March 11, Breakwater with Jeff Furaght
• April 1, Bessie Wapp, In Her Own Words –
Original local theatre. All three for only
$50! Vallican Whole Community Centre,
2762 Slocan South Rd, FB/TheWhole
LOCATORES’ FEAST and Six Slocan
Valley Minutes. Read all about it in this
paper! Admission by donation and a
generous potluck item. Vallican Whole
Community Centre, Saturday, January 21,
Doors 5pm, dinner 6pm. 3/62 Little Slocan
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ANNOUNCING 
COMING EVENTS 
SLOCAN LAKE GARDEN SOCIETY (SLGS) AGM and Planning Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22nd, 2:00 p.m. at the Hidden Garden容易 Galaxy容易0容易Killed容易N在 
New Denver. This is your chance to help plan the exciting projects and events for the 2017 season in the Kohan Garden. There will be door prizes and presentation of great recent work by the Healthy Community Society as well as information regarding the new BC Societies Act. Membership renewals and the chance to visit other garden enthusiasm. And, just a reminder, a $5 membership entitles you to discounts at Silverton Building Supplies.

THE SLOCAN VALLEY Community Legacy Society is hosting a workshop “Getting Grants by Winning Win-Win Partnerships” in two locations. New Denver: Knox Hall, Monday Jan. 16th. 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Threads Guild Hall, 1322 Perry’s Back Road. Monday, Jan. 23, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Check website for more details www.slocanvalleylegacy.com

A NEW YEAR - A new WIDE SPOT

Perry’s Back Road: Monday, Jan. 23, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Threads Guild Hall

New Partnerships’ in two locations.

‘Legacy Society is hosting a workshop for health practitioners and/or small businesses in Silverton. Call Sue at 250-358-2177 for more information.

WANTED TO RENT for 1 week in early February. Cabin or small house in or near Kaslo. Writer needs to work. Will pay more for a wool burning fireplace. gypsyhotline@gmail.com 493-224-2726. Sheldon Weinstein

Getting Grants by Building Win-Win Partnerships

McConkey Motors - Custom Built Metal Work Steel and Aluminum Fabrication Mobile Welding 1732 Hwy & Crescent Valley 1-877-847-0046 250-355-2997 www.sharmanmetal.com


SNOW THROWER FOR SALE: Craftsman model P944.524690. 9.5 HP 27’ two stage power propelled. $500 OBO in New Denver. Please call 604-788-4363.

FOUND Grey & Orange Sweatshirt Found (children’s size) at the Valley Voice office on Merchants’ Night. Drop by to claim. 250-358-7278.

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Amnesty International submitted

Fiction has a way of opening doors and new understanding in unexpected ways. The Nelson Public Library and Nelson’s Amnesty International group have teamed up to celebrate the role of literature in human rights issues with a series of engaging and popular novels and great discussions.

The first Nelson AI Book Club meeting is Tuesday, January 24 at 7 pm in the library. Everyone is welcome.

Launched in 2014, the Amnesty International Book Club recommends a new Canadian novel every two months, with online features such interactive discussions, podcast episodes, and more!

Kootenay Dance Beat submitted

Saturday January 21, from 7 to 11 pm, the Kootenay Dance Beat Society has reserved the Royal on Baker Street for a special night of dancing to a live band. Rain or shine, we will play a full night of mixed songs just for dancing.

Since restarting in November of 2015, the Kootenay’s social dance club has been hosting dance parties, and classes in the area, all with the intent to preserve and grow our partner dance community and make dancing accessible to everyone. No partner? No problem! We try to dance with everyone.

This won’t be just a bar night, so bring out your dancing shoes and help us cross the floor with joy. Solo dancers and all styles welcome.

Tickets are available at Otter Books by calling 250-551-6400. $10/adult and for members, $12 at the door and $5/child or youth. A special offer – $15 for a non-perishable food donation at the door will get you an annual membership AND the dance. We need your participation and thrive. Bills can be arranged for out of town guests; talk to our members. Check us out on Facebook at Kootenay Dance Beat Society.

Winlaw Winter Wonderful a success submitted

The Annual Winlaw Winter Wonderful was a huge success this year, raising $560 for the Winlaw Community Service Society’s Christmas Hamper Program.

“Despite the bitter cold temperatures, we had the best turnout yet for vendors and for local folk seeking hand crafted, artisanal goods for their holiday gift giving,” said Colleen Emery of Emery Herbs.

“Many tummies were fed with yummy stews and soups and we all warmed up with tea and chat around the bonfire that kept us all toasty warm,” added Jess Duchart of Chamala Giri and Hinda.
Sharon Block retires from Nelson Library board

by Art Joyce

Slocan Valley resident Sharon Block has recently retired from her position as Area H South trustee on the Nelson Library board, replaced by Esther Zdebiak, who is also president of Mt. Sentinel PAC. Block’s six-year term was like packing a life into a day – she saw the introduction of e-books and iPads and was instrumental in getting the south valley added to the library’s service area. She says she couldn’t have had a better experience with the group that made up the board.

“When you’re on a board, you’re pretty much one, you’re not a group that made up the board. You have had a better experience with the individual. That’s how we function, you’re pretty much one, you’re not a group that made up the board.”

Block was part of a group of about a dozen people who spearheaded the introduction of e-books and iPads packing a life into a day – she saw the need for affordable books back to you, and they could assists with the RCMP’s radio tower assists with the RCMP’s radio tower maintenance. While they had the helicopter, officers also conducted a fly over of the lake and Slocan River in an effort to locate David Taylor, the man who went missing in November 2 while boating from Slocan to his home at Pebble Beach on the west side of the lake. The search for Taylor was suspended November 8 after an extensive effort by water, land, and air.

The Valley Voice   January 12, 2017

COMMUNITY

Loose Weight With Our New Health & Wellness Program

Peoples Pharmacy now offers an innovative and comprehensive health and wellness program. The Peoples Healthy Living Program is designed by experts to teach you what, when, and how to eat along with providing exercise tracking tools, and reviewing current medications to lose weight and to improve your overall health.

Peoples Pharmacy
88 Broadway St., Nakusp 250-265-2228

RCMP helicopter in Slocan Valley

January 4

by Jan McMurray

Helicopter activity in the Slocan Valley on January 4 created quite a buzz on Facebook.

Constable Shawn Chetwynd of the Slocan Lake detachment reports that the helicopter was in the area to assist with the RCMP’s radio tower maintenance. While they had the helicopter, officers also conducted a fly over of the lake and Slocan River in an effort to locate David Taylor, the man who went missing November 2 while boating from Slocan to his home at Pebble Beach on the west side of the lake.

The search for Taylor was suspended November 8 after an extensive effort by water, land, and air.

Chetwynd said there are no plans to conduct any further searches unless new information comes to light.

“Since we had an aircraft in the area, I requested that we canvass the area in case the body had resurfaced,” he said.