Really good news has come through for the Village of Slocan and the Gar Creek Water Users in Johnson’s Landing. Both have received significant funding from the federal and provincial governments for their infrastructure projects: the Springer Creek microhydro project in Slocan and the water system in Johnson’s Landing.

The funding covers two-thirds of the total cost of each project. One-third comes from the federal government and one-third from the provincial government.

The Village of Slocan is receiving a total of $2.4 million for the $3.6 million microhydro project. "We are absolutely thrilled," said Mayor Jessica Lunn. “The project will allow us to generate almost as much power as we currently consume, will contribute to our economic sustainability, and will build our capacity to invest in our community for generations to come. Ultimately, it will provide us with a localized source of renewable energy.”

Lunn said the Village is still working through permitting, financing and other negotiations that will be critical for project success, so construction may not start this year. She expects to be able to provide a more detailed update soon.

The Gar Creek Water Users are receiving $107,065 from the federal government and $107,065 from the provincial government for the $321,196 water system project. The community group has raised its one-third share from an RDCK gas tax grant from former Area D Director Andy Shadrack, CBT Affected Areas funding, Disaster Financial Assistance contributions, and donations.

“We’ve got everything in place to get this done, and we’re hoping to have it completed before the snow flies,” said John Lerbscher, the lead volunteer on the project. The Gar Creek water system was destroyed in the devastating Johnson’s Landing slides in July 2012. Residents have been using a temporary system ever since, sourcing water from a spring on a neighbour’s property.

Johnson’s Landing volunteers have worked very hard over the last five years to come up with a plan for a water system that is acceptable to Interior Health, and to find the funding for the planning and construction of the system. The new system will still have water from Gar Creek as its source, but the intake will be up above the avalanche hazard zone. “The new intake will be pretty immune to avalanches and slides. IH thinks so, too. Everyone thinks it’s as good as it can get,” said Lerbscher.

The new system involves burying about 5,000 linear feet of pipe in the sand, that will drop about 1,000 feet in elevation from the intake and tie into the existing distribution system. Two pressure-reducing stations will be required.

“We have engineered plans and point of entry systems that have been approved by IH,” Lerbscher said.

The point of entry filtration systems in the water users’ homes is a much less expensive way of treating water than central treatment plants. When the water users negotiated the agreement with Interior Health for the point of entry systems in September 2013, it was considered a breakthrough for small water systems in BC. It cost $40,000 to install the filtration units in Johnson’s Landing.

The community had a test well drilled in December 2012, but the volume of water wasn’t sufficient for a community system.

About 150 people came out to a community potluck to welcome the Abukar family on March 12 at the Bosun Hall, including MP Richard Cannings and several local elected officials. Following the feast, Omar Abukar got up on the stage and thanked the community for the warm welcome. The crowd had a good chuckle when he said that during the power outage the day before, he realized he was no longer in the dark when the whole community came to the family’s home with candles and flashlights. See interview with Omar, page 10.
MP Stetski holds telephone town hall on marijuana legalization

by Jan McMurray
Kootenay-Columbia NDP MP Wayne Stetski hosted a telephone town hall meeting on March 14 to hear his constituents’ views on the legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes. “The government will legalize and regulate marijuana – this is big news,” said Stetski in his opening remarks. “This is probably one of the largest economic activities in Kootenay-Columbia. Will legalization help or hurt the local industry?”

Stetski had three local guests with expertise in different aspects of the issue: Nelson Mayor Deb Kozak, Tamara Duggan, owner of Tamarack Dispensaries, and Dean Nicholson, Executive Director of East Kootenay Addiction Services Society in Cranbrook. An RCMP representative had been invited, but declined.

Mayor Kozak feels that legalization of recreational marijuana use is a positive step forward, but wants the federal government to consult with local governments and local communities on how it will be regulated and enforced. She’d also like to see local governments sharing in the revenues.

Dean Nicholson has 28 years of experience in the addictions field, and is happy to see marijuana moving from a criminal to a public health field, and is happy to see marijuana regulated and enforced. She’d also like to see local governments sharing in the revenues. “This is probably one of the most popular drugs in the world, and law and order is a standard behavioural test at roadside, and then a blood test – and an important determination going forward,” Nicholson said.

Will legalization affect the Kootenay economy?

Duggan’s concerns were echoed several times during the town hall call. “Will it be squeezing out mom and pop growers?” asked one woman. Stetski replied that there absolutely are concerns about who will be allowed to grow and sell it. Duggan said she deals with a number of small growers who can’t expand or openly hire people because they are afraid of being raided. “We want the government to make the legislation open enough so small growers can be people in the agricultural industry and not have to go underground. We need local people and small business dealing with this on a local level,” said another woman. “I’m afraid of having Monsanto’d pot.”

Nicholson said there is no real research on marijuana. “We’re buying our products from growers who put love and care into their plants and the last thing they’re thinking is to use chemicals to boost production and make more money because they know what that can do to people’s bodies. If we can only buy products from big, licenced producers, that’s our big concern.”

Another resident asked if there are plans to start plantations to create some sustainable, well-paying jobs in the West Kootenay. Mayor Kozak replied, “If we are looking to have a broader or more lenient system towards growers, I would encourage you to take that message to government.” Stetski added that the government is looking for ways to engage First Nations. Is marijuana a gateway drug?

Nicholson said there is no real evidence that using marijuana will lead to using harder drugs, although it’s true that most people who use heavy drugs also use marijuana. He said marijuana is the second most popular drug after alcohol in the world, and law and order hasn’t changed this, “so a different way of approaching the issue is very much needed.” People have their drugs of choice, and making marijuana available won’t stop people from using other drugs, he said. Nicholson also said that the issue of decriminalizing or legalizing a broader array of drugs is becoming topical, and the legalization of marijuana may provide a platform for legalizing other drugs in Canada.

Does marijuana affect driving?

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that the police have the right to determine impairment from marijuana and other drugs, and they are currently testing a device that will measure THC levels. Nicholson said marijuana is the second highest drug detected in fatal motor vehicle accidents after alcohol. He said there is a standard behavioural test at roadside, and then a blood test – and an important determination going forward will be the legal limit of THC in the bloodstream.

Will marijuana smoking be allowed in public places?

Stetski said many of his constituents feel marijuana smoking should not be allowed in public places, just like tobacco. Mayor Kozak agreed that the provincial law around smoking in public places should apply across the board. Is there enough scientific research on marijuana?

Stetski said federal physicians want more research done. Nicholson said research has been difficult to do while marijuana has been under the criminal code. There is some good research underway now, he said, and a lot more that can be done. Stetski added that recent research suggests our brains are most actively growing while we are 25. However, the government task force on marijuana legalization is recommending 19 as the legal age, as they feel many people would use the black market if the age is too high.

Current legal uncertainty

Although the government has announced that recreational marijuana will be legalized, the government expects existing laws to be followed in the meantime, and is directing the police to enforce the existing laws. “Chaos right now is the best word I can use to describe it,” said Stetski. “Some municipalities are looking to licence outlets and others are not. The thing that hurts us the most is the uncertainty.” He added that the NDP has been pushing the government to decriminalize marijuana. “It should have happened a while ago, regardless how this legalization moves forward.”

Duggan said that many of her friends have recently gone to jail. “It’s appalling to be treated as criminals when we’re not criminals.”

Kozak explained that the City of Nelson allowed dispensaries to open, anticipating the legalization to go through quickly. Recently, Nelson put a bylaw into place capping the number of dispensaries at six. All dispensaries will now have to apply to the City with a proposal for a business licence, and the City will issue Temporary Use Permits. “We’re anticipating once the federal government legalizes it, we’ll repeal or modify our bylaw to be in compliance with federal regulations,” she said.

The final report of the federal government task force on marijuana legalization, ‘A Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada,’ can be found online.
Ambulance improvements come to some small, rural communities

by Jan McMurray

A significant boost in funding for emergency health services in BC over the next three years will help modernize the ambulance system and create jobs for people in rural communities.

Small, rural communities will benefit by the creation of permanent part-time paramedic jobs and an increase to the pay rate when paramedics are called out, said Linda Lupini, executive vice president of BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS).

“It’s hard to recruit paramedics to rural communities when they are being paid $2 to carry the pager and be on call,” she said. “We want to create jobs for people to stay in the community. This has been needed for a long time. Pager pay is like the volunteer firefighter model and I don’t think we can continue with that model.”

Lupini cautioned that there is not enough funding to convert all on-call paramedic positions in the province to part-time positions, “but we’ll do the best we can over the next three years.”

How to decide which on-call positions will be converted is “the kind of discussion we’re having now,” said Lupini. “We’ll look at patient population and call volumes, and whether two communities are close together so one person could cover both. We’ll look at the most value for patients.”

Communities that are left with the pager pay model will at least see an increase to the hourly rate paramedics are paid when they are called out, Lupini said.

The new part-time paramedic jobs will be in addition to the community paramedicine positions that have recently been announced. Kaslo and Nakusp will each have two part-time community paramedics, and Winlaw, New Denver and Edgewood will each have one part-time community paramedic. These community paramedics will be working in the communities this year.

Lupini explained that the funding boost allows for the ambulance system to be modernized, based on best practices in other jurisdictions with high growth in call volumes. BC saw a 6.8% increase in ambulance calls last year, so “we have to innovate,” Lupini said.

She explained that traditionally, all ambulance calls result in the transport of the patient to hospital. “But not every patient needs to go to the hospital,” she said. “We have very busy emergency departments in acute care hospitals and lots of congestion, so that’s not a great situation to be in when you don’t necessarily need it. We want to keep emergency departments for people who need them.”

So, as in some other jurisdictions, paramedics will now be able to assess patients and make decisions on what they need for care, and potentially bypass the emergency department, Lupini said. That could include touching base with a doctor or nurse, or having the patient go to see the doctor the clinic the next day rather than go to the hospital.

“Much of this stems from looking at the demands,” said Lupini. “30% of our calls are not life threatening, but it’s the way people know how to reach out to the medical system. Many mental health patients sit at emergency departments for hours. Now we can take them to facilities that will do the best they can over the next three years.”

More than 5,000 new part-time paramedic roles will be created, which are expected to help attract new paramedics and keep current ones in rural communities. Rural paramedics will also be able to access education and training opportunities.

The new part-time paramedic jobs will mean a significant boost in funding for rural communities. A $2.5 million investment in 2016/17, which provides a total of $4.2 billion in additional funding for the Ministry over the next three years.

Enhanced ways to get moving, have fun and get fit

Columbia Basin Trust is providing $1.8 million for 38 projects to support a variety of groups and organizations in building physical activity infrastructures that encourage active lifestyles in the Basin. The Recreation Infrastructure Grants program supports community efforts to create new or upgrade existing recreation facilities and trails in the region.

Recent recipients include the following:

The Butter Mountain trail in Rosebery already gives you a fantastic view over Slocan Lake, and now it is going to get even better. The North Slocan Trails Society will nearly double the trail by adding seven kilometres to the existing 8.7-kilometre trail. This includes a 1.5-kilometre section for those who may use equipment like hand bikes, trike bikes and wheelchair bikes.

“Studies show that mountain biking brings in tourism, and this project is made possible through the user experience and establish the North Slocan as a recreation destination, including for adaptive mountain bikers,” said Mike Koozen, project manager. “Plus for many locals, trails are the sole source of exercise and recreation. They too will benefit from increased trail opportunities.”

The project is called the Butter Trail Adaptive Mountain Bike Extension; it will get $35,300 from the Trust.

Kaslo was successful in getting three grants for three different projects. The Arrow Lakes Cross Country Ski Club will get $3,800 to modify and upgrade the Wensley Creek ski trail. The Nakusp and Area Bike Society scored $122,000 for Phase 1 of the Abriell Trail Network, to develop a network of destination trails for all styles, ages, levels and abilities (including adaptive) of mountain bikers and other recreational non-motorized trail users.

The Village of Nakusp will receive $15,000 to resurface the tennis courts, which are used by seniors, adults, youth and students.
Fracking and earthquakes

Most of us know how the news media is owned by the business world. We know that real news gets watered down by distraction news. ‘Man bites dog,’ etc.

How much have we heard about fracking causing earthquakes? Does it almost tend to sound like ‘fake news’?

I have a March 2013 National Geographic magazine with the caption on the cover, ‘America Strikes Oil: The Promise and Risk of Fracking.’ Inside it goes on to say that the fracking frenzy in North Dakota has boosted the US fuel supply – but at what cost? Some 8,000 wells have been drilled in western North Dakota; there could eventually be 50,000.

There is a little map showing the Bakken shale formation extending from Regina, Saskatchewan to Bismarck, North Dakota with a little bit of it in Montana and Manitoba. In the middle of this formation is a little rectangle 50 by 80 miles marked off. This area is blown up on two pages to map all the oil wells and with the Missouri River meandering through it. These two pages are completely covered with about 2,800 little black dots. Each dot had a little line black lines extending from it. So, this is more than one line. They represent an oil well with a fracking line extending out from it two miles deep. The lines extended, some one mile, some two miles. These two pages, kind of, look like a spider web.

The article showed all the details of the fracking technology and the economics, etc. but it was those two pages, kind of, look like a spider web.

I also have a July 2016 Scientific American magazine with an article on ‘Drilling for Earthquakes.’

Until 2008, not a single earthquake had ever been recorded by the US Geological Survey from the area where they had been drilled. The earthquakes in Oklahoma where they inject increasing amounts of fracking fluid until in some locations they injected 300 million barrels by 2014.

Below each map they show another map that shows where the earthquakes 3.0 magnitude or higher are centered with orange dots. In 2009, there were 20 quakes and they tend to be closer to the heaviest injection sites shown above. In 2010, there were 41 quakes. In 2011, there were 63 and the largest, 5.6 magnitude, was near Oklahoma City. In 2012, there were 34. In 2013, there were 102. In 2014, there were 581 quakes and they make a huge bundle of dots very much where the millions of barrels are injected.

The earthquakes are unsettling and properties are damaged so the article covers the reactions of the public while the regulators are slow to react. It seems that greed prevails because only in some states have they begun to limit the amount of fluid sent underground.

Meanwhile, scientists are saying the quakes could continue even if injections were stopped because the pressure changes already induced in deep rock can migrate for years, possibly encompassing old fault lines.

This article is pretty long so I want to jump to the part in Oklahoma where they show by maps the whole problem. From 2009 to 2014, they show on six maps of Oklahoma where they inject increasing amounts of fracking fluid until in some locations they injected 300 million barrels by 2014.

Demand the return of the requirement to mill logs where they are cut

The March 9 edition of the Valley Voice included a letter to the editor from Harvey Armstrong of Kaslo. I heartily agree with Mr. Armstrong’s letter. Demand the return of the requirement to purchase whole logs to make sawmills.

One of the major log exporters is now debarking the logs in order to get more on a ship and thereby make more profit. They then claim that those logs are not log exports but ‘value-added’ lumber exports. In my mind, that is a huge insult to the intelligence of the people of BC.

And, while the provincial and federal governments claim to be hard bargaining for a new softwood lumber agreement, millions of cubic metres of logs continue to be chopped down to support other people’s economies. We get the jobs to cut ‘em down and maybe debark ‘em... wow!

The closure of more than 100 sawmills also led to the closure of many schools in rural BC due to the exodus of families to find work. The pulp mills lose out too, since the wood waste from those logs is no longer available, forcing them to purchase whole logs to make their pulp.

Rural British Columbians need to demand the return of the requirement to mill logs where they are cut, and our vote is about the only thing we have to demand it with. Will the NDP reinstate that requirement, or are they too busy running to the right to please the rich industrialists?

Rod Retzlaff

Glade

Thank you to all who helped Gwenn and her pets

I would like to say thank you to the many people who have helped Gwenn, Blacky, Ifran, and Bert over the past two months.

As you may know, Gwenn lost her home and belongings in two suspicious fires between the late hours of January 29 and early hours of January 30. One cat perished in the fire. One cat and one dog were found right away, but two cats were missing. Blacky was found a week after the fire and required emergency care. Sadly, there’s still no sign of Orange, Blacky’s sister.

The Nakusp Veterinarian Clinic and PALS were the first two calls made, and with that Blacky and the other pets’ care were taken over by all. Laurie, Florence, all their partners, staff, friends, the Nakusp clubs and residents all opened their hearts to the whole family. Everyone is so special to us all, but there is a wonderful group of young citizens that we would like to send out special thank yous to. The Grade 3 students of Nakusp Secondary School made a donation to PALS for Blacky. An inspiration to all, NSS students and PALS work to promote and teach animal awareness. They hold wonderful fundraisers throughout the year and are hands-on helpers. We will keep everyone updated via PALS/ FB with Blacky’s photos as she finishes healing.

As you ever need help with emergency issues, help with anything really, you can always call local community centres and the RCMP detachment for support.

Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services reached out generously to Gwenn, relieving many worries. The compassion shown by them and all the residents of Nakusp has been quite the emotional event to witness. With this election coming up, remember how your actions and choices have made the Nakusp township a wonderful community.

A big thank you to Laurie, who was there to support Gwenn and be our drop-off point locally in Edgewood. Her big heart and smiles always makes for a wonderful visit while picking up your mail.

“Empathy is the starting point for creating a community and taking action. It’s the impetus for treating change.” - Max Corver

Mandie Martens

Edgewood

Outline:

OPINION

Fracking and earthquakes

Demand the return of the requirement to mill logs where they are cut

Thank you to all who helped Gwenn and her pets

The Valley Voice

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The Valley Voice March 23, 2017
LETTERS

Logging roads to ATV trails

There is a plan afoot to turn logging roads into ATV trails. The plan appears to originate with the Village of Nakusp. CBT paid $7,000 for some ‘consultants’ from Vancouver and Alberta. A consultant is someone who has hung out a shingle: John Horgan, Nakusp's Village Manager and Management Consultant; Harry Ho, Environmental Consultant. This plan, the consultants said, would bring lots of tourists and lots of money into the Village coffers.

Funny: All trails on Crown land in BC that are not legally closed to specific user groups are open to ORV recreational use.

Within little more than an hour’s drive from Nakusp we have Octopus, Tat’ke Creek, Burton, MacDonald Creek, Slewkin, Halfway, Saddle Mountain, West Arrow Park, Fosthall, Whutshant, Scania, a total of at least 2,000 square kilometres (200,000 ha) riddled with logging roads. In fact, any hour would see a substantial gain in sales.

So we ask ourselves, why do Canadians ignore this inequality? It seems that if the ATV users do not do it, the right and left and right often sports leaders driven by tact religions ideologies and/ or racist doctrines. Their agendas merely reflect the secular moods of a party of people. The ATV users, regardless of whether they are negligent among only minority voter support. Sadly, the voting majority get four years of morality and values incongruent with their own domestic and world views.

Ironic, we often idealize leaders who espouse our own morality, while vilifying leaders with moral convictions divergent from our own. No wonder our wise ancestors legislated separation of church and state, however, we have are significantly less vulnerable to the vagaries of this addictive toxic mix.

We, the voters, are hard-wired to the expectations of our respective political leaders should possess a strong moral compass and a political vision (similar to our own). In fact, modern democracies require the antithesis of moral, visionary leaders. Modern democratic leaders must be foremost and foremost very skilled at consensus-building, negotiation, compromise, and the ability to coalesce decisions that benefit most of the people, most often. Flee from high-minded, morally motivated, virtuous leaders. We need politicians who are skilled at re-distributing our wealth to benefit the most. If you crave moral virtuous leaders, there are religious and gurus aplenty from which to choose. Since the modern democracy is a Netflix achievement of modern democracies. Successful ‘power-motivated, agenda- less leaders’ find their stability by avoiding ideologies and philosophical posturing, focusing on greasing as many ‘squeaky wheels’ as tax dollars can afford. They simply acquiesce to the largest constituent base possible. On the merits, the ATV club, the Village of Nakusp, or the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources (MFLNR)? It was me, I’d say.

And then there’s the environment. We all depend on the environment for clean air and clean water, but also for timber and for most in the freezer; ice, beef or venison. ATV’s wreak havoc with the soil, damage the hydrology, and quite literally muddy the waters. Is it worth it when the environmental costs are small, liability is an issue, the environmental cost is high, and most existing trails are open to ATV use anyway?

Elgie de Boer
Fauquier

Modern democracies

I agree with Mr. Retzlaff (VV, Vol 26, #5) that “first past the post” (FPP) has an elegance of simplicity, offering the hope of less manipulation than more complex ballot systems and an appeal for dividing the public domain among the neighbours for whom they vote. But, consider that FPP offers nothing but frustration to voters living in ridings where, historically, their candidate never wins. Proportional Representation (PR) systems offer these voters a ranked choice ball, voice a superior voice to no voice at all. Although we have provided adequate representation for voters in a simpler time, PR systems more accurately replicate the sophistication and mosaic of our modern communities. PR subtleties like the single transferable vote (STV) may seem complex and vulnerable to manipulation. But STV has reliable, robust technologies to monitor these complexities. As well, there is good evidence from a multitude of other democratic countries using STV that voter corruption is no more of an issue than our own FPP electoral boondoggles (robs-calls/gerrymandering etc.).

An off- DETAIL

tailed weakness in these more nuanced PR systems is that they can precipitate minority coalition governments. I see this as one of PR’s great attributes. Why? All parties in any political system must understand that their most ideological ideals to convince and survive at the table of governance for another term. This necessity to negotiate agreements in PR systems is the intrinsic Darwinian flaw that eliminates extreme ideologies on the political fringes. Consensus-driven decision-making may well be the largest possible segments of voters.

Do consensus-driven governments produce mediocre decisions? Consider the province of B.C. What if the accident is caused by a drunk, drug, any disability, is it my fault? It sure makes me wonder. I agree with Mr. Retzlaff (VV, Vol 26, #5).

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Columbia Basin Trust update on strategic priorities

by Jan McMurray

Columbia Basin Trust CEO Johnny Strilaeff and Board Chair Rick Jensen attended the March 16 RDCK meeting to provide an update on the organization’s 13 strategic priorities for 2016-20, and to announce the 2017 Columbia Basin Symposium in Kimberley October 13-15. The theme of the symposium will be, ‘Thriving in a Changing Landscape’ and will focus on three trends: demographics, technology and climate change.

The 13 strategic priorities were determined in a community consultation process over a year and a half that involved 3,000 participants and generated 17,000 thoughts. “With our significant increase in revenue from the sale of power from $25 million to $55 million a year, we wanted to know how residents wanted us to spend it,” said Jensen. “Economic development was first and foremost. There wasn’t an economic development project for a year, we wanted to know how participants and generated half that involved 3,000 participants and generated 17,000 thoughts. “With our significant increase in revenue from the sale of power from $25 million to $55 million a year, we wanted to know how residents wanted us to spend it,” said Jensen. “Economic development was first and foremost. There wasn’t an area of interest that didn’t have that concern.”

Now that it’s known CBT has quite a bit more money, Jensen said the Trust has supported an agricultural land use inventory in the RDCK, a regional agriculture liaison service in partnership with the three Kootenay Regional Districts, and has engaged agriculture experts to help implement a strategic direction for agriculture.

Arts, culture and heritage

CBT has launched a new Built Heritage grants program, with the first intake this spring. The organization has committed $6.75 million for a three-year partnership with Heritage BC. A Heritage BC planner will be based in the region to support local organizations. The Trust inventoried 135 built heritage assets in the region, and found that one-third are in disrepair and at high risk.

Broadband

The Trust works in partnership with the regional broadband committee, and is bringing together local internet service providers to respond to two large federal government initiatives. “The federal government will invest if the region will bring capacity and dollars, so we’re working with the committee and local ISPs on this.”

Agriculture

Although residents asked CBT to find agricultural land during the public engagement process, Strilaeff said they’d learned how complex this is. “We need to better educate ourselves and bring experts to the table to help advise CBT.” The Trust has federal government wants us to bring forward more requests because we’re easy to deal with,” he said. The first federally funded project is expected to be completed in 2018 and will benefit 12 rural households.

Economic development

CBT has allocated $20 million over three years. They’ve purchased a commercial building in Trail to create an innovation center with a local entrepreneur. They’ve also set up an Impact Investment Fund in partnership with Community Futures, making funding available to businesses that may not offer adequate financial returns to private investor, but will benefit Basin residents and communities in some other way (socially, environmentally, etc.). The Trust has advanced $1 million under this program, provided six loans, and created about 100 jobs.

Community Sustainability service is increasing by 28% Impacted Investment Fund in partnership with Community Futures, making funding available to businesses that may not offer adequate financial returns to private investor, but will benefit Basin residents and communities in some other way (socially, environmentally, etc.). The Trust has advanced $1 million under this program, provided six loans, and created about 100 jobs.

Environment

A new three-year Climate Action Program to create 150 housing units. CBT has committed $15 million over three years with a goal to create 150 housing units. CBT has committed $15 million over three years with a goal to

New Denver, Silverton, Slocan & Area H

Area Residents will pay $1,481,404 in RDCK taxation this year, up from $1,362 last year. Assessment values in Area H total $75,067,138 this year, up from last year’s $73,655 last year. New Denver residents will contribute $79,914 for RDCK services, compared to $73,655 last year. New Denver’s tax rate is $1.04 per $1,000 last year. Assessment values have decreased to $7,682,136 from last year’s $8,064,059.

Silvertown residents are paying $56,900 to the RDCK this year, up from $56,900 to the RDCK this year, up from last year. Silverton residents are paying $56,900 to the RDCK this year, up from $56,900 to the RDCK this year, up from last year. Assessment values have decreased to $7,682,136 from last year’s $8,064,059. Silverton residents are paying $56,900 to the RDCK this year, up from $56,900 to the RDCK this year, up from last year. Assessment values have decreased to $7,682,136 from last year’s $8,064,059.

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March 23, 2017 The Valley Voice

**Fibrefeelia event celebrates north valley fibre arts**

by Art Joyce

It’s a craft and an art form that’s nearly as old as humanity – weaving may already have been known as early as the Paleolithic era, 27,000 years ago. In the past few years, fibre arts have been undergoing something of a renaissance. A local group of fibre artists has organized the Fibrefeelia Fibre Arts Festival – a Kootenay Fibre Arts Event for the weekend of June 24-25 in New Denver and Silverton.

The event will feature workshops and vendors at multiple locations, including Bosun Hall and the Silvery Slocan Museum.

The event will focus on learning and sharing fibre arts, including knitting and crocheting, spinning, weaving, rug hooking, dyeing, felting (with wet and needle), designing, colour theory, and textiles. A total of 12 workshops and classes will be offered by instructors Holli Yeeh, Leola Witt-McNie, Sue Scott, Sara Judith, Katharine Dickerson, Morgen Bardati, Susan Chamberlain, Joanne Bieder and Donna Hicks. Exhibitions by instructors and vendors will be displayed at the Silvery Slocan Museum in New Denver, where there will also be mini-demonstrations of various fibre arts techniques.

A Meet and Greet for volunteers, sponsors, instructors and vendors will be arranged and there are plans for children and youth workshops.

For those who love the art form and want to support the artists or purchase materials to do their own work, the festival will host a make up sale. The Slocan Valley Threads Guild has long provided a support network and a physical location for regional fibre artists. According to Fibrefeelia organizer Kathy Provan, the craft’s popularity has been boosted by the internet, where one can learn many of the basic techniques of the craft. The web has also made it easier for fibre artists to market their work through sites such as Etsy, Ravelry and social media. This has spurred a growth in independent designers and unique dyes, greatly adding to the diversity available to fibre artists.

Organizers Kathy Provan, Judith von Krogh, Heather Shephered, Geraldine Buchan and Nancy Lewis are still seeking business sponsors for the event willing to help cover the costs of marketing, instructors’ fees, venue rent, and publicity. To contact them email fibrefeelia@gmail.com or visit their website at http://fibrefeeliafest.ca.

**Not guilty pleas entered in Lemon Creek fuel spill case**

by Jan McMurray

Pleas of not guilty have been entered by all defendants in the Lemon Creek fuel spill case. The date for the trial will be fixed on April 11.

Not guilty pleas for Executive Flight Centre and driver Danny LaSante were registered in Nelson court on March 7, and for the Province of BC on February 7.

On March 7, all lawyers involved in the case agreed that the trial would take five to six weeks. Justice Brown also asked the lawyers to get together to discuss the case “candidly” before the next hearing on April 11.

Chris Archer, counsel for Executive Flight Centre, said he’d be raising “outstanding issues of disclosure.”

Archer also asked for a list of admissions from the Crown prosecutor, but Cliffe was not prepared to do so. Instead, Cliffe said he would arrange a conference call or meeting with the lawyers. “What is it that we can probably agree on? Is Jet A1 fuel harmful to the environment? Is that truly an issue? If we can have a sense of common ground between the parties...”

Executive Flight Centre, the Province of BC, and truck driver Danny LaSante have been charged with various violations under the federal Fisheries Act and the provincial Environmental Management Act in connection with the spill of 33,000 litres of jet fuel into the Slocan River on July 26, 2013. The case started as a private prosecution by Slocan Valley resident Marilyn Burgoon, and was taken over by the federal government in January 2016.

**Wanted to buy:**

by Brian Major

**Cedar and Pine poles**

250-938-3900

Please contact: Gorman's Pole Division

250-547-9296

History enthusiasts are invited to talk on the boats of Slocan Lake on Thursday, April 6th at 7 p.m. in the WE Graham Library. Local historian and author Henning von Krogh will take us for a ride into the past on such vessels as the William Hunter, the SS Slocan and the Rosebery. Admission is by donation. Refreshments available. Proudly sponsored by the Slocan Valley Historical Society.
Kaslo council, March 14: Councillor Glorioso’s resignation received

by Ian McMurray

• Council received Councillor Glorioso’s resignation from council, effective March 13. Glorioso has moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she has accepted a permanent position as the City’s Special Projects Administrator. “I regret that I will not complete my term of office. However, I need to take advantage of this excellent opportunity to continue my professional development, and have found no similar opportunity in Kaslo,” she says.

The CAO advises that the byelection will likely be held sometime in June.

• Tower Aerospace Inc. is setting up shop at the Kaslo Aerodrome to sell aviation parts and training. The company will sublease a portion of Ward’s hangar. Council approved the sublease and the airspace commercial licence, pending business licence application and fee, and proof of insurance.

• Council passed a resolution of support for Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation’s application for a Licence of Occupation (LOC). The LOC will facilitate the Kaslo infoNet’s project to lay fibreoptic cable in Kootenay Lake from Balfour to Kaslo. The plan calls for a landing site for the cable at Moyie Beach Park, so CBBC will need a Statutory Right of Way across the municipal park lands.

• Council also passed a resolution of support for Kaslo infoNet Society’s advocacy for a more cost-effective Rural Buried Fiber Optic Plan Code. The society is finding Ministry of Transportation requirements for burying fibre to be onerous and expensive.

When discussing the request with Kaslo InfoNet, Councillor Armand Crescenzi said, “A fibre optic communications plan will give us an opportunity to retain the full economic potential of the valley and support our local economy.”

• The Village received responses to the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) for a management plan that would accommodate the purchase or condemnation of a new or amended Crown lease in Kaslo Bay. The REOI document explains that the project idea emerged from the desire for better internet services in the valley. The Village believes that it is in the public interest to move toward a stable long term alternative.”

The REOI document. CAO Neil Smith explained that the project is about having long-term capacity to manage and organize marine uses in the face of the planned development of a tourism plan. The plan could be revised at any time as required, he said.

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By Entertainment Reporter

North Kootenay Lake poets release anthology

by Art Joyce

Just in time for National Poetry Month in April, a group of poets from Kaslo and area have released a work that inspired them to work with the Kootenay lake landscape for inspiration. The group, comprising Mark Mealing, Robert Banks Foster, Sheila Murray-Nellis, Anne Heard and Sheila Falle, has been meeting to workshop their verse since about 2004, inspired by a poetry workshop with Susan Andrews Grace.

The late great Chilean poet Pablo Neruda once said that, “my poetry was born between the hill and the river, it took its voice from the rain, and like the timber, it belongs to the forest.”

Many of the same could be said of these five poets, whose poems in this volume draw from a vast range of literature, the Kootenay landscape for inspiration. “The poems go far beyond that, drawing on literary influences from around the world. Mark Mealing, who studied folklore and ethnohistory at the University of Pennsylvania, became fascinated with First Nations lore, particularly the Coyote trickster myths. His book Coyote’s Running Here was published in 1988 by pulp Press and the theme is continued here. Mealing has also studied classic Chinese verse forms, and these metrical influences are present in Chinese in several of these poems. Mark’s offerings serve as a kind of chorus, while highlighting the reality of global climate crisis in powerfully compressed language: “The glacial tongue leaves a rake mark on the face of the rocks.”

Sheila Murray-Nellis graduated in 1975 with a degree in English and a minor in biology. “I believe that the two disciplines are intertwined, and that science and poetry both have a role in the work of global water activist Maude Barlow. Foster includes a suite titled Glacial Going, a tribute to the Jumbo Requiem, and it’s here his influences and his poetic voice are most communicated. “My poetic education and background began in early childhood with Dad’s love of the sounds found in poems and songs; she recalls. “Now Iavour poets who distill and universalize experience yet remain each poet’s own voice’s expression.”

Sheila Falle’s Kootenay Poets is available on Amazon in April as either a print or e-book.

Primary and public health nurse positions combined in Kaslo

The part-time primary health care and public health nurse positions in Kaslo were combined into one full-time position in December. 

Notes from a Kaslo Connected Communities meeting outline concerns about the move. One is that the skill set for the two types of nurses is very different. Another is that the rural community position has been reduced over the years from full-time to 0.7 to 0.6 to 0.56 now, and when combined with primary care, the public health component may be further reduced or neglected.

Cheryl Whittleton, Interior Health community administrator, explained that the decision to combine the positions was made “in order to create a more attractive position for recruitment, a more sustainable full-time job.”

Whittleton said there was a vacancy and the lease in the two part-time positions last year. “We worked to pull together one position to support both primary care and prevention needs,” said Whittleton. “This was done with careful consideration and in consultation and agreement with the union, and recognizes that part-time positions in rural communities, or any community, are difficult to fill.”

When asked how the nurse divides her time between the two roles, Whittleton said there is no strict division between them. “This is flexible so we are able to support the needs of the site and union in consultation and agreement with the union, and recognizes that part-time positions in rural communities, or any community, are difficult to fill.”

Whittleton felt it important to recognize that the primary care nurse in Kaslo does not operate in isolation. “This is a system that includes the physicians on site. We are confident that this change allows us to provide ongoing quality care. This includes primary care and health promotion and prevention services, ranging from chronic disease management to child and maternal health, school health to communicable disease.”

The Valley Voice March 23, 2017

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March 23, 2017 The Valley Voice

**Bessie Wapp explores Earth and Space at the Vallican Whole**

submitted

On Saturday, April 1, The Vallican Whole Community Centre hosts Bessie Wapp presenting *An Evening of Original Theatrical Shorts from Earth and Space*. If you have seen Bessie in her playful persona before, this is all the information you will need to leap up, call your friends, and get your tickets. This evening of ‘theatre/clowning/storytelling’ will be an eye-opening experience for those who have never seen Bessie or who know her as a singer (everything from blues to rockabilly to high opera), accordion player, voice instructor, or Nelson’s 2015 Cultural Ambassador.

*Winter Women* is a great success

Many will never forget her in *Hello, I Must Be Going*, a brilliant and poignant one-woman play about surviving WWII as a Lithuanian Jew, co-written with her mother, Judy Wapp, and Nicole Harwood. The upcoming production, while still exploring the human condition, takes a somewhat lighter approach. “For this show at the Vallican Whole I decided to look back over past work and I discovered a connecting theme between a number of pieces, that of yearning for connection and family,” Bessie says. “Two of the stories are my own and one is someone else’s, but they all reflect how rich and consuming the terrain is.”

The first piece, *Jesus Christ Superstore*, recounts a surreal weekend in which birth control, the big box phenomenon, and a cinematic cult connection converge.

The second piece, *Singing From Her Guts*, centres on Phyllis, a remarkable 78-year-old voice-class participant, who sings her way from the deepest of losses out the other side to redemption.

With Bessie’s third piece, *Spacegirl*, we leave the reality of our planet and actual events, and welcome a weary extraterrestrial who has travelled light years in search of genetic stock to bring back home. Will you be the donor?

This promises to be another evening of theatre worth remembering. And what better way to celebrate April Fools Day than with Bessie Wapp, our own wise fool?

Doors open at 6:30, performance 7:30 pm. Tickets are $20 at Emery Herbals, Otter Books or at www.VallicanWhole.com. The Whole’s address is 3762 Little Slocan South Road.

This is the third and final presentation in the Vallican Whole’s ‘Up Close and Intimate’ series, which featured Laura and Paul Lansberg in *Le Cabaret Intime* and Breakwater, featuring Jeff Faragher and special guest Jesse Lee.

She draws, colours and paints

submitted

Long ago, there was a little girl who liked to draw and colour and paint. That girl grew into a young woman, a middle aged woman and now she’s an old woman who has, all through her long life of many and varied experiences and adventures, continued to draw and colour and paint. And wherever she went and whatever she did, she drew the being there of it – smooth or bumpy, crooked or straight, hot or cold. While teaching, freelancing, selling, trading, giving, winning some prizes along the way and making some children’s books, she always had her paper, pencils and paints, and lugged along her portfolio. Rowena Elslee celebrates 80 years as an artist. Gallery Retrospective on Easter Sunday, April 16, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Argenta Hall. All are welcome.

Presenting work produced over the past decade and a half, Bessie invites you to enjoy an evening of self-revelatory, taboo-busting, heart-warming and hilarious stories about connection, family, and love. This promises to be another evening of theatre worth remembering. And what better way to celebrate April Fools Day than with Bessie Wapp, our own wise fool?

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This winter, thanks to a grant from the Community Sport Program Development Fund, 14 valley women were able to participate in a fun and supportive weekly cross country ski program on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. Facilitated by a coach and fitness instructor, the program provided a unique opportunity for participants to try something new or increase their skill and confidence, make new friends, and improve their health.

The program included a regular fitness testing component as well as information on non-scale fitness. The women have enthusiastically reported increased fitness levels, energy, mood, and increased confidence in doing outdoor activities. The social component was very valuable and gave the participants an opportunity to have others to ski with throughout the week. Participants also reported that they have found a renewed love of outdoor activity and hope to translate this into a biking or walking group this summer.

Slocan Valley Recreation thanks the Province and viaSport for their generous support, without which they couldn’t offer the program, and the Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society for the use of space at Passmore Lodge.

Bessie Wapp in *Singing From Her Guts* at the Vallican Whole, April 1.

Bessie Wapp in *Spacegirl* at the Vallican Whole, April 1.
The Abukar family settles into their new life in New Denver

**by Jan McMurray**

The Abukar family has been living in New Denver for one month now, and are settling in nicely.

“At first, we felt like guests, but now we feel like part of the community,” said Omar Abukar in an interview at the family’s home on March 15.

The six children were happily watching TV and playing computer games during the interview, but Omar said they’d rather be at school. After attending Lucerne School for two weeks, they were disappointed to find out that Canadian schools take a two-week break in March. Lucerne teachers must be very pleased to have these students in their classrooms!

Omar has started two online English courses through Selkirk College. His wife, Bibi can start English classes through Selkirk College in September, and join an English Language Learning class for new Canadian women, starting soon in New Denver.

“We have lots of ambition for a good education, but first, we want to learn English well and learn to drive. Then we’ll be fully integrated into the community,” Omar said.

Omar’s English is very good. He taught English to other adult refugees in Nairobi, Kenya, where both Omar and Bibi lived for 16 years. “We were there for about half our lives. We grew up and got married there,” he said.

“The six children were happily watching TV and playing computer games during the interview.”

Omar left Somalia in 1999 and Bibi left in 2000, when the country was embroiled in civil war. They didn’t know each other in their home country. Both are Bantu, an ethnic minority group in Somalia. Omar explained that the Bantus have been oppressed by the majority Cushard population in Somalia since 1962, when the country became independent.

“Bibi ran away because they would take young girls away to rape and kill them. We ran because they attacked our house and killed my father,” he said. “They prevent Bantu children from going to school, and Bantus have to do menial labour. There is no opportunity there for us except oppression and persecution.”

As refugees in Nairobi, life was still very hard for them. “We weren’t free,” said Omar. “We were harassed by the Kenyan police. The police were always there asking for our ID and expecting bribes.” He said refugees are not allowed to work in Nairobi without work permits, which are next to impossible to obtain. But they have to work, of course, to survive. So they work illegally, and live in constant fear of the police.

“Bantu refugees cannot stay in Kenya because of police harassment and cannot go back to Somalia. So we have lots of ambition for a good education, but first, we want to learn English well and learn to drive. Then we’ll be fully integrated into the community,” Omar said.

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“Bantu refugees cannot stay in Kenya because of police harassment and cannot go back to Somalia because of oppression, so I decided to go to a third country,” Omar said.

Although refugees in Kenya don’t get to choose which country they will immigrate to, Omar says he wanted to come to Canada and feels very lucky that things worked out the way they did. “Allah has answered our prayers after a long time waiting,” he said.

He started the immigration process in 2009 and finally had his first interview with the High Commissioner of Canada in April 2015. Then Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada would accept thousands of Syrian refugees, so the Abukars had to wait some more—although Omar says his heart went out to the Syrian people and he was happy to be delayed as a way of helping them. The Abukar family finally arrived in New Denver on February 23, 2017.

Eleanor Spangler, a member of the Slocan Valley Refugee Coalition Committee, said they went through this process not just for the Abukars, but also for themselves and the larger community. “It’s so good for us to be generous,” she said. “We wanted to do this so we could grow our hearts and have some understanding of what’s happening to 65 million refugees around the world.”

**Winlaw artist awarded Federation of Canadian Artists Signature Member Status**

submitted

Frantisek Strouhal, well-known for his powerful artistic expressions of the human body and spirit, has been awarded Signature Member Status by the Federation of Canadian Artists’ Board of Governors. This status recognizes a high level of excellence achieved by the individual artists.

Strouhal says it is very gratifying to be recognized for the work he loves to do and to have been selected as a Signature member by the FCA, whose goal is to contribute to the lasting success of its artists and to advance the knowledge and appreciation of art and culture to all Canadians. He is eagerly looking forward to fulfilling his responsibilities as a new member of the FCA Board of Governors.

Strouhal’s subjects transcend their qualities and evoke an immediate visceral response in the viewer. They speak to us about the mysterious and complex human experience. They provoke inquiry and reflection upon such notions as transformation in the metaphysical realm of existence.

The Federation of Canadian Artists’ Board of Governors is holding a show called SUCCESS featuring the new Signature members on Granville Island from March 15 to 26.

Strouhal’s art can be also viewed on his website: www.frantisekstrouhal.com.
Slocan resident Pat Ashton honoured with Medal of Good Citizenship

submitted

Pat Ashton, a well-known Slocan citizen, was recently presented with the Medal of Good Citizenship by Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour Shirley Bond, on behalf of Premier Christy Clark. The ceremony was held Tuesday, March 21 in Cranbrook.

“I am honoured and humbled that my peers would nominate me for such a prestigious award,” said Ashton. “I also feel somewhat undeserving when there are so many volunteers that do so much, and give freely of their time to make Slocan such a fantastic place to live. Giving back by volunteering helps to build a stronger, closer-knit community, in which everyone is proud to call home.

The medal recognizes individuals who, through exceptional long-term service, have made outstanding contributions to their communities without expectation of remuneration or reward. The medal reflects their generosity, service, acts of selflessness and contributions to community life. Nominations for the Medal of Good Citizenship are accepted year round.

Pat Ashton’s contributions to the community include serving on the Spirit of Slocan Committee, many community celebrations have benefitted from his ongoing involvement. He plays Santa at Christmas events, helps organize Halloween Boot fireworks, and organizes a family skating party every Boxing Day.

Ashton also served on the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission for four years. Ashton is a member of the Slocan Valley Legion Branch 276. He officiates at the Remembrance Day service and the poppy service at the school and has been a key player in organizing renovations to the village-owned legion/ community hall.

His service to community and countless hours of volunteering include serving on the Spirit of Slocan Committee. Many community celebrations have benefited from his ongoing involvement. He plays Santa at Christmas events, helps organize Halloween Boot fireworks, and organizes a family skating party every Boxing Day.

Ashton also served on the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission for four years. Ashton is among a select group of British Columbians who will receive the Medal of Good Citizenship.

“You could meet every citizen of this province and not meet someone more dedicated to their community than Pat Ashton,” said Premier Christy Clark. “From creating family events, to preserving Slocan’s historical sites, to creating more economic opportunity, Pat goes the extra mile for Slocan and the people who call it home.”

Artist Paula Cravens exhibits at the Nelson Library

submitted

New Denver artist Paula Cravens brings her personality to the canvas, engaging paint, collage, abstract and a touch of whimsy in her portfolio of original works. Her paintings brighten the walls at the Nelson Public Library through March and April.

Raised between the soy bean, corn and oil fields of a central Illinois farming community, Cravens received a BFA from Eastern Illinois University but then took time out to raise two daughters and have a few adventures. In 2014, she moved to the Kootenays and opened Crazy Ravens Studio.

“Creating collage elements is exciting and surprising,” she says. “I continue to experiment, painting in acrylics, focusing on colour and texture. I am exploring abstract painting, sometimes I use it as a background element in my paintings and sometimes I let the abstract stand alone.”

The 10 paintings on display come with stories about their inspiration or origin. Marjorie’s Team is based on a photo of a girl’s hockey team from Cranbrook.

I truly believe that if something needs to be done or someone needs help, one should step up and help out. The biggest reward is how I feel better about myself, that warm fuzzy glow inside, knowing that your actions life in our little town is perhaps better for all of us.”

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Pat Ashton will be honoured for the incredible mark he has made on Slocan in the 12 years he has resided there.

Ashton inspired a 40-member volunteer work force to create the community gym at the Wellness Centre. He oversaw the relocation of the cenotaph to the Wellness Centre grounds and is now involved in the landscaping plan. The beautification of the village is an ongoing part of Ashton’s volunteer activities, including litter pick-up and repairs to the village sign.

Ashton is the president of the Slocan Valley Legion Branch 276. He officiates at the Remembrance Day service and the poppy service at the school and has been a key player in organizing renovations to the village-owned legion/ community hall.

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RCMP officers attend RDCK meeting to answer directors’ questions

by Jan McMurray

RCMP Inspector Tom Roy and Corporal Leanne Turscherer came to the March 16 RDCK meeting to answer questions from the directors. Most of the questions were about the lack of communication between the police and elected officials. Several directors said they used to have regular communication with their local detachment commanders, but not so in the past couple of years.

Inspector Roy said he always encourages elected officials to connect directly with their local detachment commander, and to inform the Nelson detachment if there is a problem with communication or if community issues aren’t being addressed.

Director Suzan Hewat said her community of Kaslo used to have a Community Consultative Group and she would like to re-activate it.

“Yes, your local detachment commander knows you what you like,” Roy said. “We will do what we can to help you implement whatever format you want. We answer to the communities – we’re your local police service.”

Inspector Roy said he hears this complaint every year, particularly in the summer with motorcycles, and he understands that this is a problem – there was a significant increase in fatalities and injuries on the road in 2016/17. However, there is a dedicated traffic section in the region. “Traffic enforcement is their full-time job,” he said. “We have campaigns every year with huge road checks. They are out there.” All the same, he said he’d take this concern to the traffic unit commander.

Director Tanya Wall said she’d like to see more drug education in the schools, “to get in front of the opioid and fentanyl crisis.” Roy said Corporal Reardon Bellman is now in Strategic Prevention Services and will be doing a lot of work in the region’s schools. Corporal Turscherer added that carfentanil has come into the community – into Grand Forks for sure.

Roy also mentioned that the Nelson Rural RCMP detachment is short staffed, and he doesn’t see any improvement in the near future. “The capacity is not there anymore for proactive police work,” he said. “We have had some success – the crime rate has been trending down throughout the Kootenay Boundary. But it’s going to continue to be a real challenge for us unless we get significant increases in resources.”

Corporal Reardon Bellman is now in Strategic Prevention Services and will be doing a lot of work in the region’s schools. Corporal Turscherer added that carfentanil has come into the community – into Grand Forks for sure.

Director Garry Jackman raised the issue of motorcycle use and safety on the road in 2016/17. However, there is a dedicated traffic section in the region. “Traffic enforcement is their full-time job,” he said. “We have campaigns every year with huge road checks. They are out there.” All the same, he said he’d take this concern to the traffic unit commander.

Inspector Roy said he hears this complaint every year, particularly in the summer with motorcycles, and he understands that this is a problem – there was a significant increase in fatalities and injuries on the road in 2016/17. However, there is a dedicated traffic section in the region. “Traffic enforcement is their full-time job,” he said. “We have campaigns every year with huge road checks. They are out there.” All the same, he said he’d take this concern to the traffic unit commander.

Director Tanya Wall said she’d like to see more drug education in the schools, “to get in front of the opioid and fentanyl crisis.” Roy said Corporal Reardon Bellman is now in Strategic Prevention Services and will be doing a lot of work in the region’s schools. Corporal Turscherer added that carfentanil has come into the community – into Grand Forks for sure.

Roy also mentioned that the Nelson Rural RCMP detachment is short staffed, and he doesn’t see any improvement in the near future. “The capacity is not there anymore for proactive police work,” he said. “We have had some success – the crime rate has been trending down throughout the Kootenay Boundary. But it’s going to continue to be a real challenge for us unless we get significant increases in resources.”

Authors Geddes and Pogue featured at Convergence Writers’ Weekend

by Jan McMurray

The three workshops will be at Knox Hall in New Denver April 12, May 3 and May 24 from 12:30 to 2:30. The cost of the first two workshops is $15 each, while the third session, a rehearsal for an upcoming public concert, is by donation.

A concert of dancing and drumming with ‘In the Sticks’ and workshop participants will take place Sunday, May 28 at Silverton Memorial Hall at 2 pm.

Would-be workshop participants must register, as only 12 spots are available. To register, call Margaretha at 358-2729 or Nancy Guise at 265-8530.

More information on ‘In the Sticks’ can be found online at inthesticksdrumdan.wixsite.com/my or on Facebook.

These activities are supported by Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance.

Alberta writer Pogue co-founded a peace camp for kids, and contributes a twice-monthly column to the United Church Observer about the aspects of Canadian history.

Besides Friday’s talk at 7 pm, registrants can choose workshops with either Geddes or Pogue on the Saturday, from 9 am to noon and 2 to 5 pm. An optional session for registrants Saturday evening at 7 pm will present readings by workshop participants and a discussion of the weekend’s theme.

The event is partially supported by the ProVision fund of the United Church’s BC Conference.

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Nakusp council, February 27: Arrow Lakes Historical Society requests free rent
by Andrea Myhal

• An Arrow Lakes Historical Society delegation including Marilyn Taylor, Rosemarie Parent and Ken Willaims requested that council consider waiving the lease payment for space in the Centennial building from $2,500 to $1. Taylor explained that the society’s annual meeting is usually held in the building and Williams outlined the benefits of the archives to the community, including bringing in tourist dollars. Mayor Hamling noted that the lease payment is in the Village’s 2017 budget, and removing that line item would mean they’d have to raise taxes to cover the $2,500 shortfall. She indicated that council would discuss this request further.

• An Art Party delegation asked council for a variance to the noise bylaw for in May 6 ‘Parasom’ event from 7 pm to 2 am at the Old Fire Hall Collective, both indoors and outdoors. Organizers are expecting 600 attendees. They had identified potential issues with businesses and residences near the old fire hall, and will be offering high quality earplugs to peers to mitigate the noise. Council agreed to the variance.

• Abra Brynne, coordinator of the new Central Kootenay Food Policy Council, attended to give an overview of the council. An independent, community-based non-profit organization that is formally linked to local government (RDCK), the Food Policy Council is “the formal bridge between local government and the many civil society and industry organizations working on food systems in the region, from food access to farming.” The council will spearhead projects stemming from the new council’s reports, including the Agriculture Area Plan, the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, the City of Nelson’s food security assessment, and will support initiatives such as Fields Forward, an agriculture support group, in Creston.

• Council gave the Nakusp Farmers Market permission to expand the market north one block along 5th Avenue. Market organizers did not ask that any part of Broadway be closed. They will place signs on Broadway indicating that the market is happening to the west and east of Broadway on 5th Avenue.

• The Rotary Club was given the green light from council to install additional lighting on the sidewalks, subject to the acquisition of funding by the Rotary Club and the finalization of in-kind service by the Village.

• Although Director of Operations Warren Leigh reported numerous snow removal complaints, he said the crew “has put in a huge effort to keep the town moving, working 10-12 shifts during the last snowfall.” They contracted out almost $20,000 worth of hauling downtown snow and keeping the sidewalks open.

• The sand filter pilot results are in, and they look good. “The sand filters improved our effluent to a state where reclaimed water is feasible,” said Leigh. They are still waiting for the retention study.

• Leigh reported that they received the engineer’s report for the proposed expansion of North Road services. Possible complications shown in the report have prompted increasing the estimated cost of the project from $175,000 to $210,000.

• Council agreed to consider rezoning and changing the land use designation of Howard and Kathryn Cann’s property adjacent to the rail trail from R2A Suburban Residential A to R1 Urban Residential. This will allow for the construction of a single family dwelling on the property. This will go to public hearing on March 27, just before the council meeting.

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Burton Community Association AGM
March 28, 2017
6:30 pm at the Burton Community Hall
To be followed immediately by the RDCKL Community Input meeting on the Burton Water System
SD10 Arrow Lakes has
SCHOOL BUSES FOR SALE

Specs:
- Bus 4100 and 4101 are 2004 Bluebird, 72 passenger buses
- Bus 4100 @ 163000 kms and Bus 4101 @ 109900 kms
- 466e International Engines
- Automatic Transmissions

SD10 will be accepting sealed bids until April 7, 2017. Please submit your closed and sealed bid attention to Art Olson, Manager of Operations in person at the Board Office at 98, 6th Ave or by mail, PO Box 340, Nakusp BC, V0G 1R0.

For additional information or to schedule a viewing appointment please contact Art Olson by phone at 250-265-3638 ext. 3331 between the hours of 8:30-4:00pm, Monday to Friday.

Note to Bidders: The District maintains the rights to refuse any or all bids.

COMMUNITY

Slocan council, March 13: Slocan plans for paving this season

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

- News that the Village has approved up to $200,000 for paving roads in Slocan was brought forward from an in camera meeting held on February 27. Part of Highway 6 north of Slocan will be resurfaced this summer and the Village is going to “piggy-back” on this Ministry of Transportation project. This is an opportunity to buy asphalt at prices that the ministry gets, usually about 40% lower than the Village could get on its own. There are also administrative savings because the ministry prepares the contracts and oversees the project. Village staff have prioritized which sections of Village streets need re-paving and these have been submitted in response to the ministry’s Request for Proposals. The Village will dip into its gas tax reserve to fund the repaving. Currently, the gas tax reserve has a balance of $409,551 with another $67,917 expected to be added in 2017.

- Also brought forward from the in camera meeting of February 27 was news that Village water is safe. Water Labs tested the drinking water for lead at various places around the Village. The lab report noted that “the levels seen in samples taken throughout the Village were within drinking water limits and of no cause for concern.”

- Council approved the Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society’s Development Permit application to build a 12 unit seniors and affordable housing complex behind the Wellness Centre on two conditions: that the SVSWS enter into a long-term lease with the Village and obtain a building permit. Council also approved a parking easement for seven parking stalls on the Wellness Centre grounds north of the cenotaph. This is the minimum number of parking stalls required for the housing complex. The society was also directed to provide council with legal agreements on a shared septic easement, the parking easement, a water line statutory right of way, an electricity easement, and an encroachment agreement.

New Denver council, March 14: Free admission to Nikkei Centre for New Denverites this year

By Jan McMurray

- Residents and property owners of New Denver will be given a family pass for free admission to the Nikkei Centre in 2017, which marks the 75th anniversary of Japanese-Canadian internment. The goals are to improve local knowledge and awareness of the history of the site, acknowledge the Village’s role in operating the site, and increase the number of visitors to the centre. Council received the 2016 annual water report. Total water consumption from the Village water system for the year was 121 million litres. In 2015, it was 153 litres and in 2014, 134 million litres. The report provides information on water supply, water system operators, the cross connection control program, the distribution system improvement plan, source protection, emergency response plan, water quality monitoring, comprehensive testing, maintenance, and future equipment replacement.

- Leonard Casley was appointed Fire Chief and Nigel Thomas was appointed Deputy Chief. Captains are Jamie Grierson, Derek Hicks, and Tamara Barkowsky. The SVOA has a 12 member fire crew.

Silverton council, March 14: Village will not take over Red Mountain internet

by Jan McMurray

- Council decided not to pursue the acquisition of the Red Mountain Internet service. Council supports in principle the expression of intent by the Kaslo infoNet Society to participate in a discussion with Red Mountain Internet Society and the Village of Silverton in the pursuit of a fibreoptic internet system.

- Wages for the public works foreman, public works assistant, and administrative assistant were increased by 2% for the 2017 calendar year.

- Council received a letter from the provincial Rural Dividend program, confirming the $47,250 grant to the Village for the Silverton Gallery Renovation project. The Village is waiting to hear the results of other grant applications before moving ahead with any work on the building. Mayor Clarke will continue as Village liaison to the Slocan Lake Gallery Society.

- A $200 discretionary grant was given three readings. In 2017, the $1.4 million budget is made up of $139,455 in property taxes, $70,700 in water fees, $602,796 in grants for projects, $276,000 in the small community grant, and $202,741 in collections for other agencies. The big project on the books for the year is the water project. Council hopes to receive a grant from the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund for this project.
Nakusp and Area Trails Master Plan: open houses kick off public consultation

by Katrine Campbell

The Nakusp arena auditorium was packed March 9 by people wanting to hear about, and provide their input into, the Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan. Similar meetings were held in Burton March 7 and Edgewood March 8.

Consultant Brent Harley of IHA and two associates facilitated the open house. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Harley described what a master plan is, how it’s created, the benefits of trails, types of trails, and users, and the master plan’s vision, goals and objectives.

The Trails Master Plan will provide a comprehensive strategy for the ongoing development of a community-wide trail network, help guide the development of trails and trail maintenance, and establish a diversified mix of trails that cater to the full spectrum of trail users. It will include an inventory of every trail in Area K and the Village of Nakusp.

The Columbia Basin Trust’s Lynda Lafleur said she had been asked for funding by various trail groups and “it’s hard to choose one over another.” To solve this problem, she encouraged the creation of a master plan. She added that requests for larger amounts of money (up to $400,000) are easier to support with community input. One-third of requests of $100,000 or larger funding were for heritage trails, she said, and without a master plan it would be hard to get any money.

Harley talked about many benefits of trails, including health, fitness and recreation, and as a tourism draw.

Because of the diverse user groups, an umbrella group will be needed “to pull it all together.” One of the master plan’s goals is to create such a group.

In the meantime, the working committee consists of the Arrow Lakes ATV Club, Arrow Lakes Cross-Country Ski Club, Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders, Arrow Lakes Saddle Club, Nakusp and Area Bike Society, Nakusp and Area Community Trails Society, Nakusp Rod and Gun Club and an informal group of dirt bikers.

At one point the discussion veered off course when a few people complained about the trail around the Village being off-limits to motorized use. Others disagreed, saying the small trail should be kept safe for pedestrians. One of the presenters pointed to a map of the entire area, comparing the size of hours of planned outages. “We will work with local government and the community to minimize any impact to our customers,” the Crown corporation says. “We will also bring in multiple crews for each outage to minimize the amount of time customers will be out of power and to maximize the amount of work that can be done during each planned outage.”

For some of the work the line could be isolated so that Brouse, Burton, East Arrow Park, Faquier, Glenbank, Makinson and Nakusp would not be affected.

The restoration and refurbishment project is intended to improve the safety and reliability of the line operation. Work will include: replacing and upgrading structures, cross-arms, hardware and conductor components that are at or near their end-of-life or defective and prone to a high-risk of failure; upgrading and restoring existing access roads; completing right-of-way vegetation clearing and brushing; and undertaking vegetation and lightning studies to determine if reliability can be substantially improved by undertaking clearing and installing surge protection devices.

BC Hydro power outages scheduled starting next month

submitted

Starting in April and continuing into 2018, BC Hydro will be conducting restoration and repair work on the 60kV transmission line, affecting customers from Faquier to Silverton.

The work is “to improve safety and ensure reliable service for our customers.” The line serves customers in Brouse, Burton, East Arrow Park.

Tipping fees increase in the RDCK submitted

Mixed waste tipping fees will increase in the RDCK’s central and west subregions on April 1.

For the west subregion, mixed waste tipping fees have been increased by $5/tonne ($2/m3) to $90/tonne ($22/m3).

Calderon pleads not guilty to all but one charge

by Jan McMurray

Alejandro Calderon appeared in Nelson court on March 7 by video from the correction centre where he is being held. Calderon is facing several criminal charges in relation to an incident in Needles on January 28 this year, when he allegedly showed up at a neighbour’s party with a running chainsaw and started cutting a power pole. He is also facing charges for incidents in Needles on July and November last year.

Calderon pleaded not guilty to all charges except the charge of mischief resulting in the cut power pole. Lawyer Blair Suffredine is representing Calderon.

His next appearance is April 11 in Nelson, when he will elect his mode of trial for charges related to the January 28 chainsaw incident, as well as fix dates for two trials: one on charges of breaching an undertaking on January 28, and the other on charges of mischief under $5,000 in relation to an incident November 30 in Needles.

He will appear in Nakusp court on May 24 to continue his trial in regards to a peace bond issue. He is representing himself in this matter.

The Ministry of Transportation stockpiling riprap from Hwy 31A

by Jan McMurray

In preparation for this year’s melt, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is blasting rock from an outcropping on Hwy 31A between New Denver and Sandon, and stockpiling the riprap.

“Every year, the spring melt in the Kootenays generates high water flows which can lead to erosion or flooding of our roads and bridges. We place all over our roads and bridges in zones where and when they are threatened by the erosional forces of water,” a ministry spokesperson explained.

The ministry is investing $800,000 into the drilling, blasting and hauling of riprap to local stock pile sites for future use. The work is expected to generate between 5,000 and 10,000 cubic metres of rock.

The Columbia Basin Trust has reported that since the inception of the Opportunities Fund, $7.9 million has been distributed to local groups to address community needs related to the events. This includes approximately $80,000 in Columbia Basin Trust support, $150,000 in federal funding and $100,000 in local funding.

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THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business? If so, call Community Futures to learn about the free Business Plan workshop that will help you with your start-up. To learn more, call 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

Nakusp@futures.bc.ca

A message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave

Self Employment program in the Arrow
counseling & training; and delivers the
Community Futures offers business loans,
for the Self-Employment program where
And if you're eligible, you may also qualify
Business Plan workshop open to anyone!

ENTREPRENEUR? ARE YOU AN ASPIRING
250-353-2282.

AWARD
16

Seniors Housing Society for the use of
would also like to thank the Slocan Valley
2017 program, as we would not have been
of British Columbia and viaSport for their
would like to sincerely thank the Province
SLOCAN V ALLEY RECREATION
18

organizations, groups and individuals to
Hall. Calling on all Slocan Valley businesses,
April 22 in Slocan City for girls ages 10-13,
GARDEN COOKING
IS BACK!

Spark a new interest in your garden with this outdoor cooking event with a local guest expert. Even if you're a beginning gardener, you can learn different creative ways to use the vegetables from your garden. The event is FREE!

TIME, 10:00 - 1:00
PLACE: Agolta Hall, Slocan City
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
BEGINNERS, INTERMEDIATE, EXPERTS
DON'T MISS OUT

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Dr. Michael Brennan • Chiropractor
His Nelson office at 250-352-5135
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Hand & Soul Wellness Centre
202 Lake Avenue, Silverton
CHIROPRACTOR: Dr. Larry Zaleski
Over 30 years experience in Sports Health Care
Specializing in Back Pain, Sports Injuries, and Massage Therapy.
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15 years experience helping clients working with anxiety, depression, grief, post traumatic stress, the transition or simply feeling stuck or ungrounded.

Call 250-358-3117 for appointments

CLASSIFIED ADS
kids. Coaching available. Don’t miss out
on the fun! All ages and abilities, and all
kinds of music welcome. Registration
forms available at New Market Foods and
www.slocanlake.com. Registration period:
April 3-20. Hosted by the Slocan District
Chamber of Commerce. More info: 250-
226-7967 or at www.slocanlake.com

INTER-GENERATIONAL COOKING IS BACK!
All ages cook and eat together.
Work with a local panel expert to create
great new tastes, or enjoy old favorites:
homemade tacos, fresh pasta, coborn
pizza, sushi, and more. On Thursday, April
6, we’ll make tortillas, salsa and refried
beans from scratch, for delicious tacos! The
program runs for six Thursdays 5-7 pm
at WEG Community Services in Slocan.
To register, call 250-226-7695.

QUIET SPOT comes to New Denver. If you’re longing for a little space in your busy day,
join us for Quiet Spot on March 29 or
April 11, 1205-12:55 at Knox Hall. Bring
your own lunch, join in a short discussion
for the first 15 minutes while you eat,
and then take the next 40 minutes to meditate,
nap, stare out the window or journal.
No charge. Sponsored by Wide Spot/Turner
Unity Church. More info?: 358-7904.

ROWENA ELOISE celebrates 80 years an artist. Gallery Retrospective. Easter Sunday, April 16. 10 am – 4 pm. Aragona Hall. All are welcome.

SLOCAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY presents Barbara Brown, Artist, forest-walker and local author of Sylvia Reflections: Wanderings, Paintings and Ponderings from the Forest. Sunday, April 9 at 1 pm. A free event.

The Valley Voice March 23, 2017
SLOCAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY
SOCIETY Annual General Meeting. April 27, 2017 from 7-9 pm. To be held at Slocan Community Library, 710 Harold Street, Slocan.

ONE OF THE FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING is the Khoan Garden Spring Clean-up, this year, on April 1 and 2, 9 am-4 pm. SLUGS will provide a delicious hot soup lunch and beverages. If you have tools bring them, and your family and friends.

VALHALLA WILDERNESS PROGRAM Bottle Drive – Saturday, April 20, 2017 from 9-11:00. Pick-up from Slocan Park to Slocan City. Call ahead for large pick-ups on 250-355-2212. Thank you for your support.

WIDE SPOT returns to ask, „What values do I share with THEM?“ How do we live with and learn from the differences when we disagree – and is there a way to move beyond labels and opinions? Come explore this territory on SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 4 pm, at the Apple Tree. Childcare at the Outlet Youth Centre at 3:45; music by Freya. A gift to the community from Turner-Zoon United Church.
March 23, 2017   The Valley Voice


Are you concerned about the current environment that exists between Pedro and Trozzo Creeks. Do you care about water testing? Our riparian corridor? General watershed management? Join this volunteer stewardship group.

FOR RENT
COZY STUDIO SUITE in Silverton available for rent April, 1-250-345-0910. Call Sue at 250-358-2177.

FOR SALE

HEALTH


CARE AIDE Needed with Care Aide Certificate or equivalent for mature disabled male. Will train. Reply with brief resume and certificate or equivalent for mature disabled person. Please try another number. If you don’t get through when you call, please try another number.

HELP WANTED
To Care Aide, Box 433, New Denver, BC 226-7705; Playmor Junction 359-7310. For more information, visit www.carpentercreeklastwishesociety.ca.

EVEN SMALL ADS GET PUBLISHED

CLASSIFIED ADS
www.carpentercreeklastwishesociety.ca, rural-rentals.com, thevalleyvoice.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
with the New Denver Friday Market. Our local BCMA member market is looking to hire a manager for this season. For a job description and to submit a resume please email the New Denver Community Market Society at adidajaymarkt@gmail.com. Deadline for application is 4 pm on April 6, 2017.

MOUNTAIN HEALTH CLINIC in Nakusp is currently recruiting for a Receptionist. We are looking for an outgoing, highly organized and professional individual to join our team. The successful candidate will be exceptional at multi-tasking and will have the ability to remain calm in stressful situations. Reception and/or medical office experience is preferred but not necessary. If you are interested in this role we are willing to train the right person. Full benefits including MSP premiums available after a three-month probationary period and ROSP available after three years of employment. If you feel you are the high energy person our busy clinic is looking for, please email your cover letter and resume to sdcma@netlink.ca or fax to 250-265-3050.

PAST LIVES, DREAMS AND SOUL TRAVEL— free download of books and CD collection on our website. www.leafcabinetry.com 250-226-7441

STARS FOR SUCCESS (0 – 6 yrs)
Stars for Success is a community-based program that provides financial assistance to West Kootenay families for kids, up to the age of six, to participate in local sport, art, music, recreation and early learning programs. For more information or to apply, visit www.startsforsuccess.com or call 250-358-7676 / 1-866-551-5437 or stop by the West Kootenay Early Years Office at 125 Hall Street in Nelson. All applications forms are also available at the Rec Office.


FOR RENT
RURAL RENTAL WANTED for long term beginning May. Any region in Slocan Valley or area. Independent, semi-retired individual looking for small tiny house or cabin out of town. Must have wood heat option and pet friendly. References available. Call. text 250-306-4295

MAY IS COMING UP FAST! Sarah, Mark, and Sequoia Jeffries are still seeking a furnished summer rental in the Slocan Valley from the second week of May (as early as the 10th) through the second week of August. This summer and possibly through the third week of September. Ideally, we would like to rent a place in New Denver or Silverton, close to the lake, but as far as past summers, we are open to possibilities from Red Mtn Rd. up to Hills. Please contact us, by email at markjeffries87@yahoo.com or by phone at (801) 910-1532 if you have or know of an available rental suitable for two adults and a little girl. We look forward to hearing back!

LEARNING, REACHING, STARING— STARS for Success is a community-based program that provides financial assistance to West Kootenay families for kids, up to the age of six, to participate in local sport, art, music, recreation and early learning programs. For more information or to apply, visit www.startsforsuccess.com or call 250-358-7676 / 1-866-551-5437 or stop by the West Kootenay Early Years Office at 125 Hall Street in Nelson. All applications forms are also available at the Rec Office.

HALL LUMBER & BUILDING SUPPLIES
10 am to 5 pm
Find us at 280 Lower Inonoaklin Rd.

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Alex Joseph
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Leaf Cabinetry
Residential & commercial cabinet work.
Winlaw, BC
250-226-7441

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Easter Egg Hunt: Sun Apr 16, 11am-1pm, Passmore Hall, Sponsored by Kootenay Scoot Lions Club and Slocan Valley Rec. Lunch and crafts, bring a basket! Rabbit attire encouraged, everyone welcome. Free, please pre-register.

WILDERNESS & Remote First Aid—Basic: Fri Apr 21, 6-10pm, Sat/Sun Apr 22/23, 8:30-5:30; $225. Advanced (must have basic): Fri Apr 28, 6-10pm, Sat/Sun Apr 29/30, 8:30-5:30, $75. Crescent Valley Hall. For more info call 250-226-0008.

Next Valley Voice
Deadline: March 17, 2017

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Jumbo Wild: Petition delivered to Province and Ktunaxa Nation

submitted

On March 14, a petition with 61,526 signatures calling for the permanent protection of the Jumbo Valley organized by Wildsight was presented in the BC Legislature by Columbia River-Revelstoke MLA Norm Macdonald and Nelson-Creston MLA Michelle Mungall.

“This fake town, which is actually just a slab of concrete buried in an avalanche path, has a mayor, a council, and yet it serves no one,” said Mungall. “Replying to my request to fold this fake town, Christy Clark’s Liberals said they want to see something ‘come to fruition.’ It’s time to put our energy into real projects that benefit real people in the Kootenays.”

More than 10,000 from British Columbia and thousands from the Kootenays were joined by signers from around the world standing up against the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort in the heart of the Purcell Mountains.

“We’re here today… to stand up and demand that Christy Clark and the BC Government not only halt all development in the Jumbo Valley,” said Wildsight Executive Director Robyn Duncan, speaking to Jumbo Wild supporters on the steps of the BC Legislature, “but also permanently protect the ecological and spiritual values of the Jumbo Valley.”

The previous day, Wildsight and the Jumbo Wild coalition presented the petition to the transboundary Ktunaxa Nation in support of their Qat’muk Declaration at a ceremony in the Ktunaxa Nation Government offices in Cranbrook, with more than 100 in attendance.

The petition was launched in a partnership between Wildsight and Patagonia, out of which came the feature-length film Jumbo Wild that inspired tens of thousands around the world to stand up for the remote wilderness, critical grizzly bear connectivity habitat and Ktunaxa spiritual values of the Jumbo Valley.

“It isn’t just wolverines and bears that need wilderness; humans need wilderness too,” said Duncan, “and that’s what the Jumbo Glacier Resort threatens: one of the last significant pieces of wilderness in southern BC.”

For the Ktunaxa, the Jumbo Valley is Qat’muk, the home of the grizzly, and an important spiritual site that they claim would be desecrated by the proposed resort. The Ktunaxa are defending Qat’muk with a judicial challenge.

"Jumbo is not an island and Jumbo can never truly be protected until the central Purcells are protected," added Duncan in Victoria.
Communities look to invest in clean energy

submitted

People building our future economy are featured speakers at the upcoming forum, “Possibilities for community investing in clean energy” on April 6 from 7 to 9 pm at the Nelson Chamber of Commerce.

Nakusp and Idaho Interact Clubs get together in Nakusp

submitted

Seven members of the North Idaho Interact Club and their two chaperones, Ada and Brian Loper, visited Nakusp this past weekend on the first part of an exchange with the Nakusp Secondary School Interact Club. This visit resulted in the Nakusp and Idaho Interact Clubs getting together in Nakusp.

Interact is Rotary International’s service club for young people. Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting. Interact gives students aged 12-18 the chance to make a real difference while having fun. Every Interact club carries out two service projects a year: one that helps their school or community and one that promotes international understanding. Students are able to connect with community leaders, develop leadership skills, make international connections, and discover more opportunities to connect with Rotary, including Rotaract (Rotary for ages 18 to 30), RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award, a week-long leadership camp in Castlegar), and Youth Exchange.

Besides enjoying both the Nakusp and Halcyon Hot Springs, the two groups toured the Rotary waterfront lighting project, had a joint Interact meeting at the Arrowtarian Phase 4 meeting room, played cooperative games in the Nakusp Secondary School library, hiked to the timber frame bridge over the Kuskanax, and ate lots. The highlight was a joint service project in front of Overwaitea, where the students encouraged Nakusp residents to donate personal care products that would then be handed over to Community Services. They also provided free coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies to anyone who stopped by, whether they donated or not. The two Interact clubs wish to thank everyone for their donations. They hope to do another drive in the future.

The Nakusp and Northern Idaho Interact Clubs got together last weekend in Nakusp. Standing: Brianna McKay (N), Hailey Konda (I), Emily Torres (I), Austin Torres (I), President Maggie McGovern (I), Solon Brenner (I), President Carmen Larder (N). Sitting: Maja Larder (N), Rachel Park (I), Braden Farrar (I), Rhys McLeod (N), Ashley Friedenberger (N).

Bereavement Journal Program (6 weeks)

April 6 - May 11, 2017
Thursdays (10 am - 1 pm)
LOCATION IN NAKUSP (TBA)

This bereavement program sponsored by the Nakusp Hospice Society is modeled after the successful program developed by Susan Beidell of Victoria Hospice Society, Facilitators Sue Mistrutta, M.A. (Silverton) and Alice Watson, M.Ed (Couns. Psych) (Burton) will provide a safe, supportive and confidential space for participants to explore their grief and to discover a healing journey which cultivates compassion and acceptance for the array of intense feelings and confusing thoughts experienced through loss. The program is open to anyone who is going through a grieving process after losing someone close to them, whether the loss is recent or in the distant past. We will explore grief through writing exercises (journaling), collage and other simple art processes. Participants will come to understand and normalize their grief experience and will learn hands-on skills for dealing with life after loss. No experience in writing or art required. Limited to 8 participants.

PROGRAM FEE: $35.00 (All learning materials are provided).
To register or for more information please contact Sue at 358-2177 soulgardens58@gmail.com Registration Deadline April 1, 2017
Sponsored by Nakusp Hospice Society

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Don’t drain the swamp! Restore a wetland instead...

submitted

Wetlands are an important part of our ecosystems. They provide habitat for a diversity of species of plants and animals (including rare species) and also store, filter and purify water. There are many types of wetlands: swamp, bog, fen, marsh and shallow water wetlands.

The Slocan River Streamkeepers invite everyone to join them for a presentation and open house about the wetlands and wetland restoration in the Slocan Valley on Sunday, March 26, 1 to 3 pm, at Winalow Hall. If you’re a landowner and you’re interested in the possibility of creating or restoring a wetland on your property go to the open house or contact the Slocan River Streamkeepers’ restoration ecologist Greg at 250-326-7302 or info@slocanriverstreamkeepers.com.

The Slocan Valley has a variety of wetlands from the valley bottom to the mountain slopes and ridges, and the Slocan River Streamkeepers have been studying, assessing and mapping many wetlands in the Slocan Valley by initiating and being a part of the Slocan Wetlands Assessment and Monitoring Project (SWAMP). Many wetlands were identified and mapped and the health of those wetlands was also assessed.

Wetlands (including swamps) have often been seen with a negative eye throughout the ages. We feared them and have drained, cleared and filled the wetlands for many years in most part of the world, for agricultural, industrial and housing purposes. In the Columbia Basin we lost many wetlands following the building of large dams for water storage and electricity production.

Recognizing the essential role of wetlands in a fully functioning ecosystem, an increasing number of people are looking at restoring their numerous functions. Many restoration projects have evolved in the last few years across the Columbia Basin and other parts of the province. Many of these projects have been initiated by BC Wildlife Federation with assistance and training from Tom Biebighauser, a wetland restoration expert from Kentucky.

At least three projects have been initiated and are evolving in the Slocan Valley. The most recent one, on a small organic farm in Winalow, is coordinated by the Slocan River Streamkeepers with funding from the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program and the National Wetland Conservation Fund administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada. Other local funders and organizations have also contributed in-kind to the project.

The main goal is to create habitat for diverse species including amphibians such as the Columbia spotted frog, Western toad and painted turtles, and birds, bats and other animals, as well as macro-invertebrates that will provide food for the birds and for the fish living in the river. Some of those species are also allies to the organic farmers, amphibians, birds and bats that will also help control insects on the farm.

Many aspects of the restoration project will also benefit the farmers by mitigating climate extremes as a result of holding and storing water on the land for a longer period of time. The extreme temperature and cycles of flooding and drought will be mitigated in both the medium and long term.

The soil that was excavated during the project was used to raise the level of the land that was subject to seasonal flooding allowing the farmers to start planting earlier in the season. Other benefits may include the possibility of growing edible and medicinal plants in the wetlands. Long-term benefit includes carbon storage, climate mitigation, reduction of extreme flooding and drought, water storage and purification, etc.

The Slocan River Streamkeepers Society’s AGM will be May 18, 7 pm, at Passmore Hall. The forum facilitators will present the society with a summary of the recommendations in May, after which the report will be made public.

Slocan Lake Stewardship hosts workshop to receive recommendations

submitted

Thirty-two regional scientists and government representatives attended a science forum at Silverton Hall February 23, hosted by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS). Thirteen scientists shared their research involving bull trout, kokanee, wolverines, grizzly bears, Western toads, various bats, birds and aquatic insects, wetlands, old growth forest, invasive species and climate change.

The forum’s purpose was to prioritize future research and development actions that will contribute to maintaining healthy fish and wildlife populations and ecological function in the Slocan Lake watershed. Participants broke into groups to discuss pressures on the ecosystem and approaches that recognize functional connections between physical areas and the multiple layers of life within the watershed.

The recommendations coming from the workshop will guide SLSS efforts over the next five to ten years. The forum facilitators will present the society with a summary of the recommendations in May, after which the report will be made public.

HOW WE GOT STARTED

Our mission statement from March 7, 2017:

The “Society for Nakusp Community Events - SNCE” was incorporated on January 27, 2017. At present our society operates with 7 Directors. Most of them are well experienced in creating and managing events!

While our society was founded with the goal of creating a new music event for Nakusp, there was unanimous consent by all Directors that any copying or even the attempt to reinstate the "Nakusp Music Fest" - as it was - may not work. Instead, our team agreed to offer cooperation to other local societies and group in an effort to create new events for Nakusp but also to assist in making the existing events bigger and better.

For 2017, we will focus on making the July 1st celebration a memorable one for all visitors. While Canada celebrates its 150th Birthday, Nakusp will celebrate its 125th Birthday.

Since mid-December, our team discussed cooperation with several other local societies and groups. As of today we have the support and/or cooperation for our plans by: the Nakusp & Area Chamber of Commerce, Kootenay Sufferfest, the Nakusp Youth Society, the Nakusp Medieval Society, the Village of Nakusp, CBT, Employment BC, Fire Hall Collective, Nakusp & Area Bike Society, Nakusp Rail Society, and The Art Party Group.

Our aim for the 2017 July 1st event is to cooperate with all the groups who want to perform, produce or just display what they want to show us all. While we will offer assistance, we will not interfere in the individual programs. What we strive to accomplish is that all the groups will work together on a rising and mutual benefit.

Together we will be more effective and subsequently more successful!