Kaslo landslide causes 11-day evacuation order and alert

by Art Joyce

On April 28, 11 days after the Zwicky Road landslide, the evacuation order for the six properties below the slide (three homes and Kaslo’s water treatment plant) was downgraded to an evacuation alert. The RDCK’s emergency services department swung swiftly into action, issuing an evacuation order for homes at risk in the Zwicky Road and Victoria Avenue area. Geotechnical engineers have been monitoring the site and the RDCK’s emergency management was regular updates.

The day after the slide (April 18), the evacuation order was reduced to six properties on Zwicky Road, Victoria Avenue and Charles Street, including three homes and the Kaslo water treatment plant. The remaining 41 homes were put on evacuation alert.

Emergency Social Services from the Province of BC provided evacuated families with emergency funding. The Kaslo water treatment plant has continued operating throughout the emergency. A safety plan for the plant is in place. About 30 people showed up for a public meeting held April 24 in the Kaslo Legion hall hosted by Emergency Services Coordinator Nora Hannon, Regional Fire Chief Andrew Bellamy and Area D Director Aimee Watson.

Initial geotechnical assessments revealed a small amount of muddy water flowing into the area and debris flows with large boulders. The toe of the slide was just 300 metres above the nearest homes on Zwicky Road. The landslide had actually split into two flows around a “tree island” in the centre. A geotechnical engineer inspected the site on April 21 and found some persistent slippage, debris

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Big Air Band/Lip Sync Contest returns to Silverton May 6

Got your tickets? The Big Air Band/Lip Sync Contest is returning to the Silverton Memorial Hall this Saturday, May 6. Doors open at 6:30 and the show starts at 7.

“We have so much fun putting this show together, and then the night of the show is an absolute riot,” says Jan McMurray, president of the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce, which organizes the event as a fundraiser for the operation of the Visitor Centre in New Denver.

This will be the third annual. It sold out last year and almost sold out the first year, so get your tickets in advance to avoid disappointment. Tickets are on sale at New Market Foods, Silverton Building Supplies, and Mountain Station.

3.0 tickets: Adults $10 advance/$12 at the door. Kids 6 and under free.

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The Valley Voice May 4, 2017

Nelson-Creston candidates cover the issues at All Candidates Forum

by Jan McMurray

Although there were 250 people at the Nelson-Creston All Candidates forum at the Nelson Prestige Inn on April 25, the candidates were asked to ignore the audience and pretend they were in Glenn Hicks’ living room. Hicks, a well-respected journalist, did a superb job of asking all the pertinent questions.

“You do see the MLA job as part of Victoria or like a super mayor?” he asked.

Tanya Wall, Liberal, feels strongly about working in local communities on local issues, and feels this has been lacking. Tom Prior, independent, is running because of a local issue – to bring back value-added forestry jobs. Jesse O’Leary, independent, sees himself doing mostly local work, connecting with the disenfranchised to determine how to address their issues. Kim Charlesworth, Green, would be a super mayor, finding out how to further her constituents’ interests and then doing so in Victoria. Michelle Mungall, NDP, says it’s important to stay connected in community and bring that perspective to Victoria, but when in Victoria, MLAs have to work for all British Columbians.

All five candidates would like to see electoral reform. Proportional representation is one of the six core principles of the Green Party’s platform. The NDP has been committed to Mixed Member Proportional Representation since the late 1990s. Both independent candidates support proportionality. The Liberal candidate only knows that she wants to find a system that works better. “It’s disheartening when we watch federal elections and when we know the results in the east, we know the results in the west,” she said.

Health care was a big topic of discussion. O’Leary feels health care costs will decrease when people better understand health issues. He wants to see more education on diet, environmental health, addiction, etc. He believes in volunteer organizations filling in the health care gap.

Charlesworth explained that the Greens will roll MSP premiums into a progressive tax system, so no one earning less than $100,000 a year will pay. She believes that the government should properly fund health care and take better care of its people, without relying on volunteer organizations such as Better at Home. She wants to get the community health care model (preventative health) up and running.

The NDP will eliminate the MSP over four years, and will expand home care services. Mungall said she feels preventive medicine and education are very important, as are physician recruitment efforts.

Wall disagrees that wealthier people aren’t paying their fair share under the MSP system. “If businesspeople are paying their employees’ premiums, they are paying their fair share,” she said. She is very supportive of volunteer programs such as Better at Home, which helps keep seniors in their homes longer. She wants to see gardens in classrooms, and sees the need to recruit doctors willing to work in the emergency room.

Tom Prior says we’re paying more for health care because we elected the Liberals, who “gutted our hospitals” and have a top heavy bureaucracy. “We’re a province that can’t take care of its old people and we should be ashamed of ourselves.” He says that vibrant communities will take care of physician recruitment.

Hicks opened up the conversation to criticism of incumbent Michelle Mungall. “Your role is to be a watchdog and you’ve done a pretty good job. But some would say you are not particularly collaborative because you are combative.”

Mungall agreed that she’s done a good job in question period, but away from the camera, she works collaboratively. She says she can knock on Liberal doors and get things done for Nelson-Creston.

Wall, a Regional District Director, said she and Mungall have not had a great working relationship. “We have different approaches,” she said... “I haven’t seen her at one meeting [about the closure of the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area]."

Prior described Mungall as a “very ambitious young woman” who has been “coached and coached for power” and said he is running because of ineffective representation.

O’Leary said Mungall is very passionate in some areas, and said he doesn’t like placing judgements on others.

When Charlesworth is knocking on doors, she hears that it’s often difficult to get an answer from Mungall’s office. However, she said Mungall is “passionate and believes she is doing the right thing for her constituents and BC.”

On education, Mungall says the NDP will stop fighting with teachers, will provide $30 million so that parents won’t have to fundraise for school supplies, and will move away from the per student funding model for rural schools.

Wall wants to work more closely with the school board. “Why did they need York School open so long? They should have closed it years ago.”

Prior says that if there are local jobs, there will be kids in the schools. O’Leary agreed, and said school buildings would be cheaper to operate if retrofitted with green energy technology.

Charlesworth said education is the Green Party’s number one priority. They will review the funding formula and move away from the per student model, bring teachers back into the conversation, and give school boards back the ability to manage their own budgets.

How to retail marijuana in Nelson-Creston was another question put forward by Hicks. Charlesworth feels that like alcohol, there can be a craft industry and it can be sold in government shops. Mungall is concerned about a big industry monopoly and wants to make sure there is room for a craft industry. Prior wants to keep it out of the hands of government, and O’Leary is hoping that the regulations don’t get “out of hand.” Wall says she doesn’t believe marijuana belongs in liquor stores and should be sold on its own. “What if an employee doesn’t feel comfortable selling marijuana?” she asked. She is very concerned about marijuana becoming more readily available to children.

The only candidate who supports the Kinder Morgan pipeline is Wall, as it will create jobs, and she prefers pipelines over rail transport. Charlesworth is ready to move to a green economy. “It makes absolutely no sense to support new oil and gas infrastructure. It’s a sunset industry and it makes no economic or environmental sense.” O’Leary agreed, and Prior described pipelines “insane.” Mungall said the NDP will never support the pipeline. Prior doesn’t support it, and doesn’t think the money is there to keep the project.

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The Valley Voice May 4, 2017

SAVING KOKANUSA LAKE

Paradise and Pain in the Kootenay

By Don Sayer

The Kootenay Lake water level has been dropping for years and the concern is that the lake will reach the 2,368 foot elevation by the end of this month. The current elevation is 2,368 feet and we are projecting to have Libby Dam down to 2,355 to 2,360 feet by the end of the month by releasing water through the powerhouse.

Fenolio also wrote that the Corps will reassess the downstream flood risk weekly to determine if they should start refilling the Libby Dam the first week of May. “It’s critical that we keep a line of communication open with our US counterparts,” Stetski said. “The expectation at this point is that the lake will reach full pool in July, but we will continue to monitor the situation.”

MP Stetski seeks assurances on Lake Kootanusa

submitted

Kootenay-Columbia Member of Parliament Wayne Stetski contacted the US Army Corps of Engineers last week to get answers on the low level of water in the Lake Kootanusa Reservoir.

“Each year at this time, residents keep an eye on Lake Kootanusa to ensure that it isn’t getting too low,” Stetski said. “Because the level is controlled by the Libby Dam in the US, I spoke with the Army Corps of Engineers to find out what’s going on.”

Engineer Joel Fenolio, the Corps’ Upper Columbia Senior Water Manager, responded with a detailed email.

“...we are currently trying to give Libby Dam enough space in the reservoir prior to this spring’s freshet,” Fenolio wrote. “This winter has been extremely cold and wet and the snowpack in the Kootenay Basin is sitting around 125 percent of average. We are projecting to have Libby Dam down to 2,355 to 2,360 feet by the end of the month by releasing water through the powerhouse.”

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2 NEWS
Candidates offer their vision for Kootenay West

by Katrine Campbell

Silvertown Memorial Hall was full of people wanting to hear the three Kootenay West candidates make their bids for votes, but it was a 12-year-old from Winlaw who stole the show.

During the question and answer session, Emerson Kelly, a grade 6 student at Winlaw Elementary, eloquently outlined the near-shutdown of the school by School District #8 last year, saved at the last minute by the Province putting an extra $1 million into rural education.

“Maybe if she [Premier Christy Clark] had all this money she should have spent it before closing down rural schools,” he said.

BC Liberal candidate Jim Postnikoff said he had asked Education Minister Mike Bernier to look at Winlaw, but closing it won’t be a strong idea for reducing maintenance costs because there was an overall lack of funding for rural schools.

Kelly retorted, “Actually, the maintenance cost is a very small percentage of the funding – I know the statistics – and cost wasn’t the issue.”

Postnikoff admitted that “sometimes there is no substance as to why a particular school is picked.”

Others at the meeting with knowledge of the issue pointed out it was intense protesting and lobbying on the part of parents from WE Graham and Winlaw schools that kept them both open.

The Greens’ Samantha (Sam) Troy said her party was committed to education and would look at utilizing spaces that had been shut down, as “I’d like to see us not bussing kids.”

New Democrat incumbent MLA Katrine Conroy said Clark had changed the way rural schools were funded. “We’ll look at funding and go back to the way it should be. We’ll make sure rural schools are not underfunded.”

The format of the evening followed the usual pattern: each candidate had three minutes to outline their background and party platform, the floor was opened to questions, then the candidates were allowed closing statements.

Postnikoff, a millwright and business owner, had the toughest time, torn between articulating the BC Liberal platform and acknowledging that the interior and the north were not included.

He suggested more highway signs and said municipalities should work with the ministry on signage.

Leah Main, a long-time Silverton councillor, RDCK rep and a director on the board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, disagreed with this suggestion.

“Traffic calming measures are not the responsibility of municipalities,” she said. “We have been downloaded on for years.” For every tax dollar collected, eight cents is returned to local government, she added.

Main went on to ask the candidates, “How do you see the relationship between your government and local government?”

Troy called for a restructurings of budgets to give more resources to local governments. Conroy said the BC Liberals “have done a really good job of downloading.” They spent millions of dollars to hire a municipal auditor, who completed six audits and found no problems. “This money could have gone to local governments.”

Postnikoff said it takes a strong economy to give back, and that it took a long time for his party’s government to get to a balanced budget and then implement a poverty-reduction strategy.

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The BC Provincial Election...

I don’t expect any big changes in the West Kootenay.

Katrine Conroy deserves to win her seat again. She’s a fabulous MLA. She’s smart and works hard. She’s got great staff. If you send her an e-mail, someone gets back to you within 24 hours. She’s a strong woman and a powerful voice for our communities, here in Kootenay West. I have no hesitation in endorsing her for another term.

I watched Katrine Conroy at the all-candidates meeting in Silverton. She was so much better than her opponents it was kind of sad. She has the advantage of incumbency, so she knows the local issues. She’s been an effective advocate in every critic’s role that she’s played in the last legislature.

She’s an asset to this constituency whether the NDP ever forms government or not. I’m always running into her at community events – she’s always glad to see me, and shegenerally gives me a hug. She likes people and treats them with compassion. I’ve always thought that compassion was an under-rated quality in a politician.

A cynic may say that she’s just doing her job – she’s supposed to schmooze the media and ingratiate herself with the public. Okay, I say to the cynic, she does her job really well – let’s give her another term.

The only complaint that I’ve ever heard about Katrine’s performance, and this is generally from dyed-in-the-wool right-wingers, is that she’s in the wrong party. She’s awesome and I hope that if the NDP win this election she’ll be in a John Horgan cabinet.

I expect that Michelle Mungall will hold onto her seat in Nelson-Creston as well. She took riding rather handily last time around. She’s strong, a principled woman, with a background in community organizing. I like MLAs like that.

While Mungall isn’t as good at getting back to e-mails as Conroy, her heart is in the right place. She’s been an effective critic in opposition, and keeps on top of her files. Her staff are really good at sending out press releases, not so good at buying ads for Minor Hockey Week.

The problem is that both her Green and Liberal opponents are strong, principled candidates, with a background in community organizing. Either one could be a fabulous MLA. Both take the Valley Voice seriously enough as an opinion leader in their potential constituency that they’ve bought advertising in this edition. Both need to motivate those who didn’t vote last time to get out and cast a ballot.

I watched the televised debate between the party leaders. My conclusions may be different than your own, but here they are:

John Horgan is exactly the kind of man that I want as leader of the official opposition. He’s feisty and sticks up for the little guy. He’s the kind of guy that I’d like to have standing up for me and the causes that I believe in. I hope that if he’s elected premier, he’ll adopt a more statesmanlike tone of guy that I’d like to have standing up for me and the causes that I believe in.

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Christy Clark was perky and glib. She worked for her last time around, so why not? I wasn’t impressed with her talk of standing up for BC families in. I hope that if he’s elected premier, he’ll adopt a more statesmanlike tone of guy that I’d like to have standing up for me and the causes that I believe in.

Andrew Weaver was great. He was calm and spoke with some thought, rather than simply repeating the party platform. I liked him a lot.

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continued from page 4

friends and neighbours is to check out the candidate, the leader and the platform and then vote your conscience. Do not let anyone persuade you to vote for a different candidate out of fear for another one. I know Tanya Wall personally and I like her, but she is running for the wrong party. And I watched Michelle Mungall (who is very passionate about her politics) from the vantage point of an elected local government politician, and I choose Kim Charlesworth to represent us. So enough of the sound moneymongering, please NPD! Let’s each decide this election on the merits of the candidates, their party platforms and what their respective parties offer to become premier.

Andy Shadrack
Kaslo

Respect your right to vote

Our provincial election is coming up fast. I urge you to get out on voting day, respect your democratic right to cast your vote.

My grandparents emigrated from Russia as members of the pacifist religious group, the Doukhobors. My parents were both Canadian born, but shortly after World War II, their rights to vote were rescinded due to their Doukhobor religious beliefs. Our government of the day decided that Doukhobors, Hutterites and Mennonites would not be allowed to vote unless they had served in the Canadian armed forces.

Meanwhile, both my parents, who were independent Doukhobors, were educated in Canadian schools to grade 10, paid taxes, and contributed to the economic and social well being of this great country. They were not allowed to vote in the provincial or federal elections.

In the year I was born, 1953, the Doukhobors and Hutterites were independent and did not have to vote. My grandparents emigrated from Russia as members of the pacifist religious group, the Doukhobors. My parents were both Canadian born, but shortly after World War II, their rights to vote were rescinded due to their Doukhobor religious beliefs. Our government of the day decided that Doukhobors, Hutterites and Mennonites would not be allowed to vote unless they had served in the Canadian armed forces.

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Meanwhile, both my parents, who were independent Doukhobors, were educated in Canadian schools to grade 10, paid taxes, and contributed to the economic and social well being of this great country. They were not allowed to vote in the provincial or federal elections.

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**New Denver Purse Caper’ results in arrest of Okanagan Valley man**

by Jan McMurray

In an incident known locally as the ‘New Denver Purse Caper,’ a 34-year-old man from the Okanagan Valley, driving a stolen car from Kelowna, was arrested up at the Harris Ranch property the morning of Sunday, April 23. The Harris Ranch was one of several New Denver area properties he visited that morning, telling residents he needed a vehicle.

The man was remanded into custody, facing charges of possession of stolen property, breach of undertaking, and breach of probation. Constable Shawn Chertwynd of the Slocan Lake RCMP detachment says drugs were a factor in the incident.

At about 9 am on Sunday, April 23, the man entered New Market Foods in New Denver with a large travel bag. Employee Mel Buenacosa says she had a bad feeling about him, and noticed that he went straight to the back of the store, where the staffroom is located. When he left the store without buying anything, she went to the staffroom and saw that her purse and her co-worker’s purse were missing. She ran outside to see him taking off towards Kaslo, and got his licence plate number.

A ceremony at the grocery store phoned 911, and put Buenacosa on the line to provide the vehicle description and plate number.

‘Cash for the Crown’ results in arrest of Okanagan Valley man

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A ceremony at the grocery store phoned 911, and put Buenacosa on the line to provide the vehicle description and plate number.

At first call to the RCMP, Buenacosa couldn’t be the only one. After leaving the store, the culprit went to several properties in the area, telling residents he needed a vehicle.

For the last part of the caper, he had three local men following him in their own vehicles, trying to ensure that he would be apprehended on the weekend, April 15. The faulty motor “leg” was removed April 18 and was sent to Vancouver. The last of the absorbent pads and booms were taken out of the lake the evening of April 18.

Western Pacific Marine recovered two barrels of emulsified oil and water solution from the leaking piece of machinery, for a total of just over 416 litres of mixed oil and water. The RCMP worked to clean it up.

The culprit is scheduled to appear in court later this month.

‘SAWBILL’ DUCKS

Male Common Mergansers have a strikingly intense green-black head, red bill and feet, with a white body. Females have a larger ‘pure’ head crest with creamy colored head and greyer body. They swim with heads under water to spot prey, then dive and use their serrated bills to grip fish, also eat worms, insect larvae and amphibians.

Cooper Creek Cedar Ltd advertised the company’s 2017-2022 Forest Stewardship Plan in early March 2017. The FSP is a landscape level plan that covers CCC’s Forest Licenses’ operating areas. The FSP commits to forest management practices that will be implemented to conserve & protect forest resources within CCC’s tenure.

Upon review of the referred FSP, CCC realized an area adjacent to/east of the Laird Creek Forest Development Unit (FDU) was not included. CCC is amendment their referral submission to include this area that will be included in the Laird Creek FDU.

This notice is to provide the public the opportunity to make comment on the addition of the area to the Laird Creek FDU and still make comment on resource concerns within the Forest Development Units (FDUs) in the FSP to ensure these concerns are addressed prior to final submission of CCC’s FSP for approval to the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations.

To allow the public sufficient time to make comment on the addition of the area to the Laird Creek FDU and have opportunity to still comment on CCC’s FSP, CCC is extending the review period to section June 19, 2017.

Comments specific to the FSP will be reviewed and, where applicable/feasible, changes will be made to the FSP to address the concerns. CCC’s FSP & accompanying Forest Development Units can be viewed at the website:


For concerns to be considered prior to final submission for approval, comments must be received in writing and be received by CCC by June 19, 2017. Comments can be emailed to: cooper_creek@porcupinewood.com or mailed to:

Cooper Creek Cedar – FSP Comments Box 850 Salmc, BC VOG 1Z0
Want to be part of the coming legal weed industry?

submitted

by Jan McMurray

RCDC may join provincial recycling program by year end

The Valley Kitchen is located at 5770 Cedar Creek Road, next to Titasey. It is a community kitchen offering a provincially inspected, fully equipped, commercial kitchen space for rent. The Valley Kitchen is open daily, with a membership fee of $10 per month. The Valley Kitchen aims to provide a space for local food businesses to grow and become profitable. The facility is open to anyone who is interested in renting a space to use for commercial purposes.

The Valley Kitchen is part of a larger movement towards the local food movement in the Slocan Valley and surrounding area. The long growing season and climate make it possible for farmers to grow a wide variety of crops, including a large amount of marijuana. The Valley Kitchen is located at 5770 Cedar Creek Road, next to Titasey.

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Medical marijuana discussed at the Vallican Whole, April 21

by Jan McMurray

A very informative forum on medical marijuana was held at the Vallican Whole on April 21 with a panel of three experts – a medical doctor, a doctor of traditional Chinese medicine, and a dispensary owner.

Dr. Joel Kaila is a medical doctor from Nelson specializing in chronic pain and addictions, and is responsible for educating local doctors about prescribing medical cannabis. Dr. Michael Smith is a doctor of traditional Chinese medicine in Nelson, and co-founder of the Academy of Oriental Sciences. Jim Leslie is the director of the Kootenay’s Medicine Tree medical cannabis dispensary.

Dr. Kaila explained that the human body has a natural cannabinoid receptor system. The receptors are found everywhere in the body, with high concentrations in the brain. There are about 100,000 cannabinoids in the cannabis plant, but he talked specifically about two of them – THC and CBD – and how they bind to the receptors. THC is “a very strong key that goes into the lock” and starts the processes that result in intoxication, while CBD “seems to modify the lock so that THC can’t bind as well” and results in tempering the effects of THC. “THC causes a high and CBD doesn’t cause any intoxication,” he explained.

Jim Leslie also spoke about the body’s cannabinoid receptor system, calling it a “master body regulator” and likening it to the immune system. He says, cannabinoids such as THC and CBD promote homeostasis.

All three panelists agreed that cannabis has many benefits and is very safe – it’s been used for 5,000 years and has caused zero deaths. THC is an effective painkiller and can help people reduce opioid use, while CBD seems to be an effective anti-inflammatory, anti-anxiety, anti-oxidant, and anti-cancer medicine. According to Leslie, cannabis is not an outright cure for cancer, but he says cancer patients have gone into remission using cannabis or a combination of traditional medicine and cannabis.

There was one serious warning, however. Dr. Kaila advised those with mental health issues to use THC with caution. “It doesn’t cause schizophrenia,” he said, “but if you have a predisposition to psychosis, schizophrenia, anxiety or depression, it should be used with extreme caution.” Leslie commented that CBD dominant medicine is best for those with mental health issues.

All three panelists agreed that young people whose brains are still developing should not take large doses of THC.

The lack of research on medical cannabis was noted several times throughout the evening. “I believe a change in the law will provide free access to marijuana for research purposes,” said Leslie. Both Dr. Kaila and Leslie said they want to see universities doing the research, not companies with vested interests. When Kaila mentioned the need for funding for research, Leslie said he believes “good people with deep pockets will come forward to get it done.”

Dr. Smith has found in his Chinese medicine practice that cannabis works well with other medicines, even pharmaceuticals. However, because of the lack of research, he cautioned people to gradually introduce any new drug. “All agreed with the rule of thumb. ‘Start slow and go low.’” Leslie said he has learned a lot on this subject from the Mayo Clinic website.

“Pain medications and cannabis go together, but I wouldn’t take warfarin blood thinner with cannabis. It’s a good few hours before chemo and then afterwards, but not right before or during,” he offered. Dr. Kaila emphasized there is no research on pharmaceuticals and cannabis. “We’re all doing our own experiments,” he said.

Both Dr. Kaila and Leslie mentioned THC helps prevent the abuse of opioid medications. “We’re all doing our own experiments,” he said. He added that those worried about becoming addicted to cannabis could consider tinctures and teas rather than smoking.

“What’s the safest and most ethical way to distribute medical cannabis products?” one community member asked. Dr. Kaila believes products should be tested and properly labelled, and there must be better research and an education program. Leslie replied, “I am not against medical cannabis, but I am for participatory distribution with large and small producers. We need to look at that across the country and make sure people aren’t unfairly prevented from participating.”

This forum was one of ‘The Whole Perspective’ sessions on important issues such as addiction. Watch for more of these informative discussions at the Vallican Whole.

Princeton couple performs songs from BC’s logging history

by Art Joyce

It’s the part of history that often gets forgotten – the songs of miners, loggers, fishermen and farmers. As part of folklorist Dr. Kailia Pollard’s ongoing research on logging and other subcultures, she pointed out that there were more than 300 local songs discovered spanning a period of 30 years. Their research during the 1970s documented the rich history of BC, which was practically unknown at the time. One song in particular caught their attention – ‘The Greenhorn Song’ by Pollard and her then boyfriend, now husband, Dr. Pollard.

The couple discovered the song through an interview with well-known logger Dick Pollard. The couple discovered the song in a mining boom, so most of the songs were composed about miners. Some 40 local songs were discovered spanning a period of 30 years. Their research during the 1970s documented the rich history of BC, which was practically unknown at the time. One song in particular caught their attention – ‘The Greenhorn Song’ by Pollard and her then boyfriend, now husband, Dr. Pollard.

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“The greenhorn song’ is a left-handed wrench,” for example. Rubesaat and Bartlett also sang a love song to a logging truck written by Nakusp logger ‘Muck’ McKone. In West Kootenay archives they found thousands of such folk songs, including one written about the flooding of the Arrow Lakes valley for the Columbia River Dam. It’s the part of history that often gets forgotten – the songs of miners, loggers, fishermen and farmers. As part of folklorist Dr. Kailia Pollard’s ongoing research on logging and other subcultures, she pointed out that there were more than 300 local songs discovered spanning a period of 30 years. Their research during the 1970s documented the rich history of BC, which was practically unknown at the time. One song in particular caught their attention – ‘The Greenhorn Song’ by Pollard and her then boyfriend, now husband, Dr. Pollard.

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“We hope you’ll carry this forward so it’s not lost,” said Bartlett. “It’s part of our BC heritage and it ought to be part of everyone’s repertoire.”

The couple produces a folk festival in Princeton every August. As part of their mission to preserve BC’s history of song, they tour BC schools performing folk songs for children. They have also produced a book of traditional songs, available on CD. For more information visit their website at www.jonandrika.org.

Spring Fling event – annual fundraiser for Winlaw School

Winlaw Elementary students are bursting with excitement, planning and preparing for the school’s annual Spring Fling fundraiser. This important community event is happening at the school on Saturday May 6, 10 am – 1 pm and will feature a BBQ and bake sale, kids’ games, face painting, a silent auction, generous raffles and a plant sale.

Don’t miss the opportunity to bid on a number of fantastic auction items, donated by community artisans and businesses. This year’s Spring Fling will happen, rain or shine.

Proceeds raised help fund quality educational programs, services and resources, such as music and reading programs in the classroom for the 2017/18 school year. Previous programs funded include outdoor education, music and reading programs in the classroom for the 2017/18 school year. Previous programs funded include outdoor education, music and reading programs in the classroom...
Three anniversaries to celebrate in New Denver

by Katrine Campbell

This is the year New Denver makes three anniversaries, two of them celebrations and one a commemoration. 2017 is Canada’s 150th birthday, the 50th anniversary of the order removing Japanese-Canadians from their homes on the coast and interning them in camps in the interior. The provincial Heritage Branch recognized 56 historic places, including the site of the internment camp, and the Orchard neighbourhood (which was also the site of the internment camp), and the former Turner Memorial United Church at 4th and Josephine, which was used as a school for Japanese-Canadian students. Intermont camps in Sandon and Rosebery were also recognized. This is why the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre is such an important attraction,” said Mayor Ann Bunka. “It’s a major draw for visitors and an important part of our history. Human rights are fragile, and it’s good to bring attention to human rights and social injustice.”

To this end, the Village will issue free passes to the NIMC to all residents of New Denver. Homeowners will get them in their property tax notices; renters can visit the Village office with proof of residence and get their passes.

Although Centennial Park existed before 1967, the Village received a grant that year to upgrade and develop it. May Days has been run by volunteers in the Community Club since the village became a municipality and many of the weekend’s activities take place in the park.

“It seemed like the perfect time for us [the Village] to step up,” Bunka says. “As a small thank you to our volunteers, we’re holding a free hot dog barbecue at the soap box derby on May 21.”

Bunks also adds that the barbecue is for everyone. “The spirit of the community is special. Over and above the societies volunteers work with, others visit people, pick up garbage – everyone who lives here is a person like that.”

New Denver council, April 25: Skate park area proposed

by Katrine Campbell

A delegation of young people from the New Denver & Area Youth Network attended to ask for support for an outdoor skate area. Council agreed to have staff work with the Network to explore the possibility. The five, along with adults Paula Shandro and Harriet Richardson, presented their plan to create a concrete pad for modular skateboarding features; the pad could also be used for ice or ball hockey without the modular components. Their preferred site is across from the recycling bins, on Carpenter Creek, which has an outhouse nearby and fewer houses. The delegation said they would fundraise for the cost of infrastructure, do the planning and budgeting, liaise with the RCM, and ensure that local youth were involved and encouraged to be stewards. They asked the Village to consult about the project, do site prep, cover the facility under municipal liability insurance, and co-manage the space in an ongoing partnership.

Councillors were concerned about risk management, but said the project was a great idea and were pleased to see the initiative coming from young people.

New Denver

by Katrine Campbell

The Valley staff and council will do a site visit with the proponents to see how their plan fits in with other plans, and also look at other possible sites.

• Mayor Ann Bunka reported that dredging the marina entrance had been completed, removing the barrier to boats getting in and out at low water.

• At the Regional District of Central Kootenay meeting April 13, the board authorized an application to the BC Rural Dividend Program for two years’ funding to launch a regional economic development partnership and strategy in the Slocan Valley. The board will also support the project for its duration.

• Ruth-Claire Weintraub was appointed for a two-year term to the Resource Recovery Plan Advisory Committee.

• Tamara Barkowski was appointed as the alternate to Recreation Commission #6.

• The board approved the West Kootenay Transit System fare structure review’s option two. A single fare is $2.25; 10 tickets will cost $20.25; adult monthly pass, $55; students monthly pass, $45; students half-price fare, $27.50; and senior half-price fare, $22.50.

• The May Days Committee was granted permission to close Sixth Ave (Main St) on Sunday, May 21 for the soapbox derby. This was a change of date from the original request for closure on May 20.

• Council approved a letter of support for the Seac Legacy Society in Qualicum Beach for its application to designate the Salish Sea as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Councillor Heather Fox noted the designation would also provide another barrier to tanker traffic on the coast.

Wake up your sleeping dragon...

Come to the Dark Water Dragons’ Open House May 13th - 11:00 to 1:00 at the New Denver Marina (north of campground)

Let’s Talk about “Aging Well” in New Denver – A Cup Half-Full: Invitation to a Community Mapping Event

Please join us for a cup of coffee or tea and share your ideas about how to “age well” in New Denver and the surrounding communities. We are interested in your thoughts and ideas about what it takes to live with good health and resilience in your local community. Taking a broad perspective on the topics that make us healthy and well, we are particularly interested in hearing about your experiences in three areas: what your community is doing well to provide support and quality of life for older adults; what aspects of life in the community might be improved and built upon; and where planning and innovative efforts could be aimed and prioritized for the future. Participants will feature an interactive community mapping event as a way to spur these important conversations. No previous experience is necessary, and all our welcome to attend. We have scheduled two mapping sessions, and a third “drop-in” session, just in case we miss any of your ideas in our first two get-togethers.

The events will be held on Tuesday May 16th at either 1:00-4:00 pm, or 6:00-9:00 pm in the Knox Hall in New Denver. A third drop-in session will be held in Knox Hall on Wednesday May 17th from 9:30-11:30 am. Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to meeting with you.
Volunteers recognized at ‘Get Your Just Desserts’

submitted

On the evening of April 22, more than 150 Slocan Valley volunteers were praised and thanked for their community-building contributions at ‘Get Your Just Desserts’, organized by the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society.

This free volunteer appreciation evening featured delicious desserts and savories, beverages, door prizes, a Canada 150 quiz with prizes, brief speeches from dignitaries, topped off with live musical entertainment. This is the second year the Legacy Society has organized this event and each has been lauded as “a ton of fun.”

The evening was opened by board chair Alex Berland who welcomed attendees and explained the society’s mandate. “Basically we have two jobs: we raise money and then we give it away,” he said. He explained the society’s role in raising funds for its community endowment fund, the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund.

Berland’s comments were followed by greetings and thanks from MP Richard Cannings, the provincial NDP and Liberal candidates for our area as well as the mayors of Silverton and Slocan. All praised the irreplaceable role that volunteers have in our society both locally and on a broader scale.

The event was organized to coincide with National Volunteer Appreciation week. Attendees were nominated to attend by their organizations; each Slocan Valley-based charity, non-profit and community group was invited to nominate five people. The coordinator cross-referenced the names (as so many volunteers are active with more than one organization). This eliminated duplication and ensured that as many volunteers as possible could attend, within the seating capacity limit of the hall. (Special thanks to the Village of Silverton for making the hall available for this event at no cost.)

“We were pleased to have a full house representing a wonderful cross-section of volunteers from all areas of the valley,” said event organizer Val Mayes, a society director. “We went to great lengths to ensure that every organization had a chance to nominate five of its top volunteers. In this way, it was the organizations themselves who selected who would attend.”

Lavish door prizes included gift certificates from Valhalla Pure, a two-night stay at The Cottage in Hills, water bottles, CBT items, local artwork, and high-quality notebooks. The cost of the event was covered by a grant from RDCK Area H director Walter Popoff and from the CBT Sponsorship Fund.

The Legacy Society’s next event is its Annual General Meeting, which will be held Wednesday May 24 at 7 pm at the Legion Hall in Slocan. All members are invited to attend. Cheques will be presented to this year’s successful grant recipients and some of the 2016 recipients will talk about their projects, as well as conducting all the usual AGM business including electing some new board members.

PHOTO CREDIT: GARY YAKIMCHUK

A mudslide about 2.5 km north of Winlaw has severely damaged Hwy 6. Traffic has been reduced to one lane for over two weeks, with no sign of serious repair work being done. When we contacted the Ministry of Transportation media people about this, they told us they couldn’t provide any information about the slide or the road work during the election campaign period.
submitted

“Now it’s fun,” Sharon Lang said. The first time she directed the Vallican Whole Community Choir, she was shaking. The experience of directing her music-loving peers was intimidating.

“It took some time to feel good about it, to feel like I had some skills. Directing looks simple, never looked super-duper hard to me, but there is so much more: pitch, timing, multiple harmonies, teaching, hand gestures! I had no idea. But, you start directing and magically people start to sing together in harmony – it’s amazing to be a part of that.”

Lang directs the four-year-old choir, which started with a dozen friends who just wanted to sing music. Their first pieces were campfire rounds and Girl Guide songs. The choir has grown to a membership of 22 and, in true Slocan Valley fashion, is run by a volunteer choir committee.

“Music selection, advertising, performance dates, rehearsal times, choir issues, regulations or changes in the guidelines – it is all decided by the committee” said Lang. “Anyone can suggest but the committee resolves everything by consensus.”

From high school on, Lang participated in six different choirs as a singer and a pianist. In one choir, the director left and Lang was one of the singers who took turns self-directing, arranging and listening to songs, picking out notes and writing out music on the piano. Later, through a friend, Lang was invited to sing and be the pianist for the Vallican Whole Community Choir, then asked to direct a few songs and that opportunity grew into being the full-time director last season.

Lang’s skills were supplemented by training paid for through a full grant from the Columbia Basin Trust. Last summer, she spent 65 hours in seven days at Choral Directorship Training for mixed voice and youth choirs.

“I don’t have to say ‘I don’t know’ anymore. I can email and have the group and instructors I trained with give me ideas. I have resources.”

The Vallican Whole Community Choir singers range in age from 12 to well beyond the traditional retirement age.

“We have a family with three generations in our choir. We have people who learn by ear and people who learn by reading music.”

The choir has seasoned singers and novices and welcomes new members at the beginning of the season, typically September and January. There is no dreaded singing audition as all people who love to sing are welcome.

Member Jasmine Popoff also directs her own choir. At the upcoming May 7 concert at the Vallican Whole building in Winlaw, Popoff and the 15-member Family of Friends Doukhobor Choir from Castlegar may join the Whole Choir for a Russian song Along the Don River and perform three of their own numbers.

Vallican Whole Community Choir, Slocan Valley style

In its upcoming May 7 concert the Whole Choir does a mix of music, including jazz, folk, African and classical as well as Canadian artists like the Wailin’ Jennys and Ian Tamblyn, and songs in different languages. Working out songs for the choir can also be very hands on. For one of the songs, Trouble by Ry Cooder, Lang says “Jasmine and I built the arrangement. I figured out harmonies, Jasmine and I recorded it and a friend sang the bass line.”

The performance starts at 3 pm with Vulindela, a South African song which won Song of the Decade at the 2004 South African Music Awards. The concert also features performances by choir members and guests. Lang herself is performing Art Thou Troubled from Handel’s opera Rodelinda. Ace Woods and his sometimes partner, Daisy Franks, are performing a country song he wrote, Goodbye Again, accompanied by another Slocan Valley local Sean Cameron, headman for Dirt Floor.

Lang grew up with music in her life. Her mom was a piano teacher and Lang continues teaching piano on the same piano her mom used. For Lang, music was always the wonderful constant in her life.

South Slocan bridge replacement: preparations underway

Preparations to replace the bridge in South Slocan with rock fill and a pedestrian tunnel are underway. Motorists will notice that trees have been removed close to the bridge. Crews have also felled trees at Beasley Bluffs to prepare for a significant rock cut. The blasted rock will provide road fill for the South Slocan project and result in additional safety benefits on Highway 3A by increasing sight lines, expanding the clear zones and improving snow storage.

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

The pedestrian underpass will create future trail connectivity in the area. Additional improvements to the existing trail network will result from the project, including new signage and a new trailhead at the end of South Slocan Station Road, as well as asphalt paving along the rail trail from South Slocan to Pass Creek Road.

Construction on the project is expected to finish by November 15.
May 4, 2017   The Valley Voice

COMMUNITY

by Jan McMurray

Gritco Professional Cleaning Services is celebrating one year in business.

Owner Carolina Gritco offers residential and business cleaning services in New Denver and area, the Slocan Valley, Nakusp and area, and Kaslo. She is highly recommended by her clients.

“I was looking for property to relocate here and saw this, and the opportunity, and jumped at it,” he says. They have had assistance, advice and mentoring from a range of experts, including Nicole Nicholson (“my Sensei!”) and Marlowe Nicholson-Chatod, and the gardeners portrayed in The Talking Spade book. Nikkel and Brock were “a great influence and help. They gave us great guidance.” Marilyn Rivers of Community Futures mentored them in the business of starting and running a business. Jordan and Alexander want to take the nursery in a community-orientated direction, having other people involved.

Hills Nursery and Gardens is at Hwy 6 and Fitchett Road.

Gritco Professional Cleaning celebrates one year

by Katrine Campbell

Valley Landscape in Hills was closed several years ago by owners Ray Nikkel and Bair Brock, but it’s taking on a new life and will re-open this weekend.

Hills Nursery and Gardens ready to grow

by Katrine Campbell

by Jan McMurray

by Katrine Campbell

by Katrine Campbell

The RDCK is closing a portion of the Nelson-Salmo Great Northern Bear with us—Nelson-Salmo trail closure because of bear activity near Cottonwood Lake. The closure will be in effect until June 15.

In consultation with the BC Conservation Officer Service, regional bear biologists and the Ministry of Forest Land and Natural Resource Operations, the Regional District of Central Kootenay is initiating an annual spring trail closure for a portion of the trail. The annual closure will include the trail south of Cottonwood Lake parking area to Hall Siding. Signs will be posted accordingly at the entrance to trail closures.

Collared bear data has shown the area from Cottonwood Lake to Hall Siding, particularly the areas of Apex and Camp Busk, are heavily used by grizzly bears in the spring. The bears use this area because of its high valued forage habitat. In most cases the bears move on to higher elevations by the middle of June. It is felt that an annual closure will help ensure public safety and protect the local bear population from over exposure.

As black bear and grizzly bear activity is common in the spring and early summer, bears may be present on the trail system throughout the year so please remember to always use caution; do not attempt to view or approach bears; do not leave garbage or food on trails.

The RDCK will monitor the situation and asks people to respect all closures.

Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn, Hundreds of bees in the purple clover, Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn, But only one mother the wide world over.

by Jan McMurray

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Ishi Jordan and Charlene Alexander have opened Hills Nursery & Gardens.
Hungry bears will soon be awake and looking for food

submitted
With the onset of this year’s late spring, western toads are not the only mountain species that will soon be emerging from hibernation and traveling down to the valley bottoms to feed and breed. Grizzly and black bears will also soon be out and about and sharing some of the same terrestrial habitats as toads, such as avalanche paths; but toads are not a food source for hungry spring bears, as these amphibians exude an uninviting skin toxin that deters most predators.

After six months of den slumber, living only off of their body fat, bears awaken with an appetite. Their cubs, born about February, have survived on their rich mother’s milk. They now need to learn about the 50 or so plant foods they will have to depend on for most of their lives; this includes some wild meat and fish where available. Very quickly after den emergence, adult bears without young begin searching for mates as well as nutritious food at lower, snow-free elevations. These early food sources consist mostly of winter- or road-killed animals, fresh greens, and for grizzlies, bulbs and corns they have to dig up. As spring progresses, grizzly bears normally follow the green up and snow line back up the mountain.

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These early spring food sources only provide bears with enough calories to maintain weight. Often bears continue to lose weight until more abundant, higher quality food, such as huckleberries, becomes available later on in the summer. At this time of year, unmanaged human food sources are a real temptation, because they often provide good nutrition for a hungry bear. New research is helping to broaden our understanding of how and why bears relate to humans and their food attractants. A recent six-year black bear study in Colorado found that an increase in human bear conflicts did not mean that the bear population was growing. Rather, bears were adapting to and taking advantage of human food, such as uncontaminated garbage in subdivisions, during periods of low natural food availability.

The adage that bears became permanently ‘addicted’ to garbage and consequently need to be destroyed was debunked in the Colorado study. The researchers found that black bears that sought out human food during low natural years switched back to natural foods like berries and acorns in other years when they became more available. The bears often did not go back to garbage feeding in residential areas. One female black bear lived and denned and had cubs near a rural subdivision and avoided humans and their attractants altogether. The study also found that subdivisions with bear-proof garbage containers had far fewer conflicts than those that did not. Also, as a result of climate change, the length of hibernation times had decreased, meaning bears were out longer foraging for food.

Another study in the US showed that nuisance behaviour in younger grizzly bears was largely learned from the mother if she was a problem bear rootling in trash for human food or climbing orchard cherry trees. VWS Bear Smart would like to encourage valley residents to continue to reduce their attractants and call for advice and help if needed. Rural Area H residents can contact Crimestoppers at 1-888-222-2222 or the Kaslo RCMP at (250) 358-2222 or the Kaslo RCMP at 353-1137 or grizzlyfencingproject@willowbranch.com. VWS may also be able to make available some 50% electric fence cost sharing for the Slocan Valley villages, upon request.

Break-ins and thefts between Kaslo and New Denver submitted

Slocan Lake and Kaslo RCMP detachments have received reports of break-ins and thefts over the winter at seasonal residences located in remote areas between the communities of New Denver and Kaslo.

Items that are stolen include: tools, consumable household items, camping / sporting goods and a portable Honda EU2000 Generator. Extensive damage has also been caused to the buildings where the suspect(s) gained access.

Anyone with information regarding these crimes is asked to contact the Slocan Lake RCMP at (250) 358-2222 or Kaslo RCMP at (250) 353-2225. Alternatively, anyone can also anonymously contact Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477. Information leading to an arrest and charge through Crimestoppers is eligible for a cash reward.
Popular Rotary Wine Fest turns wine into polio vaccine

by Claire Paradis

Kees and Mayumi van der Pol’s house is still full of Nakusp Rotary Wine Fest bits and pieces two days later. People drop by to pick up their wins from the night’s silent auction, its 92 donated items ranging from hotel stays in Coeur d’Alene to local business gift baskets.

“We’re still dealing with it, putting things back in order,” said a tired Kees van der Pol, gesturing vaguely at the Wine Fest objects littering the living room and kitchen and creeping down the hallway. But it’s a happy chaos for him: “It’s so gratifying, the support from the community,” that makes it so easy to spend the time.”

“Wine Fest was quite an event,” remarked one man as he picked up his silent auction goodies, “That was a highlight of the social calendar of Nakusp.”

Like years previous, a well-heeled crowd was in attendance, although van der Pol was sure people were even more dressed up than last year. And this year and the funds raised by the event means money has to go to replacing glasses that disappear during the Fest. According to van der Pol. The only budget bleed is the loss of wine tasting advertising budget is zero, which means media to keep costs down. Wine Fest’s reliance on word of mouth and social media to keep costs down. Wine Fest’s advertising budget is zero, which means there is “more money to do good,” according to van der Pol. The only budget bleed is the loss of wine tasting glasses that disappear during the Fest.

The event is loud, bubbly and exciting, and although the noise may keep some people away, said van der Pol, most people look forward to the night with great anticipation. “They know Rotary does good.”

Wine Fest is Nakusp Rotary’s biggest fundraiser of the year, and this year it generated $9,500, which will be split between the group’s polio eradication campaign, Polio Plus, and local bursaries, programs, seniors’ housing, and the waterfront lighting project.

In order to keep the funds going to worthwhile projects, Rotary has relied on word of mouth and social media to keep costs down. Wine Fest’s advertising budget is zero, which means there is “more money to do good,” according to van der Pol. The only budget bleed is the loss of wine tasting glasses that disappear during the Fest. Rotary lost 24 glasses this year, which means money has to go to replacing them. So if you have added a Rotary wineglass to your collection, van der Pol is asking that you return it, or five bucks to replace it, so there are enough for next year and the funds raised by the event can go to something more meaningful.

One thing van der Pol would like to work on is coordinating better with other events, recognizing that Wine Fest was awkwardly close to Art Party in Nakusp’s social calendar this year. The aim of Polio Plus, where half of the Wine Fest funds go, is to have three years in a row with no new polio cases crop up anywhere, which would signal the end of the disease. As of January 1 of this year, there have been 19 new victims. That’s still much better than the hundreds of thousands of cases that were contracting polio before the Polio Plus campaign began in 1986. But people in polio-stricken countries who see the effects of the disease are so paranoid about getting sick they vaccinate twice, van der Pol said.

And the Rotarian has no time for anti-vaxxers. “I think it’s wrong. Totally. If you decide when you’re an adult you don’t want to do it, fine. But to decide that for kids, it’s just wrong.”

Kees van der Pol has been a busy man since last July 1 when he became District Governor for Rotary. The position, which has taken him out on the road for some great adventures, is a year long, but van der Pol spent two and a half years preparing for it. One of the big events to take place during his term will be hosting the District Conference in Nakusp May 12-14. Rotarians from all over the world will be coming to speak at the conference, including Aziz Memon, Chairman of the National Polio Plus Committee in Pakistan. “It’s a lot of work,” said van der Pol, “but I thrive on people working hard together.”

Mayumi and Kees van der Pol stand with Rotarians Elizabeth and Viktor Cytra, from Trail. Mayumi is the President-Elect of the Nakusp Rotary Club. Kees is district governor of District 5580. Elizabeth is a past district governor.
VILLAGE OF NAKUSP
JOB POSTING
HOT SPRINGS CASHER/ATTENDANT
(28 to 35 Hours Per Week)
The Village of Nakusp is currently seeking Cashiers/Attendants for seasonal work at the Nakusp Hot Springs for approximately 28 to 35 hours per week for days, evenings, and weekend shifts. These positions will have employment periods ranging from five months to nine months. Casual work will be available beyond the employment period. Duties include superior customer service, electronic admissions and reservations, maintaining facility hygiene and cleanliness standards, monitoring aquatic activities, operating the concession, and janitorial/bathroom/housekeeping work.
Minimum requirements are a High School Diploma, a Class 5 Drivers license, and a dependable vehicle.
Please forward your resume to the Village of Nakusp – Box 280, Nakusp, BC, VOG 1R0. E-mail cjones@nakusp.com. These positions will remain open until filled. Further information is available through the Village Office.
The Village thanks all who apply, however only those chosen for interviews will be contacted.

Nakusp student places second in Junior Dragon’s Den regionals
by Jan McMurray
Cameron Mackintosh of Nakusp came second place in his category in the Junior Dragon’s Den regional competition held in Nelson April 20.
He goes on to the championships at the Charles Bailey Theatre in Trail on May 6.
A grade 10 student at Nakusp Secondary, Cameron came up with the business concept for an app to diagnose problems in heavy duty trucks.
“In a normal car, you get a check engine light or a check oil light on the dash,” he said in an interview.
“In a logging truck or transport truck, you get a number. So if you can punch the number into an app that translates it into something readable, you’ll know if you’ve got a dirty air filter, or an emissions failure, or whatever the problem is.”
There were six competitors in the grades 8-10 category at the regionals.
Cameron says he entered the contest, and was given 20 questions. Once he submitted the answers, he was assigned a mentor with business experience.
He was asked to create a one-page business plan and some rough financials, and was interviewed on camera.
At the competition, each contestant had their videotaped interview played, and then had two minutes to introduce their business concept.
The five judges had their business plans and could ask up to three questions.
“I had a lot of fun doing this,” said Cameron.
“It was a great opportunity to put myself out there like that. You really see what’s behind creating a business.”
Cameron won $250 at the regionals and could win more at the championships.
“There will be a lot more competition – the winners of the regionals in the East Kootenay will be there,” he acknowledged.
Cameron is in Dorian Boswell’s Outdoor Education and Entrepreneurship Program at Nakusp Secondary.
Students from the program entered the Junior Dragon’s Den competition last year and the year before, and did very well. Cameron entered the contest on his own this year, though, not as part of the class.
“Mr. Boswell did help me, but it wasn’t a class requirement,” he said.

Support Groups for Persons with Cancer and Caregivers
For those experiencing cancer:
Groups will be held every Saturday 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
For caregivers of persons with cancer:
Groups will be held every Saturday 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Both groups will be held at 205-6th Street, Nakusp, in the Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Service meeting room. Please enter at the rear of the building.
For more information and to register please call:
Shelley Botnick, MSW, RSW at 250-265-3397 or Jim Fenning, MSW at 250-551-6071
jamesfenning@earthsong.ca
Thanks to the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation for making these groups possible.

Studio Connexion Gallery welcomes its ninth season
Curator Anne Béliveau is enthused by new fine artists exhibiting their works at Studio Connexion Gallery this year. Various art styles and media from seven talented women will be featured. Landscape always has a special place at the gallery and this year is no exception.
On May 19, the season begins with Nakusp artist Donna Marko. Originally from Alberta, she has established new roots here with her husband.
Marko has experimented with different media and seven years ago decided to return to her technique with coloured pencils. She likes to illustrate a variety of subjects and is mainly attracted by nature.
Maureen Howard from Salmon Arm will exhibit her landscape and abstract paintings in June. The curator reconnected with the former Nakusp resident and asked her to show her works.
In July, the gallery will again host Louise Drescher, this time for a solo show. During the summer of 2014, she had four beautiful paintings for the Carlyle Group Show depicting the Mount Assiniboine area. Two of them were sold to local collectors.
Originally from Ontario, she studied in England and now resides in Rossland. Her distinct style will charm visitors.
Carleen Ross will display her new watercolours just in time for the Columbia Basin Culture Tour. She is very familiar with the quaint space from visiting regularly with her family and showing her wildlife paintings last August in the Summer Group Show.
The last part of August was especially reserved for Tatjana Mirkov-Popovich, visual artist and writer. She particularly loves landscapes and is a senior member of the Federation of Canadian Artists.
She will be travelling from Port Moody to holiday and perhaps fall in love with our Kootenays.
In early September, Robyn Gold from Winlaw will bring some of her abstract and landscape paintings. Gold loves taking workshops to explore and define her own style. She is very busy with both her art and her home-based business.
The seventh exhibition is the only photography show of the season, with Nakusp artist Gail McMartin who loves to capture nature that has texture.
Studio Connexion Gallery continues its partnership with the ALFA Art Walk as an official venue. The featured artist is Roni Jurgensen from New Denver with her unique and colourful paintings.
Visitors can also find Fine Art pieces by Sharon Bamber, Brigitte Desbois, Denise Marshall, Tim Andrew and Rick Rogers...also fabulous original cards by Holly Woods.
You can become a ‘Friend of Studio Connexion Gallery’ by purchasing a $10 annual membership which will keep you first informed about the artists and their exhibitions along with special events. Also members can rent the space for small gatherings.
The gallery is located at 203 Fifth Ave. NW in the heart of Nakusp, just 2½ short blocks from Broadway St. Business hours are 11 am to 4 pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Private appointments are available year around; contact Anne at 250-265-3586 or 8888. Follow the gallery on social media: www.facebook.com/studioconnexion.

Glen Washerhead and Nancy Whitaker cut the cake at the Arrowarian Senior Housing Society’s 50th Anniversary celebration on Thursday, April 27.

Cameron Mackintosh of Nakusp came second place in his category in the Junior Dragon’s Den regional competition held in Nelson April 20.
**Visitor Information**

**Where the journey is the destination.**

**Golf Courses**

Kaslo Golf Course - Kaslo  
Phone (250) 236-4501  
Kaslovensian golflinks.com  

**Museums**

Nikkel International Memorial Centre  
National Historic Site – New Denver  

**Restaurant & Accommodations**

The Paddy Shack - Kaslo  
Kabin  

**Campgrounds**

Nakusp Municipal Campground – Nakusp  

**Things to do**

CHOCOLATE SHOPS

Jennifer Chocolate - Nakusp  

HOUSEBOAT RENTALS

The Kaslo Shipyard Company - Kaslo

SPORTS/OUTDOOR SHOPS

Shorn's Bike & Ski - Nakusp

**Join the Adventure! Valhalla Pure Outfitters - New Denver**

**Woodbury Resort & J&B's Restaurant/Pub – Kaslo**

**Galleries**

The Langham Cultural Centre – Kaslo & Nelson
The Valley Voice May 4, 2017

Kaslo Community Forest AGM: members want more input

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society board heard two clear messages at the AGM on April 19 at JV Humphries School — members want more communication from the board, and more opportunities to provide input. About 30 members attended.

Susan Mulkey was the first to ask for an opportunity for community input. “Maybe it’s time to open it up and care less about money and the AAC and stand back and take a look. Maybe we can’t get 25,000 cubic metres a year out of this tenure because of things that are important to us like tourism, recreation, and other values. I think it’s time for the community to be asked.”

Andy Shadrack wants to be sure that the changing hydrology is being taken into consideration, using the recent Zwicko Road landslide as a case in point. Greg Lay wants a wildland urban interface fire analysis done on the tenure, and another resident wants a long-term plan.

At the end of the meeting, Ross Lake, who will be the board chair in 2017, acknowledged that the board has to take the initiative and reach out to the community. He said they started on a long-term plan 16 months ago, and it is a work in progress. “That will be the objective of the board with participation from the community,” he said.

The beginnings of the long-term plan is a timber supply analysis done in 2016 by Forsite Consulting, using satellite images and computer modelling. This summer, the Forsite study will be ground-truthed with the help of Jeff Rayden and two UBC students.

The 2016 financial statements show income of $126,808 and expenses of $373,286, for a loss of $616,478 last year. However, the balance sheet shows $870,709 in net assets.

The statements also reveal a loss of $63,170 on the legacy fund. At December 31, 2015, that was $788,685 in the fund; at December 31, 2016, there was $14,838. “The legacy fund took a significant drop — about 80% of its value,” said Chair Chris Webster. “The board is reviewing it. I can’t say anything more than that right now.” He promised to fully explain the situation to the public once the review is complete. “Legally, we can’t talk about any specifics and you have my word that we will report it as soon as we can possibly report it.”

Webster explained the legacy account was meant to accumulate up to $100,000 and then a yearly disbursement was to be made to the community.

Jeff Matthes, treasurer, reported that the society was facing significant silviculture costs, and that the silviculture reserve had been under funded. The society typically set aside $7 per cubic metre of wood harvested, but a previous board had decided to set aside only $3.50 per cubic metre.

Sabrina Materer, who takes care of silviculture for the community forest, has created a detailed spreadsheet with projected harvest costs of $667,455 from now through 2024. The reserve fund is now at $240,519, which is only enough to re-plant the blocks harvested this year at Keen Creek (CP 36). The society has been trying to spend these funds over the next seven years to meet its silviculture obligations.

Matthes said that to overcome the current problem, harvesting costs of $426,519 more than the reserve had been under funded. The reserve had been under funded. The society plans to hire a crew, and is considering using volunteers to supervise the crew. Last year, the crew worked up to the third crossing of Hamill Creek. The project is funded by the federal government’s Canada 150 program, the CBT and the RDCK.

Manager Bill Kestell gave the 2016 forestry report. The board tendered out Keen Creek CP 36 in much the same way BC Timber Sales does its tendering, thereby removing the risk of selling logs in today’s fluctuating market. Porcupine Wood Products was the successful bidder, and contracted out the road building to CJ Logging, and the harvesting to Kelly Logging Contracting Ltd and Settle Holdings Ltd. As part of the project, CJ Logging re-opened Keen Creek Road to the Kokanee Glacier Park boundary. This is of considerable benefit to the community, as the road provides access to recreational opportunities. The timber (421,000 cubic metres) was sold to local mills (Porcupine, Kulskeff, Vaagen and Stella-Jones). KDCFS recovered all the costs associated with this project.

Open house for new Kaslo clinic

Kootenay Lake community. KAMCS is now actively recruiting both a resident physician and a physiotherapist to operate the new clinic.

During the open house membership chair Tony Frary will be at the clinic to assist people to join the society or renew their memberships. He will also be there every Thursday and Saturday in May from 11 am to 3 pm to enrol members and explain KAMCS’ mission—the restoration of 24/7 medical care to Kaslo and the North.
David Suzuki visits Nelson and supports renewable energy

submitted

May 4, 2017

The Valley Voice

David Suzuki met with West Kootenay EcoSociety on Sunday morning to talk about the transition to renewable energy and the role of local government. Over 100 people joined the conversation that took place at the Kootenay Co-op.

Suzuki started by sharing his connection to the Kootenay area, noting he spent a summer riding the Slocan during WWII, in a Japanese internment camp and explored the Valhalla wilderness.

He commented on how local governments are leading the way in climate action. “Real action is happening at the municipal level,” said Suzuki. “The minute you make a city for people and not cars it changes everything.”

Suzuki also noted that a diversity of renewable energy, including hydro is part of the solution. “Solar is a huge part of the opportunity, but so is geothermal.”

He shared the success of incentives in Haidai Gwaii. “The Haida Council has given every home air heat exchanges, and this has had a massive effect…your heating and cooling bills really go down. We are just at the beginning of a big revolution, even with Donald Trump, it’s not going to stop.”

Montana Burgess of the West Kootenay EcoSociety asked Suzuki questions about the transition to renewable energy during the event. “Like so many Canadians, I grew up watching Mr. Suzuki on The Nature of Things, and have appreciated that he’s continued to be an outspoken advocate for the planet and its people,” said Burgess. “Hearing him talk about how we need to and can get to 100% renewable energy right here in Nelson and throughout the Kootenays encouraged me to keep up organizing local people in our 100% Renewable Kootenay campaign.”

The West Kootenay EcoSociety’s 100% Renewable Kootenays initiative aims to build community support for local governments to commit to transitioning off fossil fuels and onto renewable energy by 2050 at the community level. This includes heating and cooling for buildings, transportation, and electricity. The EcoSociety is educating and engaging Kootenay locals on renewable energy and hopes to get 1/3 of residents signed on to support 100% renewable energy across West Kootenay communities.

“As Mr. Suzuki pointed out, without clean air and water, having a booming economy doesn’t benefit people. So we’re also building support in the business community because we know locally-run businesses have lots of great ideas on building healthy communities and many are already getting more energy efficient in their operations,” said Burgess. “Already almost 30 businesses have signed-on to support the transition to renewable energy, and we’re hoping at least another 30 will in the coming months.”

This conversation between EcoSociety and Suzuki comes a week after four local faith communities announced that they will move to 100% renewable energy in their buildings and transportation to and from services, no later than 2050.

Students vote! (Why we should too)

submitted

On Monday, May 8, one day before the BC provincial election, students in the Arrow Lakes region will have the opportunity to participate in democracy with students from across the province. Student Vote helps students learn about the electoral process, research the provincial political parties, and gain a greater understanding of government. Results of the province-wide Student Vote, including individual riding results, will be available online on the night of the provincial election, May 9. Students can see how their results compare to those from students across the province and to the results of the official BC election.

Students will also be able to see how many people voted in the official provincial election. Voter turnout has been on the decline over the past 16 years. Between 1928 and 2001 an average of 71 per cent of registered voters cast their ballots, but only 57 per cent voted in the 2013 BC provincial election. This may be confusing for young people just learning about democracy. Why would people no longer want to have their say?

It might be helpful to note that 74 per cent of people aged 65-74 voted in 2013. They were born between 1939 and 1948 – a tumultuous era for democracy worldwide. It could be argued that we are now in another period of uncertainty for democracy, making voting even more crucial.

For those of us who need a little pep talk to get out on election day so that we are good role models for young up-and-coming voters, here are three reasons to vote.

We are smarter collectively. If you look at recent elections worldwide, Brexit and the US election being two of the most significant, you will find that if the majority of eligible voters had voted, the results would have been different. We know this because of polling. However, polls (and their misinterpretation) make people believe that the election is already decided, and so they stay home on election day.

Ignore the polls. If the voter turnout had been higher in the last US election, the results would have been different. Could there be a stronger argument that we are smarter together?

Trust the elders. Some may argue that people aged 65-74 have more time because they are not working, so of course they are more likely to vote. But, if they didn’t value voting, they wouldn’t. And, there is no excuse for a working person to not vote. Voting is open from 8 am to 8 pm on Tuesday, May 9. You are entitled to up to four ballots.

On Monday, May 15th, after the election, results from Student Vote will be available on the website. Our elders value voting – we should listen to their wisdom.

Inspire fear. If nearly everyone voted, the political establishment would be very, very scared – and who doesn’t want to scare the establishment? Seriously, if everyone voted it would be like a giant, collective ROAR. We’d be saying, “we’re back and we’re going to hold government accountable.”

And that holds true for Student Vote, too. The more students that participate, the more politicians will be forced to consider youth perspectives. After all, young people will be voters one day, too. Get out and vote! Remember, democracy may not be perfect (and it is definitely fragile), but it’s better than the alternatives.

Slide closes Galena Trail

submitted

A section of the Galena Trail has been closed due to a slide, which occurred at 1.5 kilometres in from the trailhead at the YRB yard in Denver Siding. The trail is closed from Denver Canyon to the cable car.

A 20-metre section of trail has been covered by debris. The RDCK has hired a geotechnical engineer to assess the area and estimates it could take up to a week to reopen that section of the trail.

The RDCK thanks users for respecting posted signage and staying off the trail until further notice.

Village of New Denver

Public Notices

OUTDOOR BURNING REMINDER

Residents of New Denver are reminded that outdoor burning is regulated within the Village of New Denver. Permits are required for all outdoor fires except cooking fires contained within a barbecue pit or fire pit having a surface area not greater than four (4) square feet; or within a manufactured gas, coal or electric barbecue.

Burning permits are available from April 1st to May 15th and from September 30th to November 15th – for more information please contact the Village Office, weekdays between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

COMMUNITY SPACES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The report summarizing the recent consultation about community satisfaction with Knox Hall and Bosun Hall has been presented to Council and is available to the public. You can view a digital copy on the Village’s website or pick up a paper copy at the Village Office.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

Community members are invited to participate in the annual Pitch-In Canada clean-up event, sponsored by the Village of New Denver. On Monday, May 8th, please join Lucerne School students in their efforts to keep New Denver clean and green. The event will take place at the school between 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

STREET SWEEPING

The Village of New Denver has made arrangements for sweeping the winter sand and gravel from municipal streets this spring. We are waiting for appropriate weather to schedule the work, in order to ensure efficient operation of the equipment.

AGING WELL IN NEW DENVER

Researchers from the University of Victoria are working in partnership with Interior Health and members of the local community to gather your thoughts on what it takes to age well in New Denver and the surrounding communities. Community Mapping events are planned for May 16th (afternoon & evening) & 17th (morning) at Knox Hall.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Village of New Denver is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

• Temporary Casual Labourer
• Trail Crew Worker

Position descriptions are available upon request from the Village Office. Interested individuals should submit a resume and cover letter to the attention of Bruce Woodbury, CAO.

115 Slocan Avenue - P.O. Box 40, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0
(250) 358-2316 - office@newdenver.ca - www.newdenver.ca
on this evening of fun and laughs! Tickets on Silverton Memorial Hall May 6. Don’t miss out!

BAND/LIP SYNC CONTEST returns to the Got Your Tickets?
a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakup@futures.bc.ca

THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your business? It’s easy! Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training; and delivers the Self Employment program in the Arrow Lakes, Kootenay, Cranbrook & Slocan Valley region. If so, call 1-888-338-6621, www.slocanlake.com or www.infolines.ca or www.slocanlake.com

If you’re interested in expanding your own business?

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in the fall. 35 hours per week for up to

year and intend to return to full-time studies

A student employee, between the ages of

the repainting of the Centennial Building.

is May 15.

The New Denver Museum is seeking a student employee, between the ages of 15 and 30 to host visitors to our museum. The successful applicant must have been a registered full-time student in the preceding year and intend to return to full-time studies in the fall. 35 hours per week for up to 9 hours per month. Days of work negotiable. An introductory letter and resume must be received before June 14, 2017 at sfplanning3@gmail.com or Box 351, New Denver, BC. V0G 1G0.

A CARE AID WANTED: with certificate or equivalent. Four shifts per month. Alternate weekends. Email resume to d249269@telus.com.

LUSED: EDUCATION FUNDING. To: a246929@telus.net.

or equivalent. Four shifts per month.

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resume must be received before June 14,

year and intend to return to full-time studies

a student employee, between the ages of

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Nelson Aged Care.

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a246929@telus.net.

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West Kootenay faith groups commit to renewable energy

To celebrate Earth Day, on April 22 four faith groups announced their support for 100 per cent renewable energy in Kootenay communities no later than 2030 and pledged to transition their own church and centre operations to 100 per cent renewable energy by mid-century.

“All of us feel overwhelmed by the challenge of climate change. One person can’t make changes happen, but all of us, working together, can,” said Miles Parker, Kootenay Shambhala Meditation Centre. “Whenever that kind of change has happened in the past – like the civil rights or anti-war movements – it has been born out of deep spiritual commitments. Movements for real social change require a shared vision of trust and care for each other and a common appreciation for the sacred in all aspects of life.”

Kootenay Shambhala Meditation Centre, Nelson United Church, St. Saviour’s Anglican Pro Cathedral, and Yasodhara Ashram committed to transition their buildings and transportation to and from services to 100 per cent renewable energy no later than 2030. These faith groups join other groups and cities, like Vancouver, Victoria and Oxford County, ON that have committed to phase out fossil fuels and transition to energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions.

“We are compelled by our spiritual grounding to do our part in healing the climate,” said Rev. David Boyd, Nelson United Church. “By taking this step to renewable energy together, we are showing leadership in the West Kootenay, as well as provincially, nationally and internationally.”

“The obvious starting point is to make our buildings as energy-efficient as possible,” said Julia Roberts, a volunteer with St. Saviour’s Pro-Cathedral. “An energy assessor provided by FortisBC and funded by Nelson Hydro has recently visited our buildings. We are looking forward to his reports and working together to implement recommendations.”

West Kootenay EcoSociety’s 100 per cent Renewable Kootenays initiative is building resident and community groups’ support for the transition to renewable energy in Nelson and other West Kootenay cities. It has been working with faith groups as part of this initiative.

The announcement was made during an interfaith climate vigil attended by more than 100 people at Lakeside Park in Nelson organized by the Nelson Interfaith Climate Action Collaborative. The Collaborative is coordinated by the West Kootenay EcoSociety and composed of Ascension Lutheran Church, Baha’i Community of Nelson, Cathedral of Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Parish, Kootenay Shambhala Meditation Centre, Nelson United Church, St. Saviour’s Pro Cathedral, USCC Doukhobour, and Yasodhara Ashram.
Slocan River ecology: working towards our future

Volunteers revitalize Slocan Park ball field

Since the Slocan River Streamkeepers Society began in 2003, the organization has pursued a mission to protect and restore the aquatic, riparian and wetland ecosystems of the Slocan River through research, monitoring, education, and restoration. Aware of critical components of a healthy functioning river system, the Streamkeepers were happy to take on a project that had been initiated in 2004, funded by Columbia Power Corporation. Part of an approach to protecting and enhancing riparian zones, it involved planting shrubs and native trees (such as cottonwoods and willows), and placing rocks and logs in the river to create habitat for trout.

What about assisted dying?

Did you know that the Parliament of Canada passed a bill that allows medical assistance in dying? Do you wonder about its content, how it might be implemented, what it might mean for your death or the death of someone you love? May is the month to find out! The Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Society (our local burial society) and Wide Spot are collaborating to present a public discussion about the ‘Medical Assistance in Dying’. Act to the community this month.

Volunteers revitalize Slocan Park ball field

On April 23 Slocan Park Hall was a beehive of activity as more than 25 adults plus kids descended upon the ball field to volunteer their time, equipment and energy to revitalize the ball field, dugouts and washroom. While the machines cleared and levelled the field everyone worked hard, raking off rocks, power washing the dugouts, painting benches and scrubbing the washroom.

Generous donations from Curvy’s Excavating, Kay’s Contracting of Nelson and Craig Sapirk & Sons provided machinery and operators, Selkirk Paving Ltd. provided fill for the infield, Slocan Valley Hardware and Ogloch’s Paint and Wall Coverings provided paint for the dugouts, and Collin Ludwar the lumber and Labour. Working in mind, in partnership with Slocan Valley Recreation and the Slocan Park Hall Society, T-ball and coach pitch ball are being offered this spring. Everyone would also like to continue improving the outdoor space and add new programs for the community.

REGISTER NOW FOR
Convergence Writers Weekend 2017: ‘We Will Not Be Separated’

June 16–17, Knox Hall, New Denver

The public is welcome to join us for presentations by renowned Canadian authors Gary Geddes and Carolyn Pogue on Friday, June 16, 7 pm. Writing workshops all day Saturday, readings at 7 pm. Visit the website for details: http://widepot.ca/convergence-writers-weekend/

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May 4, 2017
The Valley Voice

Volunteers revitalize Slocan Park ball field

S T R E A M K E E P E R S completed the work, relying on the landowners who had offered their land for project sites to water the plants after they were planted. Working with more than 30 private landowners, Streamkeepers have completed 35 projects, or the equivalent of six km of riparian bankrestored. These projects can be seen in various places along the river, mainly between Perry Sidling and Slocan Park.

The funder’s objectives have been met and that particular riparian restoration program will gradually wind down. There is still some funding available to restore riparian areas along Slocan River so, if you own riverfront property, you can get in touch with the Slocan River Streamkeepers’ restoration ecologist to request an assessment for possible restoration work. Email info@ slocanriverstreamkeepers.com or call Greg at 250-226-7302.

Among the results of work done in the valley by Streamkeepers and numerous scientists are the many studies and various monitoring projects that have provided biologists with valuable information on the health of the Slocan River and adjacent lands. The accumulating data and understanding have widened the scope of the Streamkeepers’ projects, with wetlands emerging as an area of practical interest.

From 2012 onward, ortho photos of the entire Slocan riparian corridor enabled mapping and identification of critical habitat and potential projects, in turn making a Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory possible. Slocan River Streamkeepers invite you to look at some of the studies and updates on their projects on their website, www. slocanriverstreamkeepers.com.

Slocan Valley residents know their valley is special, and part of what makes it so is the valley’s riparian land naturally supporting cottonwood groves integral to river health. Once abundant, cottonwood forests have shrunk to mere fragments of their previous extents. This is partly due to human habitation – many people have understandably wanted homesites near the river. At the regional scale, another factor is that major rivers have undergone channeling and diversion. Much of the original riparian cottonwood forests on the Columbia and upper Kootenay rivers, for example, have been drowned under reservoirs.

Cottonwoods grow quickly and, when they fall into the river, the wood provides shelter and habitat for fish and aquatic animals. They also provide nutrients to microorganisms and insects which in turn nourish fish and other animals. Both living and dead trees on land provide food and homes to insects, birds and many animals. Cottonwoods and other vegetation store carbon and keep air and water temperatures cool in summer (trout, for instance, prefer colder water), and help stabilize slopes and stream banks along the river.

There is both need and opportunity for new projects. The Slocan River Streamkeepers have ideas, but they also want to hear from you. As a valley resident, where do you feel things need to go? Share your thoughts via the email address given above (there is also a Contact link on the Streamkeepers’ website). And please note: everyone is invited to the Streamkeepers’ upcoming AGM, May 18, 7 pm at Passmore Hall.
Are you up on stage, you'll be boogying about the hall, stuffing your face, greeting your friends, and saying, 'Swearing for Cindy'. Diamond Willow will be playing their hearts out and hosting an open mic, so get your act together and join in. If you’re not up on stage, you’ll be boogying about the hall, stuffing your face, greeting your friends, and saying, ‘Swearing for Cindy’. Cindy Moser is one of those people who pops up everywhere in the Slocan Valley and beyond. Whether helping out at events, displaying her art and crafts, organizing paint-ins and exhibitions (sometimes right in her glorious yard), or tapping her feet to a wide range of music, her great big smile and no-nonsense attitude are a wonderful part of valley life.

Cindy Moser has been struck by cancer. Friends and neighbours are organizing a fundraiser.

**Fundraiser for Cindy Moser at Passmore Hall, May 13, 2017**

Passmore Hall is at 3656 Old Passmore Rd., right beside Passmore Lodge. The event runs from 5 pm to 9 pm.

**Final phase starts on Crescent Valley Beach**

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has started construction of the final phase of the Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park. Work will continue over the next two months. The first phase, which was completed in 2015, developed the entry into the park, 14 front parking stalls and a drop-off/pick-up area. The final phase will develop an additional 45 parking spaces, picnic shelter, washroom facility and an integrated trail network which will be completed in 2017.

During construction, park users will be able to use the existing entry, front parking stalls and beach access trail with minor interruptions. The overall park design concept is guided by a management plan which includes a range of recommendations and proposals to improve parking, create gathering areas and preserve the park’s natural environment.

“The work at Crescent Valley park is being advanced as a result of the Slocan Community Recreational Greenway Project, a unique partnership comprised of the RDCK, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Rec Sites and Trails BC, and the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS),” said Walter Popoff, RDCK Area A director.

The project involves external funding from the CBT Recreation Infrastructure Grant, the RDCK’s Community Works Funding and Bike BC.

**CORRECTION**

In the article, ‘Single fare transit coming to the West Kootenay’ in our last issue, we reported that the Slocan Valley Route 20 trip leaving Slocan at 6:04 am and arriving in Nelson at 7:24 am on weekdays would be discontinued this fall. This is not true. The 6:04 am bus will continue running, and there will be an added trip, leaving at 8:25 am and arriving in Nelson at 9:45 on weekdays.

**Lemon Creek Lodge**

**Treat your Mom to Mother’s Day specials at the Lodge on May 13th or 14th.**

**Enjoy the Music by Two for Tripping**

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**Sentinel Pharmasave Community Works Funding and Bike BC**

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