West Kootenay harm reduction manual going international

by Katrine Campbell

A manual on substance abuse harm reduction written in Nelson is about to go worldwide, but only if the writers can raise enough money to get to Dublin in May.

Chloe Sage, ANKORS’ harm reduction coordinator and drug checking expert, and Warren Michelow, who helped bring the Sanctuary safe space to Shambhala and other festivals, have written a comprehensive guide on drug checking at music festivals and how to set up and run a drug checking service. Drug checking is a key harm reduction strategy that aims to help people understand what they are taking and to find out if their drugs have been misrepresented or contaminated.

Funded by the BC Ministry of Health, Drug Checking at Music Festivals: A How-To-Guide provides a thorough review of the different methods of drug checking, the associated legal issues and how to stay on the right side of the law, hands-on logistics, resources, data collection tools and much more.

Sage and Michelow have been asked to present their groundbreaking manual to the Club Health Conference in Dublin this May. This international event is the premiere conference on nightlife, club and festival health and issues concerning drug use by mainstream people. Along with presenting the guide, Sage has also been invited to share the work that ANKORS has been doing with drug checking at the Shambhala Music Festival and Michelow has been invited to present his PhD research on patterns of mixing alcohol and party drugs by regular folks at festivals.

This conference offers an opportunity to share and promote the drug checking guide and the work done in BC, as well as to learn from world experts in nightlife health and harm reduction, helping to reduce the negative impacts from substance use here.

ANKORS has set up a GoFundMe page to raise the $6,000 needed for expenses. To donate, visit gofundme.com/take-drug-checking-guide-to-europe.

Download the free guide from michelow.ca/drug-checking-guide. Check out ANKORS work at ankorsvolunteer.com.

ANKORS (AIDS Network Kootenay Outreach and Support Society) was established in 1992 as a non-profit society and operates in the West and East Kootenays.

Census results show declining population in many West Kootenay communities

by Katrine Campbell

The assumption that area residents have made, that our population is dwindling, was confirmed by StatsCan when it released the results of the 2016 census. Three villages in the Valley Voice coverage area – New Denver, Slocan and Kaslo – and Area D and K have dropped since the last census in 2011, continuing the trend over the last 20 years as shown in the 1996 census. Area H population has increased, and the RDCK as a whole has risen slowly, up 1.8% since 2011 and up 2.4% since 1996.

Silverton stayed exactly the same at 195 residents between 2011 and 2016. Mayor Jason Clarke found his 15 minutes of fame when CBC interviewed him on this odd phenomenon, and he solemnly told CBC that the village had a policy that anyone planning to move could not leave until they had found a replacement. Here are the stats for the villages and the RDCK areas. The first number is from 1996; the second from 2011; the third from 2016. The last number is the percentage increase or decrease over the 20-year period.

Area D: 1,596; 1,408; 1,343; -15.9
Area H: 4,460; 4,289; 4,667; + 4.6
Area A: 1,086; 1,031; 968; -6.1
Kaslo: 1,963; 1,929; 1,935; + 0.3
Nakusp: 1,786; 1,699; 1,690; -0.5
New Denver: 579; 504; 473; -18.3
Silverton: 241; 195; 191; -12.9
Slocan: 335; 296; 272; -18.8

West Kootenay harm reduction manual going international

Nakusp Rotary to honour local volunteers

Rosemary Hughes has been named Nakusp’s Citizen of the Year. She has been the driving force behind the Old Firehall Collective’s project to repurpose the old firehall into an indoor, year-round farmers’ market with a commercial kitchen and meeting spaces for community use, from conception through renovations to the operation of the building today. Nakusp Rotary President Dan Nicholson dropped off a bouquet of flowers on Saturday, March 4. There will be a banquet and awards ceremony on Saturday, March 25. Ticket information on page 13.

Janet Spicer is Nakusp’s Citizen of the Year - Lifetime Achievement Award recipient this year. Janet provides the community with delicious organic food, and stands up for those that don’t have a voice – the animals, the plants, and the environment.
Fentanyl: not just on the Downtown East Side

by Katrine Campbell

It’s hard to miss the media stories on the opioid crisis, particularly in the Lower Mainland but happening all over the province. People are overdosing in homes or on the street and being revived, or dying. The death toll from illicit drug ODs in 2016, for all of BC, was 914. Ten of those deaths were in the Nelson area.

ANKORS, the AIDS Network Kootenay Outreach and Support Society, has just received approval from the Interior Health ethics board for a fentanyl urine study. The two organizations will partner to offer urine testing to anyone who uses illicit drugs to find if there was fentanyl in the substance they used.

The study is anonymous and confidential – no names taken, no personal information shared – and is available for up to three days after the drugs are used. To be part of the study, people can drop in to ANKORS on Mondays in March between 10 am and 3 pm. Contact Chloe Sage at ANKORS, 250-505-5506, to make an appointment outside those times.

“We are hoping for 40 participants in the study,” says Sage. ANKORS’ harm reduction coordinator and drug checking expert. “We are doing the study to find out if fentanyl urine testing is something people would use as a service and, if so, are there other drug checking services people would want to use.

“Also this would give us an idea on how much fentanyl is tainting other drugs.”

The paramedics in Nelson say they respond to four to five overdose calls every week, says Sage. Some users don’t know their drugs have been laced or cross-contaminated. Others look for fentanyl because it is the most available opioid on the street.

“People would rather get something that is regulated, like morphine, but that is very hard to get and expensive.”

Sage places some of the blame for the increase in fentanyl use on restrictions on opioid use by the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

“When prescriptions for opioids were extremely restricted by the college many people were cut off their scrips. This left a large number of people who were addicted to opioids scrambling to not get painful withdrawals. Illicit fentanyl is what filled that gap [created by] that sudden huge demand for opioids.”

There has also been a problem with patients suffering chronic pain who were cut back or cut off their meds, forcing some to turn to the streets for pain relief. Fentanyl is more addictive than other opioids because of its strength; detox programs can take up to 21 days of physical withdrawal “so there is not much incentive to get off it. We just got notice from the Nelson Police that Carfentanil is here, which we suspected due to a rash of overdoses.

“And who knows: may be something stronger coming in the future.”

Sage advises that people can be trained to use Naloxone, which blocks the effects of opioids, at ANKORS and at public health or mental health and substance use facilities. Take home Naloxone kits are available at health centres and health units in New Denver, Kaslo, Nakusp, Nelson and Trail.

“In rural areas it is imperative that there are accessible kits and people trained on how to use them. At the very least people could learn how to do mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. That could save a life.”

Interior Health has also confirmed carfentanil in the Kootenays, and there have been recent closings of Naloxone stock.

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Murphy reports that in 2016, the board replaced the old analogue equipment with digital equipment at a cost of $50,000. “We now broadcast the same quality TV you’d get from satellite,” he said.

Of the three towers the society now maintains, the central one needs to be replaced. Columbia Wireless internet service provider also has equipment on the central tower and a total cost of $50,000. “We now broadcast the same quality TV you’d get from satellite,” he said.

“Once the central tower is replaced, which Murphy estimates will take one to two years, the society will look at expanding the service to eight channels. “The costs have come down on the TV service to eight channels.”

The Society in future is to assist with the community's emergency services channel for the valley. “It’s very early days but we’re exploring the possibilities of using our towers to support a shared emergency service channel,” said Murphy.

Murphy adds that the free Shaw satellite TV service ends in 2018, Those who don’t want to pay for the satellite service will have the TV Society service to fall back on. “There’s no signing up for the service. You simply get it if you live between Slocan and Passmore and have a TV from 2009 or newer. If you have an older TV, you have to buy a piece of equipment that costs $30 to $50 to get the service.”

The TV Society now broadcasts CBS, ABC, Global and Knowledge, as well as two radio stations. Murphy added that CBC delivers its own signal and is also available at no charge.

Call Derek at 226-7182 for more information.
Kaslo infoNet Society sees vision for West Kootenay fibre-optic backbone in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

About 15 people attended a meeting at the Nakusp Selkirk College on February 28 to hear about the Kaslo infoNet Society’s vision for fibre-optic broadband in the Kootenays. Tim Ryan and Don Scarlett made the Kaslo infoNet (KIN) presentation.

“The biggest part of our message to people in this small community can do this,” said Scarlett. “The most necessary thing is people on the ground in your community who are willing to work together and make it happen.”

KIN has been laying fibre in the Kaslo area for a couple of years now, and they are willing to impart their knowledge to community groups who share their vision.

Ryan explained that fibre-optic high-speed internet is necessary to attract residents who work in the digital economy. “You can’t live here if you make your living in the digital economy,” he said, pointing to the limitations of ADSL and wireless services and calling rural areas “digital deserts.” “Fibre is a pipe that can carry any amount of bandwidth,” he said. “It’s the most necessary piece of digital plumbing to allow us to participate in the digital economy.”

What makes KIN’s vision possible is the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC) and its backbone, Ryan explained. CBBC has a fibre-optic network from the Trail area to Castlegar, from the Trail area to Castlegar, Cranbrook and up towards Golden. The TransCanada fibre network skirts the Interior, explained that community Outreach paramedics have four broad areas of responsibility: community outreach and awareness; health promotion, including providing CPR and AED training as required; assisting other health professionals at wellness clinics; and wellness checks in homes as referred by the health care team. “They will work with the health care teams in their communities to determine what is needed within those four responsibilities,” said Reader. The health care team includes all health professionals in a community, so depending on the community could include the local physicians, community nurses, nurse practitioners, public health nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, etc.

“As we launch in each community, we sit with the health authority and discuss what’s in place, and what they perceive the needs to be, and where we can fit in,” said Reader. “We don’t want to overlap services—we’re trying to fill existing needs as opposed to stepping in where there is already service in place.”

Community paramedics will have office space in the local ambulance station and will report to the unit chief and dispatch centre. They are employees of BC Ambulance Service, but Reader says the program is a joint effort between Interior Health and BC Emergency Health Services.

“It’s a very exciting project,” she said. “It’s been very well received and successful so far.”

Community paramedics are already in place in Creston, Princeton, Tofino, Ucluelet and Northern BC.

KIN sees the possibility of laying fibre from the backbone in Revelstoke down the Arrow Lakes through Winlaw, Burton and Edgewood to Kaslo, and up the Slocan Valley to New Denver and Nakusp, up to Trout Lake and around the Larradue Loop to Kaslo. The fibre would be laid mostly in the Arrow, Slocan and Kootenay Towns, with some sections buried along rural trails (in the lower Slocan Valley and between Nakusp and the top of Slocan Lake), and some sections buried along roads. Scarlett said fibre is buried with small machinery like Kubotas in trenches about 6 metres deep. Electronic components are on dry land.

Telson, Shaw and Ledcor already have runs of fibre across Kootenay Lake, Ryan said. “The lakes are the easy way,” Scarlett said. “Our communities are along the lakeshores, so it makes sense. It’s a matter of running the fibre off the back of a barge and waiting for it to settle.”

There is very little environmental impact, Ryan said, and the plan must go through an approvals process. One resident was concerned about the fluctuations in lake levels on the Arrow, particularly in Burton where the lake all but disappears at times, leaving the mud flats exposed. Her concerns were not eased with Ryan’s suggestion of digging the fibre into the mud flats.

KIN has brought their vision to the attention of CBBC through CBBC’s recent call for expressions of interest from local internet service providers (ISPs). CBBC is working with local ISPs to develop an application for federal funding under the new ‘Connect to Innovate’ program, which will provide 75% of the cost of building new backbone infrastructure in rural and remote communities.

Ryan estimates the cost of KIN’s visionary project to be $2 to $3.5 million; CBBC doesn’t expect CBBC to include the entire project in the Connect to Innovate proposal. A decision on the scope of CBBC’s application to the federal funding program, in partnership with ISPs basin-wide, will be made in the next month or two. Projects funded with Connect to Innovate dollars must be completed within five years.

As part of KIN’s 2017 project under an earlier funding program, KIN hopes to be laying fibre in Kootenay Lake this year from Balfour to Kaslo. CBBC is currently applying on KIN’s behalf for the necessary governmental approvals for the Balfour to Kaslo project. This was advertised in the February 9 and 23 issues of the Valley Voice (p. 19 in both issues).

Public comments are invited on this proposal by March 15 and can be submitted to AuthorizingAgency.

CBBC is currently applying on KiN’s behalf for the necessary governmental approvals for the Balfour to Kaslo project. This was advertised in the February 9 and 23 issues of the Valley Voice (p. 19 in both issues).

Public comments are invited on this proposal by March 15 and can be submitted to AuthorizingAgency.

CBBC currently has fibre capacity in the network will also be used by regional ISPs to reach their customer base.”

More information is available at the Applications and Reasons for support.

Support Groups for Persons with Cancer and Caregivers

For those experiencing cancer:

Group will be held Saturdays 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, beginning March 11, 2017

Jim Fenning, MSW at 250-551-6071

Shelley Bortnick, MSW, RSW at 250-265-3397 or 1290 Hwy #6

Crescent Valley

250-359-7323

– Open daily –

(Closed Christmas & New Year’s day)

Columbia Basin Trust

Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship

Are you a local graduate wanting to pursue post-secondary education? Your personal story of triumph over adversity can get you up to $5,000 to make your dreams come true.

Apply now.

Deadline April 20, 2017.

Outreach and Community Engagement Services

Amy Goodman

Triple M Centre for Peace and Lecturer Services

Amy Goodman is an award-winning investigative journalist, author, and syndicated columnist, as well as the host of Democracy Now!, airing on more than 700 public television and radio stations worldwide. She is responsible for developing an innovative model of truly independent grassroots political journalism that brings the alternative voices that are often excluded by the mainstream media to millions of people.

Support Groups for Persons with Cancer and Caregivers

For those experiencing cancer:

Group will be held Saturdays 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, beginning March 11, 2017

For caregivers of persons with cancer:

Group will be held Saturdays 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, beginning March 11, 2017

Both groups will be held at 205-6th Street, Nakusp, in the Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Service meeting room. Please enter at the rear of the building.

For more information and to register please call: Shelley Bortnick, MSW, RSW at 250-265-3397 or Jim Fenning, MSW at 250-551-6071

jamesfenning@earthangoa.ca

Thanks to the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation for making these groups possible.
Welcome the Abukars at March 12 potluck

Our new Canadian immigrant family from Somalia, the Abukars (Omar, Bibi, Mohammed, Bilal, Ayub, Qadar, Abdirahman and Naima), arrived at Castlegar Airport on February 23! The members of the Slocan Valley Refugee Coalition, and many compassionate members of our Valley community, have planned, schemed and dreamed of this day almost as much as the Abukars! We expect the family will be thrilled for you to join us on March 12, starting at 4 pm, at home in New Denver, letting them step forward with a solid climate plan of action.

Dona Grace-Campbell
Kaslo

Statue of Liberty

When I was a child, I visited the Statue of Liberty in New York City’s harbour. There beneath the massive copper statue was a bronze plaque. The plaque at the base of the Statue of Liberty reads: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

Alice Windsor
Kaslo

Editorial / Letters Policy

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers. Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material. Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Valley Voice.

Letters to the Editor should be sent to: Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0. Phone: 250-358-7218 Fax: 250-358-7793 E-Mail: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca Website: www.valleyvoice.ca

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lake Valleys from South Slocan/Playmor Junction to Edgewood and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake. Circulation is 7,600 papers, providing the most complete news and advertising coverage of any single newspaper serving this area.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: CANADA $54.60, USA $84.00, OVERSEAS $126.00. E-Mail Subscription $22.40 (Prices include GST)

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Provincial election on the horizon

The other evening, I was watching a video on YouTube when suddenly an attack ad against John Horgan interrupted the program. It was only 37 seconds long, but still—it was little cartoon citizens who were being cautioned that John Horgan would break your computer if you get elected (it was implied). One thing the BC Liberals can do is get elected, I thought, and certainly the $12 million we cheat them by amassing with their free Google.

It’s unfortunate that getting elected is the only talent the Liberals have that can be mentioned without the possibility of a libel suit, over the past 16 years it has seemed like the government versus the people to the exclusion of anything remotely like governance. Unless you want to count the closure of over 100 sawmills since 2003, which was when the government saw fit to remove the requirement that logging companies taking logs from Crown land needed to mitigate their impacts.

Raw log exports have soared, and 60% of these logs come from Crown land now, the rest from privately held timberlands on Vancouver Island. Before we write our hands at the loss of perhaps 3,500 jobs in the interior, we should recognize that this has happened as a result of the government policy, not stemming from the vagaries of external pressures on BC.

I can’t remember now what the government said about that anything?.

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Can’t trust the guvmint

I never held much truck with the guvmint, know what I mean? I’m just a lil ole lady, raised my kids, keep my home clean. Keep my nose clean, too. I mean, you do something wrong, like walk across and use roughly 22,000 pounds of CO2, I don’t hear them say how they expect to replenish the sea ice. This number of tons of CO2 for one ton of steel. So this CO2 produced in the making of all this steel? The estimate is an average of two tons of CO2 for one ton of steel. So this project for 100 million windmills from 1.1 million tons of steel will produce 2.2 billion tons of CO2.

What the world needs to be doing is a careful cost benefit analysis of all this and first thing first generation nuclear reactors that will manufacture steel with electronic furnace energy instead of coke to produce the steel. These reactors could capture CO2 from the air or oceans and make it into fuels instead of mining fossil fuels. They should be making pure carbon out of CO2 instead of trying to deposit the CO2 deep in the earth. All these projects will be more of a effective direction than just the windmills.

So, as you can see, I’m not being that exaggerating when I say that the government, the guvmint, that is, I think Thomas Mulcair still looms us over more than an "official gripe." 

Frank Nixon

Nakusp toads

The problem with our toads (and our other precious local resources) is that their habitat is at risk on the provincial government for their deforestation practices. They are aided and abetted by the locals who jumped (excuse the toadish pun) at the opportunity to have a community forest to manage and profit from.

What those locals chose to ignore were the constant and rising deforestation practices and the fact that the provincial government did not want to be responsible for them. Now Nakusp feels that loss of trust, from those people outside their Village boundaries, who are making the decision but their toads and trees (etc.). Obviously, it’s bad for trust and business.

Guess who has the public relations problem is the Village and NACOR want public trust but all they do is follow the same old deforestation plans of the Province as their solution to extra riches. How can they honestly participate in tourist promotions when they are busy hewing at one of the very resources we need to bring outside dollars to our whole area?

What trust is due to professional foresters who claim to be backed by science as their source, and then say they "feel" it is OK to log where they want. Additionally, after all the harvesting this province has done, how can they claim that the only way they’ll learn how to protect a species is to leave it at left hand? That says to me that their past science has always been poorly done, with inadequate scope and with bias, and deliberately lacking in the holistic knowledge of forest benefits. Are we using science or emotion to make decisions? Questions don’t build trust. Neither does saying "we’re a business!"

I for one am particularly satisfied that the people in Nakusp are exploring and scrutinize apparently. One thing the BC Liberals can do is get elected and then build trust by telling the truth even if that got us out of the Great Depression. If we could make a worldwide effort to reverse our climate problem with the fervor we fight wars, it seems that we can do it.

But, before all this, what about the CO2 produced in the making of all this steel? The estimate is an average of two tons of CO2 for one ton of steel. So this project for 100 million windmills from 1.1 million tons of steel will produce 2.2 billion tons of CO2.

What the world needs to be doing is a careful cost benefit analysis of all this and first thing first generation nuclear reactors that will manufacture steel with electronic furnace energy instead of coke to produce the steel. These reactors could capture CO2 from the air or oceans and make it into fuels instead of mining fossil fuels. They should be making pure carbon out of CO2 instead of trying to deposit the CO2 deep in the earth. All these projects will be more of a effective direction than just the windmills.

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Frank Nixon

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Open letter to MP Stetski: Climate (In)action

In action

Only a few comments to supplement the recent mail-out card.

In context to Rural BC, it seems that the issue of continuing, as is, with the present Administration’s path – when it comes to ignoring changing landscapes of the climate – that the government is fighting for their own political advantage, which they hoped to gain by manipulating the voting system.

Rod Retzlaff

Glade Open letter to MP Stetski: Climate (In)action

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Glade
RCPM holds meeting in Edgewood in chainsaw incident aftermath

by Jan McMurray

A huge crowd of about 70 people attended a meeting hosted by the RCPM at the Edgewood School on February 22, in the aftermath of the arrest of Alejandro Calderon. Calderon, a Needles resident for over two years, allegedly caused several problems in the community, culminating in his arrest after he allegedly showed up at a party at his neighbour’s in late January with a running chainsaw and a machete.

Constable Lee Bellamy, acting corporal for the Nakusp detachment, led the meeting, with Constables Perry Piso and Taylor Sippel on hand. They came not just because of the chainsaw incident, but also because of the ensuing fallout in the community.

Since Calderon was arrested and jailed, there have been “about five more problems in the community,” said Bellamy. “We want to stop those. That same person said Bellamy. “We want to keep those people away from the community.”

He explained that if people are not willing to report incidents to the police, the police can’t do anything about them. “I can’t do anything about things unless the victim comes forward,” he said.

Now that Calderon is incarcerated, people are coming to the police with more information. “People feel safer with him locked up, so they’re coming forward with incidents we didn’t know about, so that’s helped,” said Bellamy. Since his arrest, another crowd of Community has asked for one more charge against him, and Bellamy said there might be one other.

Bellamy also said that although Calderon hasn’t been charged yet, he is “on a criminal record.” 

Paul and Petra Allen, performing as Allensong, are in concert at the Nakusp Legion Hall this Saturday night from 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm; admission is $15.

Paul Allen has played music since 1964. Born in Nova Scotia, he was active in the Maritime music scene for 10 years. “I started playing in church as a kid. All the neighbourhood kids would gather round our porch while my brother and I played 60s hits like Bob Dylan, Gordon Lightfoot, Mamas and Papas… stuff like that.”

In 1981, he moved to Calgary. “It was a fantastic outdoor festival the first day there! I ended up meeting and performing with a lot of different musicians and artists for the first five years, including the one and only unknown Jim Arden.

Allen went on to be a founding member of funk / ska / reggae / rock band “Activate,” which performed with reggae legends “Maytals” and other notable artists like Spirit of the West, Kenny Shields and Streetheart.

In 1990 Allen formed his own group ‘Viewer Discretion’ as a vehicle for his songwriting. He became a SOCAN registered songwriter and received industry recognition for his skills. Viewer Discretion performed on stage, radio and TV and appeared with such artists as Grapes of Wrath and Michelle McNicholl.

The Butterfly Project sound checks, "The Jellicy Project visits are area schools

submitted

Mount Sentinel, Nakusp and Edgewood students were recently visited by the Jellicy Project (JFP), an initiative that uses live music to engage youth and provide education on ocean sustainability, change and environmental stewardship.

The JFP is made up of a collection of musicians and environmentalists from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland who are passionate about engaging youth in the environmental conversation and empowering them to be part of the solution to saving the planet, before it’s too late.

Victoria indie folk trio “Carmanah,” named after the Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park on Vancouver Island, performed a short set before presenting the students with a series of eye-opening environmental facts, followed by numerous suggestions as to how students can do their part to protect the planet, including avoiding plastic consumption, eating sustainable seafood and getting green jobs.

Carmanah will be on tour with The Jellicy Project across BC throughout March. The JFP has reached more than 60,000 young people Canada-wide since 2013. For more information check out www.thejellicyproject.org.

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March 9, 2017

**SLOCAN VALLEY**

by Katrine Campbell

• This area will be affected by several scheduled power outages, starting in April. Mayor Ann Bunka has been in touch with BC Hydro, which says the outages will last 12 hours and that blocks with multiple crews brought in to do the necessary restoration and repair work. Hydro has asked the mayor to support the outages in advance. It is always better for the outages to have the least effect on businesses and homes. She said the company “has been really good about accommodation. Last year the valley had a lot of damage and it was very stressful upgrading “good news, but it might be painful getting there.”

• Luce Paquin of Valard Environmental was hired to determine if freshwater mussels are present at the New Denver Marina. This is all part of the ongoing bureaucratic process the Village and the Slocan Lake Boating Association must go through to get permission to dredge the entrance, which has silted up to the point that a person can easily step over from one side to the other.

The application was submitted in May 2016; the Province said it had to be referred to First Nations for review.

**Slocan Valley Economic Development Strategy**

by Jan McMurray

The Slocan Valley will have an economic development strategy by the end of April.

Consultants Dale Wheeldon and Colleen Bond were in the valley the week of February 19th to workshop an economic development strategy. They conducted three public meetings (in Silverton, Passmore and Slocan) and met with a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from arts and culture, youth, business (including home-based and farmers), Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Commission, local invocations must go through to get permission to dredge the entrance, which has silted up to the point that a person can easily step over from one side to the other.

The application was submitted in May 2016; the Province said it had to be referred to First Nations for review.

**Slocan Valley Economic Development Strategy**

by Jan McMurray

The Slocan Valley Economic Development Strategy will be approved by the four towns, Slocan Valley Senior’s Housing Society, Investment and funding organizations, Development Commission, local Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Community Futures. Wheeldon also provided a list of everyone is working together and their needs are being communicated), and the wharf. Although signs in the downtown area will fall under development permit guidelines, which means property owners have to work together on a strategy, and to work with your businesses and families as an expression of sympathy, donations to your local branch of the SPCA in Melody’s name are greatly appreciated.

The website of the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, Skills and Training and utilized both of these skills throughout her working career: she loved working with others, her sense of humor and utilized both of these skills throughout her working career: she loved working with others, her sense of humor and was an excellent cook. She was a sensitive soul who loved to give of herself in so many ways. Born in Trail and spending her early years in Silverton, she felt very connected to the Slocan Valley and could never be away from it for long. She worked and played in the valley most of her life. Going to the beach, visiting friends, working and golfing at the Slocan Lake Golf Course, creating wonderful meals alongside her Mom at Lake Golf Course, creating wonderful meals alongside her Mom at Lake Golf Course, creating wonderful meals alongside her Mom at Lake Golf Course, creating wonderful meals alongside her Mom at Lake Golf Course. She worked and played in the valley most of her life.

**Melody Weisbrich**

December 12, 1956 – February 14, 2017

Melody Weisbrich (nee Morrison) unexpectedly passed away on February 14, 2017 in Silverton BC.

“Mel” as she was affectionately known by friends and family was a lovable force of nature. She expressed her love to her friends and family unambashedly and unconditionally. She was a sensitive soul who loved to give of herself in so many ways. Born in Trail and spending her early years in Silverton, she felt very connected to the Slocan Valley and could never be away from it for long. She worked and played in the valley most of her life. Going to the beach, visiting friends, working and golfing at the Slocan Lake Golf Course, creating wonderful meals alongside her Mom at Lake Golf Course, creating wonderful meals alongside her Mom at Lake Golf Course. She worked and played in the valley most of her life.

Melody started her schooling in Silverton; her Grade One teacher was in fact her grandmother, Lois Lind. As the family moved from place to place around the province, Melody made many friends in Nakusp, Kitimat, Golden, Nelson and Castlegar. Melody was trained in both early childhood education, and as a chef, and utilized both of these skills throughout her working career. She was employed as a cook, chef, special needs worker, entrepreneur, property management tenant specialist and administrator during her working life.

Melody is predeceased by her mother, Rita Morrison, and by her husband, Karl Weisbrich. Grieving the loss of Mel are her father Barry Morrison, brothers Michael Morrison (Colleen) and Ritchie Morrison (Ann), her uncle Alan Lind, and nephews Kirk and Quinn Morrison. Melody had a special connection with animals including her two dear cats JJ and Wally. In lieu of flowers and as an expression of sympathy, donations to your local branch of the SPCA in Melody’s name are greatly appreciated.

A celebration of Melody’s life will be held at Silverton Memorial Hall on Saturday, May 20th, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Friends are welcome to post their remembrances of Melody at www.thompsonsc.ca/obituaries/
Kaslo council, February 28: Municipal Lands Investment Attraction Project awarded

by Jan McMurray

• Council decided to hire CTQ Consultants for the Kaslo Municipal Lands Investment Attraction Project at a cost of $70,000. The outcome of the project is to develop a master plan for underutilized Village-owned land for increased community economic development and a better property tax assessment base. The plan is to be completed and ready to launch by September 2017. The project will include public engagement. Some of the elements of the project are: a thorough evaluation of municipal lands that are optimal for development; the identification of any projects that would facilitate divestment of land in the interests of community economic development (i.e. subdivision and servicing of particular parcels for industrial, commercial or residential development); the identification of possible land partnerships with the private sector, CBH, or First Nations that could yield community economic development; and the identification of policy, regulation and law changes that could facilitate economic development around municipal lands.

Kaslo & District

Community Development Funds

• The project to replace the decorative lights in the downtown core will be implemented over two years. This year, Pace Electric will install 13 new light fixtures, and the Village will purchase two replacement LUMEc fixtures and poles for inventory. The other half of the project will be put out to tender in 2018. The total project cost is estimated to be in the range of $100,000-$115,000. Community Work funds will be used to fund the smaller projects.

• Stage 2 of the Liquid Waste Management Plan was adopted and submitted to the Ministry for Environment for approval. Stage 3, the final stage before implementation, will include further public consultation and will result in an implementation schedule that will outline the requirements for financing the implementation. Stage 2 recommends extending sewer service to Lower Kaslo and improving the existing wastewater treatment plant in the short term. In the long term, it recommends doubling the capacity of the treatment plant and extending service to Upper Kaslo.

• The Village of Kaslo Remuneration Bylaw was adopted, setting the annual remuneration for the mayor at $10,858.44 and for councillors at $5,705.40.

• Council agreed to deny applicants for 2017 municipal grants whose applications did not follow the grant program criteria, and to distribute $4,500 across the remaining applications on a percentage distribution basis. The municipal grant application form will be reviewed at a future Committee of the Whole Finance meeting to make the reporting and package requirements clearer.

• The Village of Kaslo is invited to the VCB Community Initiatives program for 125th anniversary funding.

Kaslo hosts iDiDaRide Run to replace Sufferfest

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo Mountain Biking Club is hosting a new event this summer that will replace the Sufferfest events in Kaslo. The new event is called iDiDaRide Run, and will take place August 12 this year.

The event offers a 41 km mountain bike race, a 26 km run or bike, and an 8.5 km bike or run. It is named after the epic dog sled race in Alaska, the Iditarod. “We are anticipating this to be an annual event, on the weekend closest to the Village of Kaslo’s birthday on August 14,” said Karma Halleran, one of the organizers.

Halleran explained that the three Kaslo residents who had been involved with Sufferfest from the beginning held a meeting last fall to discuss how others the opportunity of organizing the event. “It became apparent that nobody wanted to take on this massive project – Sufferfest has become huge,” Halleran said. “But I didn’t want all their efforts to go to waste, so I promised to make sure there was a mountain bike race in Kaslo in 2017.” She proceeded to get the Kaslo Mountain Biking Club on board, and there are six people on the organizing committee.

Jamilah Field, founder of Sufferfest, says she is very happy to see something continue in Kaslo. “I was excited to see that a Kaslo event will continue in the shape and form they are happy and comfortable with,” she said. “They need to feel ownership, and they’ve done it with their own name and their own flavour. Sufferfest is still available to help if they want.”

Halleran says there are many reasons the Kaslo iDiDaRide Run will have a new name, new date, and new race distances for iDiDaRide. During the first few years when the event was Kaslo Sufferfest, Halleran said there were a lot of local participants, “mostly because of all the great Janis and Shon had done encouraging and inspiring local riders and runners.” However, since the event has become bigger than a day of running and bike events in the Kootenays on the same date. “It will be warm, so people can swim down at the logger birthday weekend that is actually much bigger than a day of running and bike races, and we expect that it will grow over the years.”

For more information, check iDiDaRide.ca.

Kaslo Housing Society welcomes community input at AGM

The historically formed almost 20 years ago, the Kaslo Housing Society is approaching its AGM with renewed momentum. The Housing Society is working to complete her John Cooper management plan which was adopted over the years.”

“Kaslo is a community that is about sustainability and value,” Halleran says. “We want to continue the momentum of affordable housing and will to get a new housing complex off the ground, but that may not be the only route towards achieving enough stable and affordable rental housing. At the upcoming AGM, the board would like to offer members and the public the chance to give their input into three or more options.

First, the board has put forward an action plan from six years ago, hoping to redesign the scope and size of a housing project that would be constructed on Village land near the Kaslo River. Another idea is to look at partnering with other local organizations – maybe a mixed-use residential and office space would be more viable for current requirements. The third idea is to provide services that would help enhance or maintain existing affordable rental housing. People who would like to join the board are welcome to contact us. The nomination process is pretty simple. If you’d like to be on the board, you’d need another member to nominate you at the AGM and a second to confirm. Members who wish to attend the AGM and get a membership on this. It takes a lot of input into three or more options.

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Emery Herbals celebrates five years of business in Winlaw

February 2017 marks Emery Herbals’ fifth year of business in Winlaw. Six years ago Colleen Emery, along with her husband and daughter, moved from inner city Alberta to live in an off-grid yurt with outdoor plumbing and minimal electricity. Having run a thriving home business in the city for more than a decade, Colleen made the decision to rent a small space in the Cedar Creek Gardens and move Emery Herbals there, starting what has now expanded into ‘Emery Herbals Botanical Dispensary, Healing Suites and Dispensary, Healing Suites and Healing Services’.

Breakwater Band at the Vallican Whole

On Saturday, March 11, the Vallican Whole Community Centre will host an exciting musical event, Breakwater (plus one!) debating their brand-new CD, *New Ground*. This event is part of the Whole’s ‘Up Close and Intimate’ 2017 season, and the quartet is the season’s star presentation. The band’s lively mixture of classical, Celtic, roots, folk and jazz has gained them a loyal following of music lovers, many of whom experienced them at sold-out gigs in Nelson and at the Kaslo JazzFest.

The group’s first CD is a powerful collection that will undoubtedly enhance their musical reputation. Listeners can take home this music and hear it again and again. What started as a natural entertainer.

Jeff Faragher, of course, is the man with the cello who exhibits completely unexpected, and fascinating moves with that usually staid instrument. With his enrapting performance style, Jeff is a natural entertainer.

Breakwater’s other two performers are James Desautels (tiple and backing vocals) and Rob Maciak (drums, percussion and backing vocals).

Ticket sales for both events online will get you a special series price. Tickets are available at Otter Books in Nelson and Emery Herbals in Winlaw. Doors open at 6:30, music at 7 pm.

For more information on the series and online ticket sales, go to www.VallicanWhole.com. The Whole is at 3762 Little Slocan South Rd in Vallican.

Emery Herbals also offers the unique Community Supported Wellness program. The CSW is a way to purchase your wellness support in one bulk payment, yielding medicine, learning and health and wellness guidance through a four-season approach.

Emery Herbals serves as the office of the West Kootenay Permaculture Cooperative where you can purchase a membership in the co-op, sign up for workshops and get information about their programs and projects.

Colleen says the community and regional support extended to Emery Herbals over the past five years is gratefully received. “We thank each and everyone of you who has supported us over these years; our success can be attributed to your support.”

Drop by and wish them a happy anniversary – mention this article and get 10% off your botanical dispensary purchases for the month of March.

The botanical dispensary is open Tuesday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, by appointment on Mondays. The healing suites and teaching centre offerings can be viewed on the website at emeryherbals.com.
Edgewood brewing pioneer in the running for national book award

Submitted

Edgewood local and craft beer pioneer Frank Appleton, author of Brewing Revolution: Pioneering the Craft Beer Movement (Harbour Publishing, 2016), is one of the front-runners for a prestigious national book award.

Brewing Revolution is on the long list for the National Business Book Award, a $30,000 prize which is given to the author of the most outstanding Canadian business-related book published in 2016.

“I was just one of the first to write an article that became a revolutionary pamphlet,” says Appleton, “because it said something that many had thought – that good beer, flavourful and nutritious beer, had become debased. It had lost out to a mass-produced, pale imitation of itself. The reaction was an idea whose time had come.”

Brewing Revolution details the life of English-trained brewmaster Frank Appleton and looks at the inspiring story behind today’s craft beer revolution. Appleton, who is considered by many to be the father of Canada’s craft-brewing pioneer Frank Appleton, and looks at the life of English-trained brewmaster.

As reported in the February 9 Valley Voice, a report on species at risk in the Slocan Watershed Assessment and Monitoring Project (SWAMP) found 47 species at risk in the valley, ranging from lichen to wolverines. Another 11 have a high potential to occur here. The BC Conservation Data Centre has just completed by SWAMP, the Slocan Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Project.

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The study was done by Slocan Valley residents Ryan Durand, Registered Professional Biologist and Rhia Mackenzie. Durand explains that before any fieldwork, he and Mackenzie spent a lot of time contacting people who had worked on projects in the Slocan Valley to ask them for sightings and locations. Information from biologists was taken at their word, and locations. Information from SWAMP is to utilize existing mapping and inventory data as base layers and to develop a detailed and comprehensive habitat assessment of flora and fauna of the watershed.

SWAMP is a collaboration of three societies – Slocan Solutions, Slocan River Streamkeepers and the Slocan Lake Stewardship – working with the BC Wildlife Federation, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, BC Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Selkirk College, Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, National Wetlands Conservation Fund, and Regional District of Central Kootenay, to provide an integrated watershed approach to wetland understanding and management. Slocan Solutions Society is the fiscal manager of the program.

Winlaw Fire Rescue held their fifth annual Snow Pitch tournament last month, raising more than $350 for Muscular Dystrophy Canada despite a lower-than-hoped-for turnout. The Passmore and Crescent Valley fire departments showed up, as did the regional deputy chief, George Siegel, all of them struggling to stand up and run in the low-deep snow.

Jude Helene Nicholson-Chodat is this year’s candidate for the Ambassador Program in New Denver. She and River Fantuz, current ambassador, entertained the community at the Heritage Tea at the Bosun Hall on March 4 with a fashion show featuring the styles of the 1800s (with borrowed items), the 1920s (created from garbage bags), and the 1960s (from the Donation Store). Jude Helene received her candidate crown and sash at the tea.

The entire report is available online, at slocanswamp.org, along with more information on SWAMP projects and activities.

The Slocan Wetlands Assessment and Monitoring Project (SWAMP) is a multi-year initiative to establish a community-based monitoring program to assess the abundance, distribution, and ecological integrity/funtion of wetlands and riparian habitat throughout the Slocan watershed. The long-term goal of SWAMP is to utilize existing mapping and inventory data as base layers and to develop a detailed and comprehensive habitat assessment of flora and fauna of the watershed.

The winner will be announced on April 7-8.
New Denver’s hero dog saves the main street

Did you know that the part of your dog’s brain devoted to analyzing smells is, proportionally speaking, 40 times greater than ours? What this means is that while you might notice if your coffee has a teaspoon of sugar added to it, your dog could detect a teaspoon of sugar in two filled Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Dogs use their noses to find missing people, endangered species, invasive species and to detect cancer and bombs. Staff at the Village Hearth Restaurant are grateful to a local canine and her great nose for sniffing out the smoke from the fire before it spread any further. Late on the night of February 19, Tikka was out walking her human (Bradley Bennett of What’s in Store) when she sniffed an unusual odour and decided to investigate the back of the restaurant. It took her three tries and an unusual bark to convince her human to follow. Bennett saw smoke billowing from the kitchen, alerted 911 and as a result, the fire was contained within the building. If the fire had gotten a good hold, the restaurant, the apartment above it, Bennett’s store and possibly a good chunk of New Denver’s main street might have burned.

The Village Hearth staff and the Healthy Community Society send out a big Thank You to Tikka for following her nose, and to Bennett for following his dog.

Come to the Edge of the Light: the works of Tanya Pixie Johnson

Tanya Pixie Johnson is an artist defined (if we must) by a plethora of passionate pursuits. With long-standing roots in Winlaw, Tanya P’s practice has a truly astounding reach due to her penchant for residencies in far-flung places and unrelenting engagement with people and place, both ephemeral and essential. From her birth in Nairobi, Kenya and childhood in South Africa, to her bohemian wandering in Europe, and her current place in the Kootenays, Tanya P has delved deeply and with a focused abandon into the dichotomies of human experience. In between the shadows of influence and idolatry beats the heart of pure and unrelenting artistic inquiry.
Valhalla Hills Nordic Skiers apply themselves at provincial races

During the month of February, the Valhalla Hills Nordic racers have competed at Revelstoke’s Okanagan Cup races, a local Family Day race on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail organized by athlete Lukas Piggot, the BC Championships in Kamloops, and in Kelowna at the Midget Championships, where the 9-12 year olds are the event focus.

- February 11-12, in Revelstoke 11 racers from Valhalla Hills Nordic competed along with nearly 200 others over the two race days. The best local performances were first places by Raya Kipkie (8), and Kolibri Drobish (14), and fourth place from Padraigh Hawksbee (7), in their respective age classes.

Sunday’s race saw third place finishes from Drobish, Elias Piggot (8), and Kipkie. Also racing were Lukas Piggot, Cynthia Piggot, Cullum Hawksbee, Maeve Hawkew, Eamonn Hawksbee, Petula Perry, Ayla Kipkie and coach Scott Kipkie.

- The BC Championships February 17-19 were attended by 405 competitors from around the province. Lukas, Elias, Kolibri, and coach Kip Drobish competed, doing three races in three days. Kolibri finished in fourth place in the seven km classic race and in the five km skate race, less than a second behind Blackjack skier Jasmine Drolet. She relay raced with her Revelstoke team mates on Sunday and the Piggot brothers relayed with Blackjack team mates (Rossland). The Piggots team with both Valhalla Hills Nordic and Blackjack.

- Rounding out a big season with 23 races, Kolibri Drobish was set to compete at the Alberta Championships last month and the BC Midget and Ski Nationals (March 15-25), both held in Canmore, Alberta this year. All these race results can be found online at www.zoned.ca.

“...It has been a very encouraging season with good snow, new ski trails, and lots of new participation in youth development programs and racing...” said Kip Drobish, coach and board member. “We have seen more people from Nakusp than ever before come try our ski trails and we hope to see more youth from that community next year.”

Valhalla Hills Nordic ski trails along Hwy 6 are still covered with lots of snow and the club is keeping trails groomed until late March. Snow permitting, the club is hosting a cross country Cross race on April Fools’ Day. This race will demonstrate how challenging and exciting cross-country skiing can be with on-course jumps, bumps, slalom, tight turning, obstacles, steep climbs and descents.

Racers start events at 10 am (hopefully in foolish costumes). For more information go to www.hillsnordic.wordpress.com.
Nakusp Ski & Snowboard Team back from the provincials

submitted

The Nakusp Secondary School’s Ski & Snowboard Team represented their school and the West Kootenay Zone at the BC School Sports Alpine Championships in Whistler, March 1-3. The 16 racers from Grades 8 to 12 competed in both a Giant Slalom (GS) course and a Terrain GS course over the three days, with varied weather and snow conditions making the event a bit challenging at times for the Blackcomb crew running the races.

Racing on Wednesday, the six boy skiers and four girl skiers had no problem taking on the 31-gate GS course for two runs, with Zoe Zinselmeyer and Ivy Tourand finishing 32nd and 35th respectively out of 62 girls. Unfortunately, first seed Kiley Waterfield sustained an injury in the morning prior to the race and was unable to compete in the event. Top boy finishers for Nakusp were Garrett Waterfield at 15th, Jordan Katchen at 22nd and Everett Harrison at 25th, and the boys team tied for 7th place out of 15th. Jordan Katchen, Colby Mackintosh and Garrett Waterfield finished 3rd overall.

On Friday, all 236 racers ran through the Terrain GS course for just one run each. Set on the Blackcomb Snowcross run, the 25-gate course over 150 vertical metres is a good final day test for both skiers and boarders. With 25 cm of fresh powder overnight, and steady snowfall and wind gusts, it was a challenging day weather-wise, as the powder softened up the course from the ice that the racers found in training, leading to runs on the course and other challenges. With the wind and reduced visibility, the racers really had to make sure that they stayed on top of their skin or board and stay for the changing conditions. The Terrain Course is fun for the racers but difficult to train for at Summit Lake or even some of our other local hills because we just do not have the developed park. There was some nervousness at the start of the course but once through, a lot of the racers were wishing they could tackle the course again! Tim Barisof finished 3rd place out of 30 girls. Thursday evening saw the team head to Buffalo Bill’s in Whistler Village for Day 1 & 2 awards as well as a dance afterwards, Colten Pettersen was awarded a bronze medal for his 3rd place finish in the Snowboard GS. Combined with his Terrain GS time on Friday, Colten finished 4th overall out of the 64 boy boarders, and Tim Barisof finished 6th overall.

In Wednesday’s GS course, set on the same run as the Terrain course over 150 vertical metres, our boarders fared well, with varying weather and snow conditions making the event a bit challenging at times for the Blackcomb crew running the races.

Co-sponsored by Stopping the Violence Outreach and the Arrow Lakes Arts Council, the event raised over $1000, most of which will be donated to the Nakusp Secondary School’s Ski & Snowboard Team with their coaches. L to R: Coaches Matt McKee and Barb Lewis, Jack Watt, Everett Harrison, Ivy Tourand, Rhys McLeod, Broden McLean, Coach Carly Thorp, Cheyenne Tourand, Tim Barisof, Mikala Lewis-Morrison, Colten Pettersen, Jordan Katchen, Garrett Waterfield and Colby Mackintosh. Kneeling from l are Olivia Mang, Zoe Zinselmeyer and Maya Watson.

The play ‘The Vagina Monologues’ was performed at the Bonnington Arts Centre in Nakusp on February 25. Playing to a full house, 16 local actresses, along with their director Michele Williams and producer Carlee Hughes, put on an unforgettable and emotionally charged production. The play was written by Eve Ensler in the 1990s and is based on interviews she conducted with hundreds of women about their intimate lives. Co-sponsored by Stopping the Violence Outreach and the Arrow Lakes Arts Council, the event raised over $1000, most of which will be donated to the Nelson Women’s Shelter. L to R: Carlee Hughes, Shoft Smith, Karen Likness, Teresa Weatherhead, Robin Sille.

Nakusp & the Arrow Lakes

2016 Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards

Saturday, March 25, 2017

at the Legion Hall

This year we honour Rosemary Hughes as Citizen of the Year and Janet Spicer with the Lifetime Achievement Award

Tickets are at Hub International Insurance
$25.00 (Dinner included)

Doors open at 5:00 pm. Dinner served by Deb Guest Catering at 5:30 pm.

Sponsored by the Nakusp & District Rotary Club

Get your tickets by March 11 and be entered for a special door prize!
The 11th annual North Valley Film Festival featured a playbill of all local talent this year, with a strong conservationist theme. And as it has done from the beginning, there was room on the set list for the kids to show their films. The two sets were evenly divided between sports themes in the first set and wilderness or wildlife themes in the second.

Filmmakers were asked to cast a ballot for the People’s Choice Award sponsored by Valhalla Mountain Touring, Ambler Mountain Works and Ice Creek Lodge. The results are: first place, Jim Lawrence for Kootenay Rambles Two, second place ICandy Films for The Year of the Toads, and third place, Jay and Amelie Tremaine for Children of the Hut 2 – Chasing the Powder. If there had been a Cutest Kids on Film Award, it would surely have gone to two-year-old Sapphire Perry, who was featured in If Wanna Ski by parents Bryn and Julie Perry. The film tracks the toddler’s first experiences on cross-country ski, with surprising balance for her age.

Continuing in the youth theme was a documentary, The Valhalla Wilderness Program, by students at WE Graham school in Slocan. The program is quite intensive, with a four-day hiking trip in the fall, a biking trip in the spring, two winter trips and a five-day canoe trip on Slocan Lake. The kids also help with trail building as a way of giving back to the community. “It’s a really mentally and physically challenging trip,” said one teenage girl of the canoe trip, “but it’s really rewarding afterwards.” The program has been run by Sean Marchal for 20 years. In the Local Girl Makes Good Department, Jasmin Caton, who grew up in Hills on Slocan Lake, presented a slideshow of her transition from valley kid to pro rock climber and backcountry touring guide. There were breathtaking images of Jasmin climbing rockfaces in Squamish, the Northwest Territories, the Alps, Mt. Gimli, Norway and the US. Caton was also featured with climbing partner Leah Evans of Revelstoke in the next film, Spring Tide by Sweetgrass Productions. Of reaching otherwise inaccessible mountaintops crusted with ice and snow she said, “Once you’re in that place, it truly makes you come alive.” Caton is owner-operator of Valhalla Mountain Touring, with a lodge on Bonanza ridge.

Jim Lawrence has become deservedly famous for his stunning wildlife photos, but now he’s branched out into video production. In Kootenay Rambles Two we see once again his gift for capturing once-in-a-lifetime shots. If the grizzlies, owls, martens, otters, beavers, ravens and other creatures he photographs know he’s there, they treat him like family. A dedicated conservationist, Lawrence prefaced the show with a quote stating that we have less half the world’s animals in just the past 40 years. He urged the audience to sign the petition banning the grizzly trophy hunt in BC. In Seeing It Wild, filmmaker Virginia Probe profiles several artists who are using their art to make a difference in an age of climate change and species loss. Tara Higgins and Joseph Cross were among six artists who backpacked into the Flathead Valley to paint images of the park landscape. Some of these are being sold as prints to raise money for park improvements. Pass Creek sculptor Kevin Kratz uses a most unlikely medium – steel – for his sculptures. As Kratz said, “Here in the Kootenays it’s easy to put your head in the sand” and forget the global loss of wildlife. Working with James Karthein, Kratz has twice won the Castlegar Sculpture Walk’s People’s Choice Award. Their great blue heron sculpture and Kratz’s sturgeon were created to remind visitors that these creatures are diminishing largely due to human activity.

The Year of the Toad by ICandy Films profiled the threat to the Western toad habitat at Summit Lake due to logging by NAFCOR. Filmmakers Isaac Carter and Orsi Benkoszi captured beautiful underwater images of the tadpoles, toadlets and mating adult toads. The annual migration brings them from their terrestrial habitat in the forest, where they spend 95% of their lives. After mating and laying eggs, they then make a second migration back to their terrestrial habitat. Due to mortality from predators and the highway that divides their migration route, only one percent survive. The Western toad is federally listed as a species of concern. “When we set aside habitat for the mountain caribou, it was too late, much too hard already been logged,” says the Valhalla Wilderness Society’s Craig Pettitt. “We need to make sure we don’t do that again with the Western toads.”

Jesse Schapowski, a regular at the festival, screened his slideshow of landscape images Into the Wild. His photos have a National Geographic crystal clarity and panoramic beauty. In The Way to Showerhath Springs, stills and video footage by Seth Bridgett and Mark Adams features the rugged beauty of the desert terrain in Arizona. Chilla Zoll’s slideshow The Talking Spade featured her iconic photos from the book of that name.

In addition to the People’s Choice Award sponsors, festival sponsors include Columbia Basin Trust, Kootenay Sufferfest, and Shon’s Bike and Ski.

Winlaw teacher receives Environmental Education Excellence Award submitted


Nominated by their peers and chosen by a committee of past recipients, the six award winners have demonstrated excellence in encouraging stewardship and sustainability through environmental education.

Linda Out of Winlaw is always engaging and encouraging environmental education in her school. As the Grade 5/6 teacher at Winlaw Elementary School, Linda is exemplary in her dedication and motivation to include a wide variety of outdoor ecology programs into her classroom and to get her students outside to learn about their local bio-region. She goes above the call of duty to implement and organize school outings and activities that are always informative and fun, and is a true supporter of outdoor education.

Dr. Mel Reasoner, Nelson, is a climate scientist and passionate educator and change agent with respect to climate change. He was a key organizer of the Hot and Bothered conference in Nelson in 2016. He has been an advisor to CBT’s Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative (CACC) and continues his climate science education role with the Trust’s new Climate Action Program.

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Bosun Ranch: developers gone, family will keep as a ranch

by Katrine Campbell

The Harris family is “delighted” that they have been able to take back the historic Bosun Ranch to keep it in the family for generations to come. The 280-acre ranch between Silverton and New Denver was founded in 1896 by Joseph Colebrooke (JC) Harris; he left it to his children and grandchildren when he died in 1953. JC’s son Alexander (Sandy) Harris stayed on the ranch all his life, and in 1975 his daughter Nancy and her husband John Anderson retired there, and took over the cattle, hay and produce operation when Sandy died in 1986. Ten years later, the Province gave the couple a Century Farm Award in honour of 100 years of family farming – one of only 66 families in BC who received one.

Nancy died in February, 2008. Later that year John teamed up with lawyer Ken Watson and Dave Strachan to form Bosun Ranch Developments Inc. The plan was to subdivide the 240 acres owned of the 18 strata lots, ranging in size from three to 20 acres each, with the 100 forested acres and the lakefront property held in common. The target market was wealthy travellers who would buy the lots and build homes as “retreats.” Watson said the company had received one. 

“Cole’s son Doug Harris said they needed to get to know this parcel of land again, “or maybe even for the first time. It’s been out of the family’s hands for 10 years and was in John and Nancy’s hands before that. It’s a parcel I don’t really know well.”

The Harrises wanted the ranch to be productive use, “but what that is is still very much a question. We don’t want to be hasty; we’ve got time.”

Ralph Wilson, the Andersons’ unofficially adopted son, cared for both of them in their last years. He continues to look after the property and is happy it will be productive once again. Doug acknowledged his contribution, saying “Ralph’s been up there for a long time. He knows it better than anybody.”

Although the Bosun has been in the Harris family for 120 years, “we’re now several generations removed from handling it intensively; we have to figure out what we’ve acquired.”

Cole Harris talked about that 120 years of history, when his forebears “attempted to farm and were not always successful.” He said his grandfather (JC Harris) planted an orchard, but that didn’t work because the mines closed, people left, and the local market his grandfather had planned for collapsed. It was too far to other markets.

Then he tried dairy. He drove a wagon to town every week to sell the milk, but “family lore is that he was too kind and people who couldn’t pay not only bought anyway.” During the war, the farm sat idle when the government leased the Bosun and turned it into a Japanese-Canadian internment site.

“Then Uncle Sandy took over and tried all sorts of things, even raising deer,” Cole said. “But it was illegal to farm deer, and he became too fond of them” and couldn’t kill them. He tried a Christmas tree ranch, but that didn’t work. Then he sold hay. Some years he had an abundant crop but couldn’t find a market. In the latter years, Sandy thought the land’s best use was livestock and hay meadows.

“My children are going to face this,” Cole added. Although they might run cattle and raise hay, they’ve also talked about establishing a teaching farm, where people could learn how to farm. “That depends on someone seizing the initiative and running with it; probably not anyone in my family.”

He also talked about “making connections with social reform and the artistic side up there.” His daughter is a dancer, and he foresees a place for music, the creation and performance of art works.

“Grandfather was a socialist. He saw poverty and knew radical change was needed... We’ve acquired a place we know the family is going to use at least through the next generation. There are interesting questions for them to explore.”

There is a strong feeling in the Harriss family that the ranch is crucial, Cole said, and “they are more than prepared to commit to it, to use it in ways that are compatible with what it has been and to fit in with larger community.”

**Public Notices**

**Public Meetings**

**Village of New Denver**

The Village of New Denver is seeking local residents to sit on the Village of New Denver’s Local Selection Committee for the CBT Community Initiatives funding program on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. Interested individuals can contact the Village Office for more information. The deadline for expressions of interest is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

**Employment Opportunities**

The Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre is hiring for the 2017 season. There are grant dependent student positions available, as well as non-student positions to be filled. Interested individuals can contact the Village Office for more information. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2017.

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**South Slocan pedestrian tunnel goes to tender**

A project to replace the South Slocan bridge with rock fill and a pedestrian tunnel will soon go to tender with construction anticipated to start this spring.

The project involves removing the existing South Slocan overhead and replacing it with road fill and a pedestrian tunnel. The project will provide additional future road connectivity in the area. As an added bonus, the project scope will include a rock cut in the Beasley Bluffs which will not only provide the road fill for the project but will provide additional safety benefits on Highway 3A by increasing sight lines, expanding the clear zones and improving snow storage. The transportation ministry is partnering with the Regional District of Central Kootenay, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society on this project.

The FLNRO and the society will make additional improvements to the existing pedestrian trail, making it more accessible with new signage, adding a new trailhead at the end of South Slocan Station Road and asphalt paving the rail trail from South Slocan to Pass Creek Road.

The road design will also include wider shoulders and improved intersection designs on adjacent roads.

**Village of New Denver**

**Call for Volunteers**

**Public Meetings**

**Employment Opportunities**

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ARE ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS becoming a major problem in your life? AA, NA and AL-ANON meetings happen in the area. For information on AA meetings contact in New Denver: 358-7158; Nakusp 265-4216; Kallo 355-9617; South Slocan 356-7100; Playmore Function 359-7110. For NA meetings contact in New Denver 358-7856. For information on AL-ANON meetings contact in New Denver 358-7904. If you don’t get through when you call, please try another number.

www.carpentercreeklastwishesociety.ca provides information on preplanning for death and advice for alternative funeral services. www.carpentercreeklastwishesociety.ca

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If you are interested in providing our small town with a voluntary mental health service we welcome you to contact the Slocan Valley and Nelson. Tyson Bartel 250-226-6020 http://www.thaitouch.ca/

SLOCAN VALLEY EARLY CHILDHOOD Caring and Coordinating Society (SVECCAC) is seeking an early years coordinator to lead our council. The ideal candidate will have experience in community development, a working knowledge of the Early Childhood Development sector and of the Slocan Valley, and have strong verbal and written communication skills. We are seeking a confident, self-motivated professional, to coordinate SVECCAC meetings; and while working independently under the direction of SVECCAC Council members, to implement and complete community early years projects and events. This position is approximately 20 hours/month, with the potential to expand to other days and times during the week. To view the full posting, job description and information on how to apply please go to our website at www.rdkc.ca and click on Administration, Job & Employment Opportunities.

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March 9, 2017   The Valley Voice

**House of Commons passes apology motion for British Home Children**

by Art Joyce

It happened so quickly most Members of Parliament were barely aware of it. On February 16, a Private Member’s motion brought forward by MP Richard Cannings made the request in the House of Commons for an official apology to the former British Home Children (BHC). Cannings was passed with the assistance of former Bloc leader Gilles Duceppe. The motion calls for the House of Commons to apologize to the families of the British Home Children (BHC) brought to Canada to work as indentured labourers on Canadian farms during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Duceppe learned late in life that he is the descendant of an Anglo- Irish child immigrant or BHC.

The text of the motion reads: “That the House recognize the injustice, abuse and suffering endured by the British Home Children as well as the efforts, participation and contribution of these children and their descendants without the benefit of financial reparations; and offer its sincere apology to the former British Home Children who are still living and to the descendants of the 15,000 individuals who were shipped from Great Britain to Canada between 1869 and 1948, and torn from their families to serve mainly as cheap labour once they arrived in Canada.”

MP Richard Cannings had brought forward a similar apology motion on May 19, 2016, one co-written by former MP Alex Atamanenko and New Denver resident and Valley Voice reporter Art Joyce, who wrote a book on the subject titled, *Laying the Children’s Ghosts to Rest*. Although Atamanenko brought forward the motion on February 19, 2015, it failed to gain any traction with the Conservative-dominated government under Prime Minister Harper. To BHC families it offered as much as a dream, or BHC.

An apology in the House doesn’t necessarily mean the same thing as a federal government apology. Advocates are pressing the government for a public ceremony with BHC families invited as special guests. Cannings’ motion added two clauses: one, to assist BHC families in tracking down their records; and another to incorporate the story into official school curriculum so that no more Canadian students will remain ignorant of this significant event in our history.

The apology motion is the result of years of educating the public about this much-neglected chapter of Canadian history. Lori Oschefsky, CEO of the British Home Children Advocacy and Research Association, and Sandra Jordan of British Home Child Group International, have been circulating apology petitions for several years now.

Local musician Howard Bearham releases first CD

by Art Joyce

You may know him as the friendly face with the thick waxy white hair who once served at the Apple Tree Restaurant in New Denver — that tall guy. But there’s another side to Rosebery resident Howard Bearham — a lifelong student of music who has just released his first album, *Eclipse*.

Bearham is a saxophone player with a deep fondness for jazz, a love for the form clearly evident in this instrumental recording. He says *Eclipse* isn’t meant to be strictly an album for jazz purists, though. “I don’t know if calling this album jazz is appropriate. It’s more like rambunctious saxophone music. To me jazz is just something you haven’t yet. It’s a freeform thing somebody is going to play for you.”

Recorded at The Manor of Sight and Sound, Bearham’s Rosebery studio, the new CD features several local musicians: Bearham on sax, Tyrell Jordan on guitar and keyboard, Jonathan Buttle on bass, Brian Stolle on bass, and Richard Burton on piano.

Bearham is now retired, making this album proof it’s never too late in life to fulfill a dream.

Bearham tracks his desire to create his first CD for a job at the University of Alberta’s legendary radio station CKUA in Edmonton. “I started out infatuated with the bass and I’d often listen for it in a song. Then I heard a Hammond organ and thought, oh, that’s for me! But it turns out my fingers don’t like either of those instruments so I had to find something else.”

His epiphany came when he started listening to Miles Davis and想到了 something I had his instrument. He bought his first saxophone at age 24, and with *Eclipse* is celebrating 40 years of playing the instrument.

In the wee hours of during shifts at the radio station, Bearham and a friend started jamming in the studio. “We’d just start fooling around and there was an unwritten rule that we had to play something we didn’t know yet. Of course jazz is the idiom that encourages that. I just had faith that if I kept doing it, kept working at it, it would eventually fall into place.”

In 1978, Bearham decided to move to the Slocan Valley and it’s estimated that about 130,000 boys and girls from poverty-stricken homes and orphans in the UK were sent to work as indentured labourers in British colonies. The majority – at least 100,000 – were sent to Canada. During the early years of child immigration, children as young as six were emigrated.

Although some were treated well, others were physically or sexually abused, living on homesteads miles from any help. Most were paid for their work despite having contracts, and few were ever adopted. As many as four million Canadians today – about 10% of the population – are their descendants.

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Let me paint you a picture. Imagine pouring 12 Olympic-sized swimming pools, or three million litres, of household paint down a drain. Wasteful? Hazardous? It’s both, in fact – and it’s happening in British Columbia every year.

Thankfully, there are thousands of people across the province trying to change this narrative; this includes citizens keen on recycling, product stewardship organizations like Product Care Association, and companies that have become locations where people can drop off their left-over, unwanted, or expired paint.

“[Prior to us becoming a paint depot], Kaslo didn’t have any local places for residents to handle their paint,” says Mike Scott, a yardman at Kaslo Building Supplies. “We sell paint in our store, so we also want to help out with recycling those products.”

Of course, recycling paint can be challenging for both paint users and depots; containers can be improperly sealed with a solvent or water prior to drop-off, or become mislabelled and rusty over time. According to Scott foreign objects, from broken glass to rusty screws and crinkled-up paint labels inside cans, are also a common occurrence that can contaminate paint products and make them unrecyclable.

“When – especially in the springtime, during our busy season – we’re dealing with dozens and dozens of cans for recycling per week, we can’t split open all of the cans and look inside them,” he says.

“If a can is nicely sealed and labelled and then it’s poured out at the plant, they couldn’t possibly know that it’s contaminated or a hazardous waste like turpentine until they open it up.”

Perhaps recycling paint appears to be more trouble than its worth, given these difficulties, but with companies like Kaslo Building Supplies working hard to help protect BC’s natural spaces, it’s essential that we all do our best to properly recycle paint products. Every year, only 10.7% of paint sold by retailers across the province is recycled through depots. This leaves nearly 27 million litres of paint seeping into the groundwater around landfills, emitting smog-creating volatile organic compounds (VOCs) as they dry, and polluting aquatic and marine ecosystems when poured down drains. Even recycling one or two cans of paint, which may seem a small and insignificant act, makes a massive difference when everyone participates.

“[Recycling] is one small example in a big world of garbage where people are trying to make a difference,” Scott says. “It’s easy to throw things in the garbage in a big black bag and forget about it. It takes people that actually care to bring items like paint to their local depot, and ultimately change the world for the better.”

**NSS Cougars heading to provincials**

In the last game, the Cougars defeated the Kimberly Storm 65-56.

Coach Sylvia Klein says the tournament was very well-organized and very competitive.

“The girls played absolutely awesome. It was a very even playoff. I’m so proud of them for coming through – they all played an excellent game.”

To raise money for the trip to Vancouver Island, the girls and Klein partnered with People’s Pharmacy’s Return It Forward program last month and netted $1,000 thanks to the donations of returnable bottles and cans from local residents. Other groups also kicked in some donations, Klein says.

The team is now at nine wins and two losses throughout the basketball season.