Local MLAs bring Kootenay voices to cabinet

by Katrine Campbell and Jan McMurray

Local MLAs Katrine Conroy (Kootenay West) and Michelle Mungall (Vancouver-Kingsway) have both been named to cabinet by new NDP Premier John Horgan. Conroy is the new Minister of Children and Family Development and the Minister responsible for Columbia Basin Trust, Columbia Power Corporation and the Columbia River Treaty. Mungall is Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Children and Family Development is a good fit for MLA Conroy. She is an Early Childhood Educator and worked as Executive Director for Kootenay Family Place in Castlegar for 20 years. “So I understand a lot about some aspects of the ministry, and not so much about others. It will be a learning curve, but an exciting one,” she said in a telephone interview.

One of the goals of the ministry will be to implement $10/day childcare. “That would be the goal, but it will take a process to get there. The Minister of State for Childcare will be working with advocates and stakeholders on implementing a system of affordable, quality, accessible, accountable childcare, so I’ll be working with her on that,” said Conroy.

Other key goals are to improve child protection services, supports for aboriginal children and youth, and supports for young adults aging out of care.

“We definitely want to improve child protection services,” Conroy said. “It’s important they grow up in safe and nurturing environments. As a mother and grandmother myself, I know all kids need good opportunities, so we will invest in child protection. We make a commitment in our platform to hire more social workers and staff, and implement incentives to attract social workers to rural and underserved areas of the province.”

Conroy said the ministry would be implementing recommendations from Grand Chief Ed John’s report on issues with aboriginal children in care.

“We want to ensure we provide better supports to keep aboriginal kids at home. Reducing the number of aboriginal children entering the care system is a priority. And we’ll make sure the aboriginal agencies providing services to children in the care system get the best support they can get.”

Conroy says they’ll increase funding for agreements with young adults who are aging out of care. “When my kids turned 19, we didn’t cut them off and tell them they were on their own, so why would we do that for children in care? They are our responsibility, so we need to make sure that they get the best supports possible. We can’t just kick them out of care because they reach a certain age. We’ve seen the results of that all too often.”

“I will work with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to expand the tuition fee waiver program for kids formerly in care because when kids get support to go to post secondary, they’ll get the training they need to have amazing careers in life and be successful people.”

Conroy says she knows there’s a lot of work to do, but she is really looking forward to it. “Difficult things happen when dealing with kids and youth, so I’m realistic but I want to make sure that we’re there for the kids and the families, to make sure supports in place before we get to the situation where kids are in our care.”

Conroy says she’s also excited about her role as Minister responsible for CBGT, CPC and the CRT, “being from the region and part of the process since 2005.” She said she’d carry on the legacy of those forward-thinking politicians who participated in the establishment of the CRT and “continue to work for the benefit of the people of the basin.”

Horgan also named Conroy to cabinet task force on the wildfire situation, which was the first order of business at the government’s first cabinet meeting July 18. They extended the state of emergency to ensure a coordinated response to the wildfires, and committed to providing ongoing direct financial support to evacuees. The current one-time $600-per-household funding will be renewed every 14 days on an ongoing basis until evacuees return home.

Conroy contacted Mungall’s office, but was unable to interview her in time for this issue. However, in Horgan’s mandate letter to Mungall, he says he expects her to make substantive progress on the following priorities:

• Create a roadmap for the future of BC energy that will drive innovation, expand energy-efficiency and conservation programs, generate new energy responsibly and sustainably, and create lasting good jobs across the province.
• Reinvigorate the Innovative Clean Energy fund to boost investments in groundbreaking new energy technologies and climate change solutions.
• Freeze BC Hydro rates while conducting a comprehensive review of the Crown corporation.
• Immediately refer the Site C dam construction project to the BC Utilities Commission on the question of economic viability and consequences to British Columbians in the context of the current supply and demand conditions prevailing in the BC market.
• Establish a BC Mining Jobs Task Force to create and sustain good jobs in this important industry.
• Develop an improved and properly resourceful approvals process to assess mining applications, and increase industry safety by establishing an independent oversight unit.
• Ensure British Columbians benefit from liquefied natural gas projects by requiring proposals to meet the following four conditions: proposals must include express guarantees of jobs and training opportunities for British Columbians; proposals must provide a fair return for our resource; proposals must respect and make partners of First Nations; and proposals must protect our air, land and water, including living up to our climate commitments.

The new cabinet is made up of 20 ministers and two ministers of state. In addition, six MLAs have been named as parliamentary secretaries. Horgan’s cabinet is the first in BC history to achieve gender parity, with 10 women named to cabinet and one named minister of state.

There is also diversity in age and background, with four ministers and two parliamentary secretaries aged 40 and under, 10 ministers and parliamentary secretaries who identify as a visible minority, and the first First Nations woman appointed to cabinet.

“Ministerial portfolios reflect the government’s focus on making life better for people,” said the announcement, “including a stand-alone Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, a Minister of State for Child Care, and a Minister for Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The government is also putting a special focus on jobs and opportunity in BC’s tech sector.”

The Valley Voice contacted Mungall’s office, but was unable to interview her in time for this issue.

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Visitor Information - Pages 14 & 15

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South Slocan’s Carmen Moreira has won both the BC Social Innovation Award Youth Award and Shaw’s Canada 150 Award for her work with SQx, a charitable dance organization.

“It is a great honour, and I am humbled and incredibly grateful to be recognized amongst so many talented and selfless Canadians – all of whom are dedicating their lives to serving their communities.”

Carmen is executive director of SQx Dance Company, a registered Canadian charity. Her special contribution to art and culture across the Columbia Basin and beyond has been both provincially and nationally recognized with these two awards in 2017.

From South Slocan, Carmen attended Brent Kennedy and Mount Sentinel. She began her dance training with Carole Bonin at the McKay School of Dance in Trail. Carmen then furthered her studies at the School of Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers and the School of Toronto Dance Theatre. Carmen graduated from Mount Allison University in 2008 and, in 2011, from London Contemporary Dance School.

Shortly after graduation, Carmen founded SQx with a mission of using contemporary dance to promote kinship, collaboration and teamwork. SQx’s most popular program, Interactive Dance Awareness, was delivered to 70,000 people in BC in 2015. In 2016, the same programming was expanded to not only include BC but also Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

SQx is unlike most art and culture or dance organizations which typically use genre in a specific artistic legacy. Instead, its mission is to use dance to make the world a better place.

It reaches out to audiences that are often difficult to reach geographically. Its target populations include minority language groups, minority ethnic groups and religions, indigenous groups (on and off reserve), rural areas, inner cities (particularly those with high occurrences of gangs), communities with Syrian refugees or other newcomers to Canada and schools with special needs students.

SQx’s home base is the RDCK’s Area I, but it is the most booked school tours program in Canada. Since incorporation, SQx’s work has been presented internationally, in Spain, Norway, Greece, Portugal, Italy, Iceland, Poland, and New York. Its work has been supported by the three BC government ministries, the federal government, Creative Scotland, Arts Council England, BC Arts Council, Columbia Basin Trust, Canada Council, Boeing, Canadian Tire, and Telus.

They have been invited to TransCultural Exchange’s 2018 International Conference on Opportunities in the Arts, Exploring New Horizons. They will be presenting SQx’s work on embracing diversity through art and culture and social innovation as part of the panel discussion, ‘Artists as Agents of Change.’

To learn more about SQx, its programs, or job opportunities (it is recruiting for two interactive dance awareness presenter/coordinators) visit sqxdance.org.

SQx’s most popular program, Interactive Dance Awareness, was delivered to 70,000 people in BC in 2015.
West Kootenay Transit bus service gets better August 1

by Jan McMurray

Improvements are coming to the West Kootenay transit system August 1.

Two runs will be added to seven routes, and riders will be able to travel across zones for a single one-way cash fare of $2.25, except on Health Connection buses. Health Connection buses are Routes #72 Salmo-Nelson ($3.50), #74 Nakusp-Nelson ($4), and #76 Kaslo-Nelson ($4).

There will be added bus runs on Route #20 Slocan Valley and #76 Kaslo-Nelson, and Route #52 Nakusp-Silverton will be extended south to Slocan with a connection to Nelson. Details are below.

Additional service will also be instated on #10 North Shore, #14 Blewett, and #72 Salmo-Nelson. A new run on Route #5 Pierrier Road, will provide three trips every weekday.

The new single fare will make it easier and more convenient to ride the bus in the region by getting rid of fare zones, while making the service more affordable for multi-zone riders.

BC Transit is also introducing a DayPASS, which will allow riders to travel all day within the West Kootenay Transit System for $4.50.

Riders may also choose to purchase 10-ticket sets for $30.25, or a monthly pass for adults ($75) or seniors ($45). Semester passes for post-secondary students will also be available at $125 per semester.

#20 Slocan Valley: one more weekday run

One run will be added to the #20 Slocan Valley bus on weekdays, leaving Slocan at 8:27 am and arriving in Nelson at 9:48 am. Going the other way, the added run leaves Nelson at 7:07 am and arrives in Slocan at 8:27 am. The added run makes a total of five trips each way, from Slocan to Nelson and from Nelson to Slocan, Monday to Friday.

#52 Nakusp-Slocan: Route extended to connect with Nelson

The Wednesday only #52 Nakusp-Silverton route will be extended to Slocan, to connect with the bus to Nelson. The #52 will leave Nakusp on Wednesday mornings at 7:10 am, arrive in Slocan at 8:20 am in time to catch the #76 at 8:27 am to Nelson, arriving at 9:48 am. The return trip leaves Nelson at 3:59 pm (499) and arrives in Slocan at 5:31 pm, where you can catch the #52 at 5:41, arriving in Nakusp at 6:51 pm. If travelling from Nakusp through to Nelson, the fare will be $4 – the same as the #76 Nakusp-Nelson bus on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The #52 Wednesday goes the other way will leave Slocan at 8:35 am, arriving in Nakusp at 9:45 am. The return trip leaves Nakusp at 4:20 pm and arrives in Slocan at 5:30 pm. From Nakusp to Slocan, the fare is $2.50.

Wildfire protection moves forward in the RDCK

by Jan McMurray

At the RDCK board meeting July 20, seven contracts were awarded for fuel treatment projects, to protect communities from wildfire risk. A project in Faquier and Burton will be done by Debris Resources for $121,425. A project in Argenta and Laneau was awarded to West Arm Silviculture for $149,600. Harrop Proctor, Bonnington and Burlington will have fuel treatment done by Loki Tree service for $245,500. A Rodmell project will be undertaken by Wildfire Services for $251,600. In Boswell, Fall Line Forestry will do the work for $82,229. In Lister, Spectrum Resources was hired for $137,102, and in Kingsgate, Apex Forest Services was contracted for $100,204.

Also, the Area K and Nakusp Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be updated. Notice of a successful funding application under the Strategic Wildfire Protection Initiative was received. The program will provide $30,001.08, or 75% of the total project cost of $40,001.44. The project must be completed by July 20, 2018.

Rural RDCK directors receive staff report on medical marijuana regulations

by Jan McMurray

A staff report on medical marijuana regulations generated a lot of discussion at the July 19 RDCK Rural Roundtable meeting.

“The cannabis industry is well established in the RDCK, and with legalization, will likely experience further growth,” says RDCK Planner Darcy Roszell in the report.

Since the Trudeau government began its regulatory review of medical and recreational cannabis, Roszell says there has been quite a bit of interest in the production and retail sale of cannabis in the RDCK.

He reports that there’s been an increase in RDCK building permit applications indicating cannabis production as the end use of the proposed building project.

Also, there have been ten dispensary applications for new or expanded accessory buildings for the purpose of growing cannabis. These applicants hold licences to grow medical marijuana under the old Medical Marihuana Access Regulation (MMAR). The MMAR allowed individuals to grow their own medical marijuana or to authorize others to grow it for them. Because of two fairly recent court rulings, these old licences are still legally valid.

There has also been interest from RDCK residents in opening retail stores or dispensaries. Roszell says RDCK staff has provided information on zoning, as well as the federal task force report, A Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis, to residents who have approached them with an interest in the retail sale of cannabis.

He says the RDCK is unaware of any dispensaries operating in any of the RDCK electoral areas. Although dispensaries are currently illegal, several are operating in Nelson with Temporary Use Permits from the City. In Vancouver and Victoria, several are operating in municipal business licences.

The federal task force report includes recommendations to the federal government on how to go about regulating cannabis, but the federal government hasn’t yet provided any direction to provincial or local governments regarding cannabis regulations. This uncertainty makes it difficult for provincial and local governments, but Roszell says a “positive direction” is to inform “the public and individuals looking to start a cannabis related business about the current laws, and what the future of cannabis legislation may hold.”

The current regulations, Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR), allow medical users to grow their own cannabis or designate someone for them to grow, or to purchase cannabis though licenced production facilities.

Licensed production facilities were introduced under the Harper government’s Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulation (MMMPR) in 2013. Over the period the RDCK started the process to become a licenced production facility, but “only three (3) have been successful in navigating the scope of requirements under Health Canada’s commercial licensing requirements,” Roszell reports.

With the new Cannabis Act expected to be in place in summer 2018, Roszell’s report says local governments would be best served by starting to draft policy and bylaws now. However, RDCK directors feel that before they start drafting policy and bylaws, they need more information about the new legislation, and some direction from the federal government about the responsibilities of local governments.

They asked staff to prepare a new report, addressing the board’s concerns within zoned and unzoned areas of the RDCK, and opportunities to be involved in decision making around the new regulations. Also, the chair of the RDCK board will write to MP Cinnings, MP Stetski, the Solicitor General, and the federal task force identifying the health and safety concerns throughout the unzoned areas of the RDCK pertaining to cannabis regulations.
**OPINION**

**Start from the Valleys**

**Unbelievable!**

Who'd think there'd be organisms out there slimmer than us?

Between Crown Road north of Hills and off and on throughout the length of Hills, the shoulders have been so damaged by truck traffic that it is unsafe to ride a bicycle on them. The MOTH has decided (for budget reasons?) to pave the roadway and leave the shoulders in this dangerous condition, so cyclists will be on the roadway when it is unsafe to ride within the shoulder.

Also in the areas which are being paved, a lot of gravel and debris has been thrown up onto the shoulders and not swept, so again, it is unsafe to ride in the shoulder.

Drivers, please be aware of this, and cyclists, use extra caution when pulling out of the shoulder to ride on the roadway.

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**Expect cyclists - on the highway!**

It’s summer and touring cyclists, children, and adults riding recreationally, and commuters are out on the roads. Normally, you would expect to see them inside the marked shoulders, minimal as they are. But this year, in certain areas you may be seeing them actually on the roadway, due to a number of factors.

On Rosebery Hill, heading up toward New Denver where the shoulder width is as small as 7 inches, closer is growing 3 feet high completely covering the shoulder and sometimes full of foraging bees, so cyclists have to pull to the left to avoid them. On the other side of the road, YRB has done a pretty good job of trimming and sweeping. However, because of the narrowness of some shoulder areas, it is not safe to ride within the white line.

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**Gating Kaslo**

Re: two articles by Jan McMurray on page 18 of *The Valley Voice* dated June 29, 2017 about the new gate at the Loggers Sports grounds in Kaslo.

The following statement by CAO Neil Smith is very misleading: “We were able to keep the status quo for the Loggers Sports event and the Jazz Fest overflow camping, but we can’t open it up to vehicular traffic all the time because it’s a river bed.”

The Kaslo River was diverted over 100 years ago to the far side of town and ALL of Kaslo is an old riverbed. Kaslo’s entire riparian zone, shoreline, and river boundaries have been disturbed, changed, manipulated and used for human and industrial purposes for 150 years, particularly the Loggers Sports grounds where the earth has been pushed and moved with large equipment, permanent structures have been built, trees killed and removed, permanent concrete seating installed, riprap and fill brought in, power installed, and a permanent log rolling pond dug and fenced. The grounds also seem to be a convenient place to park the Village loader, as well.

The petition objecting to the locked gate had 140 signatures at the time of delivery to the Village of Kaslo (VOK) office but it contained an error petition with the final number of signatures reaching 173 before closing. The petition was in response to an announcement by the VOK right before the May Day weekend announcing they would be installing a locked gate right after the weekend.

The Ministry had expressed concern to the VOK over “unrestricted” vehicular access to the beach so the Village arbitrarily decided to install a gate across the roadway that runs by the sewer treatment plant through the Loggers Sports area, blocking access to the beach and small boat launch on the adjacent land. The VOK added a further restriction of no parking within 25 metres (82 feet) of the new gate. The VOK knew it would negatively impact the community and was an unpopular decision, but made it anyway. They chose to block the kayakers, windsurfers, paddle boarders, old and disabled people from accessing the beach and small boat launch due, they say, to “environmental considerations” while allowing the Loggers Sports to continue, along with group camping and overflow RV parking throughout the season and further promoting use of the area for special events, celebrations, trade shows and markets by permit. The nature of the new tenancy agreement is Industrial Community in nature and contains NO stipulation by the Province to gate and lock the grounds.

What was asked of the Village at the June meeting was to immediately create and implement a transition plan to ensure access to the beach and small boat launch for this 2017 spring/ summer/ fall season until a full management plan could be developed. It was suggested, and could have been done easily, cheaply, and quickly by simply placing physical barriers like large boulders or logs, to stop vehicles accessing the beach through the Loggers Sports grounds and protect the small strip of riparian zone that has managed to survive there, along with a sign saying “small boat launch only – no parking,” and continue to kick the area at night. Doing this could have easily addressed any environmental concerns, yet still allowed continued
Will the new government protect our watersheds?

A recent article in the Nelson Star by Will Johnson was titled “Mungall celebrates NDP ascension.” A better title would have been “Mungall celebrates NDP ascension due to cooperative spirit of Andrew Weaver, Green Party.”

I was the local representative to the Green Party provincial council for several years, when the Slocan Valley was part of the Nelson electoral district, before the gerrymandering of the electoral districts in the 2001 election.

At that time, the NDP was not progressive enough to protect the province and country that environmental activists loved. The Green Party was needed.

I would remind your readers that the leaders and pioneers for the environment locally and throughout the province came from women colleagues like the late Colleen McCrory, her good friends Elizabeth May and Adrian Carr, as well as Smist Water Keeper Marilyn James.

It is important to lobby whoever is in power and the Valhalla Park was set aside under a Socred government in 1983, not under a new government.

I spent a winter travelling to Cranbrook for the environmental assessment for Jumbo, and Colleen’s political research exposed the fact that it was the NDP government under Jean Chretien that invited the Jumbo development. At the time, only the Green Party opposed its development. It was difficult to oppose bowing to the NDP in power at the time and I am pleased the NDP now understand the Green Party’s position.

A letter from Corky Evans, Joan Sawicki, David Zirnhelt, Jim Beattie, Wayne P. McCrory, RPBio, Marilyn Burgoon, Marilyn Burgoon, Slocan Valley

Green candidate comments on new government

I congratulate Michelle Mungall on her cabinet appointment and look forward to working with her to shape forward-thinking energy policy. One question I am being asked by many is: How will the Greens stay independent? How will they continue to have any influence?

Under the Confidence and Supply Agreement between the two parties, the BC NDP must consult with the BC Green caucus in order to remove the death penalty.

The agreement has outlined a number of key policy areas that the two parties have agreed to prioritize and advance. Consultation will be done at a high-level at early stages of policy development through a consultation committee. On all other issues, the BC Green Caucus will vote on an issue-by-issue basis. And they may not vote as a bloc. They remain an independent opposition caucus. As such, it is also likely they will work with the Liberal party on some issues.

It was easy for me to campaign as a Green candidate because not only did I do well on the platform on economic and social and environmental policies needed for a sustainable future, it also laid out the economic changes needed to get us there in a fiscally responsible way. It was easy to engage about that.

And it’s reassuring to those who chose to vote Green in this election that each and every one of their votes mattered. They showed those now with the opportunity to make policy that a growing number of people want to see a shift towards a more sustainable future – economically, socially and environmentally. And there is no doubt the Greens have been influential policy-makers.

We log watersheds in this province” was Mr. Evans’ response. I also accompanied Dr. June Ryder (geologist), Allen Isaacsen (hydrologist) and the late Frank Baumann (engineer) to Victoria to educate the NDP Minister of Environment Joann Sawicki about the danger of logging the watersheds on Perry Ridge.

That was in 2000, and local residents continue to lobby government to protect their watersheds in this area, i.e. Glade, Ymir, and Crescent Valley areas and the remnant old-growth forest in the area.

It is now easier to be an environmentalist; however, as you will see from this limited history, it was not always easy to be “green.” I hope this newly formed government will be the party protecting the environment and “make sure it works for people.” – Michelle Mungall

I am not honest about changing the electoral system. This reform would better represent the citizens. There would be no need for citizens to strategize on who to vote for and who not to. As in New Zealand and Australia, we would have a government which would represent more of the population than our present electoral system reflects.

Marilyn Burgoon
Slocan Valley

Green Party comments on our Fish Lake Toad Study

As the research scientist who heads up the Fish Lake Western Toad research study and who has painfully observed the extensive toad roadkills on Highway 31A at Fish Lake since the days when the CPR railroad ran through there in the 1930s, I got quite a toad chuckle from the erroneous and unhelpful McKenzie’s suggestion that we build a fence along the side of Highway 31A last summer can certainly continue their migration up the mountain won’t be returning to Fish Lake. We’ve been monitoring toad migrations for another four to six years. So Mr. Freeman’s speculation that the surviving toadlets from last year produced a decline in toadpiles this year is not biologically possible. Moreover, last summer we carefully counted and monitored the toadlets that migrated eastward along the deflection fence and did not find any that had collapsed and died. In fact, elsewhere researchers have found that within eight weeks of metamorphosing from tadpoles into toadlets, the toadlets migrated up to 2.7 km away from the lake where they were born. Our short fence is not built to keep migrating toadlets from passing under it. It is far too narrow for that. If we had built a fence of the same style “Ha’ha” fence) that would be underground (what Patrick calls a British style “Ha’ha”) fence that would be less obstructive and built to be safe for toadlets.

Second, as to Mr. Freeman’s claim that our 2016 toadlet deflection fence at the Fish Lake rest stop is the root cause of what he perceives as a decline and “crisis” of tadpoles this year, this is absolutely NOT the case for several reasons. Most obviously, the estimated tens of thousands of toadlets we (and the public) have seen along the west end of the rest stop near the Fish Lake rest stop, is supportive. As well, more volunteer Toad ‘Toad Ambassadors’ volunteered their evenings to ensure hundreds of migrating adult toads, including pregnant females, made it safely across the highway so they would not be killed by traffic.

It is very difficult to estimate numbers of tadpoles. Some days we have noted hundreds of thousands swimming out in the lake or in one corner of the lake; other days only sparse schools are visible along the lakeshore at the breeding sites where you would most expect to see them. This year, our research team has observed large numbers of tadpoles in Fish Lake with repeated shoreline checks and using kayak surveys. It is not surprising since our night counts of migrating adult toads this spring showed many more adults crossing Highway 31A to breed in Fish Lake than in the previous two springs. Also, this year in between our scheduled night surveys, seven stalwartly ‘Toad Ambassadors’ volunteered their evenings to ensure hundreds of migrating adult toads, including pregnant females, made it safely across the highway so they would not be killed by traffic.

Michelle Mungall
Nelson

Helping toads cross the road: a response to Bruce Freeman's comments on our Fish Lake Toad Study

As the research scientist who heads up the Fish Lake Western Toad research study and who has painfully observed the extensive toad roadkills on Highway 31A at Fish Lake since the days when the CPR railroad ran through there in the 1930s, I got quite a toad chuckle from the erroneous and unhelpful McKenzie’s suggestion that we build a fence along the side of Highway 31A last summer can certainly continue their migration up the mountain won’t be returning to Fish Lake. We’ve been monitoring toad migrations for another four to six years. So Mr. Freeman’s speculation that the surviving toadlets from last year produced a decline in toadpiles this year is not biologically possible. Moreover, last summer we carefully counted and monitored the toadlets that migrated eastward along the deflection fence and did not find any that had collapsed and died. In fact, elsewhere researchers have found that within eight weeks of metamorphosing from tadpoles into toadlets, the toadlets migrated up to 2.7 km away from the lake where they were born. Our short fence is not built to keep migrating toadlets from passing under it. It is far too narrow for that. If we had built a fence of the same style “Ha’ha” fence) that would be less obstructive and built to be safe for toadlets.

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Michelle Mungall
Nelson

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July 27, 2017 The Valley Voice
Volunteers help save migrating adult toads at Fish Lake

Imagine a dark stormy night with some rain and fog blowing across the rays of your headlamp as you scan the roadway. A branch snaps as a moose crashes around in a nearby wetland.

That’s what seven stalwart volunteers braved this spring as Toad Ambassadors of the Fish Lake Western Toad research project. Between May 18 and June 22, they spent several hours after dark locating and moving migrating adult toads off the highway in order to help reduce the likelihood they would be squashed by vehicles as they moved towards their breeding grounds at Fish Lake.

The Toad Ambassadors program was initiated by the Valhalla Wilderness Society this year as a way to increase the number of adult toads that made it safely across the highway.

“As researchers we are up at Fish Lake twice a week doing our night surveys noting the toads’ sex, GPS location, direction of travel and other observations that we enter into our database to help us understand where the migration hotspots are located and how many are still killed by traffic,” said Marcy Mahr, a biologist on the project. “Over the last three years, each night we are up at Fish Lake doing our surveys, we have moved every toad we encounter off of the highway. This effort led us to invite volunteers to help us this spring to move even more toads off the highway between our scheduled surveys.”

The volunteers dedicated more than 44 hours moving a total of 334 toads off the highway. Of those, 80 were confirmed females; and for every female moved off the road as many as 12,000 to 17,000 eggs are saved, meaning future tadpoles are safe.

“Studies show that most breeding-phase adult toads migrate from after dark until about midnight and it just so happens that in the first few hours after dark there is still enough traffic between New Denver and Kaslo to cause levels of mortality that are of concern,” says biologist Wayne McCrozy. “This is the motivation for us to help our toad study team identify the best areas where toad-crossing undergrads and directional fencing might be installed to help secure the future of these blue-list species.”

Given the amount of breeding and large schools of tadpoles, the researchers are anticipating quite a few toadlets this year. In August, thousands will migrate across Highway 31A to their upland habitat from several different breeding sites. Unlike their parents, tadpoles migrate only during the daytime. During this migration, research biologists and Toad Ambassadors will be on hand at Fish Lake to monitor toadlets using the detection fence through the rest stop.

For more information on the project or to volunteer, please contact Wayne McCrozy, wayne@vws.com or Marcy@newdenver.bc.ca (250) 352-5135.

The Fish Lake Toad Ambassadors program is supported by the Columbia Basin Trust and the Kootenay Lake Conservation Program, which is sponsored by the Regional District of Central Kootenay and administered by the Kootenay Conservation Program.

Edgewood craft beer pioneer short-listed for the Taste Canada Awards

Frank Appleton, Edgewood resident and author of Brewing Revolution: Pioneering the Craft Beer Movement, is a finalist for the Taste Canada Awards, recognizing the best culinary books published in Canada each year. He is shortlisted in the Culinary Narratives category, which includes titles that explore culinary history, politics, social awareness and memoirs or biographies relating to food or beverages.

This is the second honour of the year for Appleton, who was longlisted for the prestigious National Book Award earlier in 2017.

Brewing Revolution is the inspiring story behind today’s craft beer revolution. In this entertaining and informative memoir, the English-trained brewmaster, who is considered by many to be the father of Canada’s craft-brewing movement, chronicles 50 years in the beer business, from his early years working for one of the major breweries, to his part in establishing the first cottage brewery in Canada, to a forward look at the craft beer industry in an ever-changing marketplace. Appleton has been a consultant brewmaster to 20 operations, advising on aspects such as design, start-up and training. In 2009, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Craft Brewing from CAMRA Victoria Chapter.

The other books shortlisted for the Culinary Narratives Taste Canada Award are Food Artisans of the Okanagan by Jennifer Cockrall-King, Food to Grow: A Simple, No-Fail Guide to Growing Your Own Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs by Frankie Flowers, 100 Million Years of Food: What Our Ancestors Ate and Why It Matters Today by Stephen Le and 150 Years of Canadian Beer Labels by Lawrence C. Sheft.

Silverton council, July 11:

Another grant comes through for Silverton Gallery renovation

by Claire Paradis

• A $25,000 grant from the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust (SIDIT) has been approved for the Silverton Gallery renovation project. Although there is no date for the reopening of the building, Mayor Clarke said he was personally hopeful that it would be opened by next summer.

• Work on Silverton’s water mains is done for the moment, until late August or early September when the contractor will return to complete the last section of the water main replacement. “The big push for us was to get the main street done in advance of the paving crews starting to work,” said Mayor Jason Clarke.

• Silverton’s payment for fire protection with the Village of New Denver will be looking forward and not retroactively from now on, said Mayor Jason Clarke. New Denver requested that the costs of each Village’s share be based on the current year’s budget rather than the previous year’s costs, and Silverton agreed to the proposed change.

• There are no further power outages planned in the Silverton area before fall 2017, said a letter from BC Hydro. The Village requested that the costs of each Village’s share be based on the current year’s budget rather than the previous year’s costs.

Silverton’s application for a fuel management prescription grant for south of town and Red Mountain Rd. has been approved. The total project cost is $15,000. The grant covers 75% ($11,250).

• Local Environmental’s review of the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society’s (SLSS) water monitoring of Silverton Creek concluded the group was doing a good job. The report said that there have been no potential effects on humans (E. coli) and aquatic animals (zinc and cadmium), but that high levels could just be normal for the water source.

• The Village of Silverton’s 2016 Statement of Financial Information was approved, with a report immediately available for perusal at the Village office. Among other things, they’ll find the amounts of remittance to councillors ($1,600) and payments to suppliers.

On August 1st and 2nd Dr. Brennan will be bringing a 3D laser foot scanner to the hospitals in New Denver and Nakusp. The laser produces images to make custom orthotics, footware and sandals. The sandals are great if you have existing orthotics but would like something more practical for the summer heat! If you have foot issues that may require custom orthotics or would like to have a foot scan performed, please contact Dr. Brennan’s office at (250) 352-5135. Appointments must be scheduled before August 1.

Edgewood - a toad who made it safely across the road thanks to a Toad Ambassador.

Local Conservation Fund, which is sponsored by the Regional District of Central Kootenay and administered by the Kootenay Conservation Program.
July 27, 2017   The Valley Voice

The majority of the July 10 meeting of the Nakusp Council was taken up with the presentation of the nearly completed Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan. The Trails Master Plan (TMP) put together by Brent Harley and Associates, was the result of months of community research, including public meetings in Nakusp and Edgewood which attracted a total of 100 attendees. There was an online survey, which gathered 79 responses. The results of the survey showed that many of the TMP improvements with benefits of trails as being health and fitness, environmental, and community and social. The consultants also collaborated with a Working Committee comprised of representatives from eight community groups with a stake in the development of trails in the area: Arrow Lakes Rider, Nakus Community Trails Society, Area Community Trails Society, Arrow Lakes Saddle Club, Dirt Bikers (informal group), Arrow Lakes ATV Club, Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Cross Country Ski Club.

“Basically this was a consensus-building exercise all the way through,” said Mayor Karen Hamling, and the consultation team went out to get information from the community.

Nakusp Mayor’s Report
by Mayor Karen Hamling

For this Mayor’s Report, council has requested that I update the public on the accomplishments of our hard-working senior management team.

In 2015, council had a strategic planning session with our CAO, Director of Operations, and Director of Parks and Recreation. Some of our goals are improvements to the Nakusp Hot Springs; biomass feasibility study; revitalization of the downtown; and improving our communications.

The biomass study showed that we could not benefit financially.

In 2014, Director of Recreation and Parks, the hot springs is now seeing an increase in attendance and sales, which in turn is benefit to the community as a whole. Many positive changes include: a new roof for the facility and chalets, upgrades to the chalets, and our successful new advertising and marketing program.

The Trails Master Plan is nearing completion and will be a tool used to access funding for future trails. The Village obtained funding for an interview will be contacted.

The Village of Nakusp is currently seeking a dynamic and energetic individual for the position of Supervisor at the Nakusp Hot Springs, Chalets, and Campground.

Nakusp & The Arrow Lakes

Arrollalake Storage

Village of Nakusp Job Posting

The Village of Nakusp is currently seeking a dynamic and energetic individual for the position of Supervisor at the Nakusp Hot Springs, Chalets, and Campground.

This is a unionized supervisor position that is fully involved in the day to day operations of the Hot Springs and will lead the provision and delivery of superior customer service to patrons. The incumbent shall be responsible for the administration and programming of the Hot Springs and will assist in marketing operations. Work schedules are diverse and include weekend and evening shifts.

This position involves ongoing interaction with customers and excellent communication and interpersonal skills are a must. Candidates should have experience in the operation of commercial pools and at least three years of progressively more responsible experience in a similar administrative capacity. RFABC Pool Operator Level 1 & 2 certification is required. While not required, a university degree or diploma in Recreation Management, or a related discipline would be an asset. A combination of equivalent education and experience would be considered.

The Village offers a competitive salary and benefit package to the successful applicant. If you are interested in this opportunity, we invite you to submit your resume and cover letter by email to twelsh@nakusp.com by Friday, August 4, 2017.

All applicants are thanked for their interest, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
Slocan council, July 10: No objections to Slocan rezoning changes

by Katrine Campbell

• The Village of Slocan held a public hearing prior to the council meeting regarding amendments to its zoning bylaw and Official Community Plan (OCP). On the agenda were four different items: a rezoning of three lots on Harrel St from Commercial to Residential, changes to the minimum site area requirement for the C2 commercial zone from 900 sq. meters to 614 sq. meters; changes to the off-street parking requirement for the C2 commercial zone, and changes to the permitted uses in the M2 industrial zone.

The proposed amendments had been given two readings at the June 12 meeting. They were reviewed with the three members of the public who attended this meeting, given third reading at the subsequent council meeting, and will be adopted at the August 14 council session.

Mayor Jessi Lynn opened by advising those present that council was there to listen to their comments but not to engage in debate. For the first three members of the public who had been given two readings at the June 12 meeting. They were reviewed with the three members of the public who attended this meeting, given third reading at the subsequent council meeting, and will be adopted at the August 14 council session.

He questioned the process that is in place, saying “I don’t feel I’ve had ample time to participate…[I was] not aware of the public process and heard rumours of the sale.” He also questioned the restrictions on “industrial” use of the site, noting that there are other types of light industry, such as the tourism industry and the real estate industry.

“I don’t know what the reason is behind the changes…has there been legal advice given?”

CAO Michelle Gordon explained the changes didn’t mean industrial use would be eliminated, but any proposal would have to go before council.

“It gives council a bit of control over what goes in,” she said.

• Holly Jack and Ray Lich from the WE Graham Community Service Society attended the council meeting as a delegation to inform council about services provided by the society’s Learning Centre. These include internet and computer access, which Jack called an “indispensable benefit to job seekers, youth, small business owners, students, tourists, and others.” Volunteers have been researching and applying for funding for new upgrades to the building.

• Council approved a request from Freeman and Charlie (Freeman Morris and Charlie Garton) to operate a business on the Slocan waterfront offering paddle board rentals and eventually canoes rentals.

They want to set up a gazebo tent against the fence line of the old beach parking area, a space which is not generally used or occupied by beach-goers. The proponents have two kayaks and two paddle boards, and will build their inventory as revenue is received. Council concurred with the applicant’s interest in liability insurance listing the Village as co-insured, and purchase of a Village of Slocan business license.

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The Kootenay Lake Partnership (KLP) is hosting a series of public open houses in August, an opportunity for the public to learn about the Kootenay Lake Shoreline Guidance Document. This document is the result of a comprehensive sensitive habitat mapping project that involved an inventory and assessment of ecological, archaeological and Ktunaxa cultural values along the shoreline of Kootenay Lake.

The project began in 2012 as an initiative of the KLP; a multi-agency partnership brought together to support collaborative management approaches for a productive and healthy lake ecosystem. The Shoreline Guidance Document (SGD) directs shoreline development activities such as docks, retaining walls, mooring buoys, or dredging in an effort to protect high-value shoreline habitats. The intent of the SGD is to allow common, low-risk shoreline activities to proceed with minimal regulatory oversight. Specific requirements would be needed to protect and restore important fish and wildlife habitats, and archaeological and Ktunaxa Nation cultural values.

UPGRADES TO WOODBURY'S WATER SYSTEM

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The document is intended to achieve key goals such as assisting in the recovery of fish habitat lost to past development impacts, and the ongoing protection of archaeologically significant areas. The KLP believes that it is possible and desirable to manage watersheds in a sustainable manner and that it is the shared responsibility of all stakeholders including proponents, professionals, all levels of government and community members.

The existing obsolete ultraviolet disinfection units, and media filtration will be added. A new small treatment building will be constructed to house the new disinfection equipment. The constant speed lake pump will be replaced with a variable speed pump that maintains a set discharge pressure. There will be also upgrades to reservoir control and communications, as random failure of the existing reservoir level control has been an ongoing issue. The project will also see improved controls on the temporary chlorinator in the lake pump station. The temporary chlorinator is activated for short periods of time to help disinfect the system, and can be turned on temporarily in the event of adverse water sample results.

Jason McDermid, Utility Services Manager at the RDCK, reports that RDCK staff recommends permanent chlorination for the system. “Although staff feels that implementation of permanent chlorine disinfection would be the best option, we do not wish to implement permanent chlorination without public and Interior Health consultation,” he said.

McDermid said the Community Advisory Committee has been informed that staff will be recommending permanent chlorination, and that the project is underway. The new disinfection system will be added, and the temporary chlorinator will be replaced with a variable speed pump that maintains a set discharge pressure. The system will also see improved controls on the temporary chlorinator in the lake pump station. The temporary chlorinator is activated for short periods of time to help disinfect the system, and can be turned on temporarily in the event of adverse water sample results.

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26th annual Kaslo Jazz Etc. festival builds on success...

by Art Joyce

For Kaslo Jazz Etc. director Paul Hinrichs, last year’s sold-out festival was evidence of the success of a new approach to programming. But with success comes pressure to do even better. This year’s roster of artists includes an eclectic mix of blues, jazz, soul, rock, folk, roots, spoken word, and performance artists – enough to satisfy everyone. The newly revamped website includes video clips of most artists, allowing ticket holders to sample music as a way of planning their listening over the August 4-6 weekend.

“This year’s goal was to bookend the weekend with a jazz headliner and an etcetera headliner as a way of honouring our name,” says Hinrichs. “There were a number of people last year who said, you’re a jazz festival and you have no jazz. As opposed to people saying you should just change your name, I thought, well, let’s honour both.”

While many music festivals are honing their brands to target ever more specific genres, Kaslo Jazz Etc. is widening its scope. After all, the mother of all festivals, Woodstock, started as a ‘music and arts fair,’ and Hinrichs wants his festival to be similarly known.

This year there are more performance artists than ever, with the dazzling Circus Act Insomniacs, hilarious local comedian Lucas Myers, the mesmerizing moves of Slova Doval’s Dance Fusion, and aerial artist Joy Weick. There will be art installations and 15 artists doing live painting. The Moving Mosaic Samba Band will carry the beat throughout the site. The Friday evening parade is another colourful highlight of the weekend.

“There’s going to be a lot more colour on site, making it much more festive,” says Hinrichs. “This is the first time our ticket price has been over $200. We’re fully conscious that people are spending a lot to come here for a weekend, so we don’t want to be charging more for an inferior experience.”

Giving more bang for the buck has meant expanding the Friday schedule to begin at 11 am. Naturally there’s a host of well-known headliners: Los Lobos, The Sheepdogs, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Shame Koyczan and Short Story Long, The Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra, and Fred Penner. A whole crop of equally talented local artists – some of them recent transplants to the Kootenays – is also featured: Freya, Breakwater, Melody Diachun, Bessie Wapp, Laura Landsberg, Pauline Lamb, Brian Rosen and the Whatnow, and Meow Mix, to name only a few. Four local artists – Lost Ledge, Red-Eyed Soul, The Eisenhauers, and Moontricks – are based in Kaslo and Argenta, evidence of a thriving music scene on North Kootenay Lake.

From the international music scene comes new soul singer Charles Bradley and His Extraordinaires. Dubbed ‘The Screaming Eagle of Soul,’ his 2013 album Victim of Love made several best of the year lists in major music magazines. Canada’s First Nations are front and centre at Kaslo Jazz Etc. this year. A Tribe Called Red, based in Ottawa, mixes traditional pow-wow vocals and drumming with cutting-edge electronic music. Canada’s First Nation Alt-Country, throat singing, and reggae.

Blues lovers will find plenty to choose from, whether it’s American blues veteran Sonny Rhodes, Canadian gypsy jazz-blues band Blue Moon Marquee, the barrelhouse boogie-woogie piano of festival favourite David Vest, or the classic roots blues of Holly and Jon. Jazz fans will delight in the lush, New Orleans sound of the Preservation Hall Jazz Band; the genre-bending BadBadNotGood with its fusion of jazz, futuristic hip-hop, and ballads; or the virtuoso chops of In Orbit with Felix Pastorius, Jeff Coffin and Michael O’Connell. There’s even Kids Love Jazz, with locals Rob Funk, Rich Rabnett and Jesse Lee transforming classic kids’ songs into jazz gems.

Hinrichs says selling 6,000 tickets last year created serious challenges for traffic control, waste management and toilets – challenges his team has worked hard to overcome. The festival is installing two permanent washrooms in Kaslo Bay Park. A wheelchair athlete is working with the team to facilitate easier access for the disabled. A new feature allows online ticket buyers to indicate they have a disability so that they may be given special consideration.

The Green Team is back, with Kaslo Minor Hockey volunteers sorting recyclables and Todd Veri returning with his bokashi composting system. “I think anybody that’s encouraging tourism in a remote area like this has this responsibility to promote less waste,” says Hinrichs. “Even with just a couple of thousand people, it creates a tremendous amount of garbage.”

Last year’s four campsites has continued on page 11
The Sheepdogs return to the Kootenays, headlining the Saturday night show at Kaslo Jazzfest. Here they are performing at the Nakusp Musicfest, back in 2011.

26th annual Kaslo Jazz Etc. festival builds on success...

continued from page 10

been consolidated into two, Lovers campsite just behind the Village works yard and South Beach (at the old mill site). Both campsite fees and recyclables at these sites are fundraisers for the Kaslo Food Hub and the Kaslo Housing Society. Not everyone wants to stop partying at midnight when the festival finishes, sometimes leading to friction with residents. To alleviate this problem, Hinrichs partnered with the Kaslo Legion for late night concerts with alcohol service, with Moontricks playing Friday night and The Boom Booms on Saturday night, finishing at 2 am.

Alcohol at the festival will still be allowed anywhere on site throughout the day, but drinkers will be encouraged to move into the beer tent by the vendor village at 9 pm. Craft brewers are once again the festival favourite. Nelson Brewing Company returns alongside Vancouver’s Steamworks, Revelstoke’s Mt. Bigby ales, and new micro-brewer Torchlight from Nelson, which created a festival-only nectarine brew called The Big Squeeze. Festival-branded stainless steel pint cups will be sold, doing double duty as waste reduction and souvenirs.

For tickets and a complete list of artists, visit kaslojazzfest.com.
Kelowna-based artist Peggie Collins will be exhibiting at the Hidden Garden Gallery July 31-August 5. Her show titled ‘My Journey’ will include paintings from her travels and a special collage of images from the New Denver area. Peggie is best known for her bold use of colour, unique subject matter and composition.

Six years ago, she began her painting journey in acrylics. It was what she had long been searching for. Combining her love of travel, the paint and canvas allowed her to share her stories of beauty and discovery through her eyes, with her brush. Her work will surprise you and delight you.

A reception will be held on Wednesday, August 2, 7-9 pm with music by the very talented Rebecca Fudge.

Edward Lane Elsmore March 17, 1970 - July 2, 2017

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Edward Lane Elsmore on July 2, 2017. Eddie was born in New Denver on March 17, 1970 and was an avid athlete growing up, particularly playing on local hockey and baseball teams. After graduating, he attended Douglas College in Vancouver and later OUC in Kelowna. This is where he spent all of his adult life, worked as an electrician and made many good friends. Eddie was gregarious and resilient, but will be remembered most for his great sense of humour, kind heart and generous soul.

He leaves behind his parents Ed and Ilona, sister Angie (Vince), niece Jade and nephew Teo.

Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation welcome.

Kaslo and Slocan students get to know their watersheds classrooms for sessions on all things water and takes students on full-day field trips into their community’s watershed. Over the course of a few days, students learn how their water gets from the mountains to the faucet, and all about the return journey down the pipes, through wastewater treatment and back into the water cycle.

2% from JV Humphries had a chance to further expand their water knowledge by visiting Kaslo Bay and doing some in-depth learning about Kootenay Lake, including the food web that supports Gerrard trout, the biggest rainbow trout in the world. Marley Bassett, Fish Restoration Biologist from the province, was on hand to share information about her work on Kootenay and Arrow Lakes.

The students also learned about a new threat to our lakes: the highly invasive zebra and quagga mussels, which have not yet reached BC and hopefully never will. Water samples were taken by the students and sent off to a lab to test for the presence of mussels.

The results will be made available to Kaslo’s new crop of budding field technicians.

“The opportunity to learn directly from Marley about issues facing Kootenay Lake was awesome,” said Know Your Watershed educator, Gillian Sanders. “The students learned how to record field data and take real samples to send to the lab. The whole experience really raised everybody’s awareness of how fortunate we are to have this amazing body of fresh water at our doorstep.” Sometimes the best lessons are learned outside the classroom.

Meanwhile, Slocan Valley students from WE Graham Community School and Mt. Sentinel Secondary teamed up with students from Castlegar for a series of watershed investigations, ending with a student-produced multimedia shadow puppet production about our ecosystems. Students researched and wrote a collaborative presentation, coupled with the extraordinary time-lapse photography and editing skills of Corey Zavier, that provided an in-depth look at the diverse ecosystems that surround us. The students captured video footage at various locations, from Slocan Lake to Lower Arrow Lakes, Kootenay River to the Slocan River, and that footage was used as a backdrop for shadow puppets to present a montage of the incredible biodiversity found in our river, pond, and lake ecosystems.

“By uniting watersheds and communities, the students from each school developed a shared understanding of the interconnectedness of their watershed environments and the abundant biodiversity found in the Columbia River Basin,” said Wildsight educator Shanon Bennett.

At the Hidden Garden Gallery: upcoming shows

- The Lake is the title of the show by Ursula Abresch, August 7-12. Ursula is an art photographer who lives in New Denver and dedicates most of her time to her photography.

- She was born in Argentina and raised in Argentina and in Chile. She moved to the United States to attend university and eventually moved permanently to Canada. She has a degree in education with a concentration in art and history.

This exhibition is a series of images inspired by Slocan Lake. “Slocan is the most beautiful lake in the West Kootenays. I live by it, and love it and the mountains all around it. The images are both abstract and representational. My goal is to give back to the viewer how the lake feels at different times of the day throughout the year.”

The images are made with a digital camera and most of them are printed on metal. In a metal print, dyes are infused directly into specially coated aluminum sheets. The images vary in size from “10” x “20” to “24” x “36”.

The reception for ‘The Lake’ is on Thursday, August 10, 7-9 pm (with music provided by the amazing Anna B.)
Kaslo council, July 11: Village to comment on FortisBC’s electricity rate design

by Jan McMurray

The initial public consultation for one of two important Kaslo projects took place July 13 on the top floor of the Kernball building. Several Kasловians showed up for the open house on the Kaslo Lands Project and the Liquid Waste Management Plan, Stage 3.

An open house public consultation for both projects will take place in the fall. Both projects are expected to be finished by the end of 2017.

Ed Grifone of CTQ Consultants, hired to complete the Lands Project and to assist with the public consultation for the LWMP, explained that conducting the public consultation and two projects together makes sense – not just because of their similar timelines, but also because the two projects impact one another. For example, the property is serviced by the sewer system or a septic system affects the potential use and the value of the land.

Scott Wallace of True Consulting, the firm taking care of the LWMP, said that the Lands Project might trigger a second look at some of the properties south of Kaslo River. In stage 2 of the LWMP program, the cost to expand the sewer system to South Kaslo would be high. However, Wallace indicated that the Lands Project may prompt them to look at sewer service for specific properties in South Kaslo.

The Lands Project is looking at all Village-owned properties with economic development potential for Kaslo in mind. “We will know definitely what’s going on with each property – servicing, policy, flood analysis, slope analyses,” said Grifone.

With an understanding of the constraints and opportunities of each property, CTQ can help determine the property values and create a plan to assist council with disposition and sales.

By law, the Village must determine and disclose fair market value before selling or otherwise disposing of any properties. “We can work with non-profits, and we can do land swaps, too,” Grifone added. “It’s all in the interest of economic benefit for the Village.”

Grifone said CTQ had met with stakeholders and the general public, and had heard the interests of the private sector, the airport group, and others.

Some of the Village-owned properties include the Kernball building, the bowling green (Saturday Market space), the seniors hall, the fire hall, the Scout Hall property, the City Hall, the Thrift Store, the movie theatre, the waterfront area, and the airport area.

Comments can be emailed to info@ctqconsultants.ca.

Stage 3 of the Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) will detail the phased implementation plan for the expansion of the sewer system throughout Lower Kaslo and eventually to Upper Kaslo, and will include financing strategies, as well.

“The trickiest part of the financing equation will be who will pay for what – fairness issues,” said Scott Wallace of True Consulting. Although the Village hopes to rely heavily on grants for the expansion, some tax dollars will be required. The existing municipal sewer system is being paid for by the downtown businesses and residents who receive the service, and there have been questions around fairness associated with future expansions of the system.

During stage 2, it was determined that the existing wastewater treatment plant has the capacity to take on Lower Kaslo. However, plant upgrades of $750,000 would be done concurrent with expansion to Lower Kaslo to modernize the plant and improve certain aspects of its operations. Expanding the collection system (sewer pipes) to cover all of Lower Kaslo is expected to cost $4,650,000. So, servicing Lower Kaslo would cost a total of $5,400,000. The Village has applied for funding to get a start on the expansion of the collection system in Lower Kaslo (including City Hall), and expects to hear back about the grant application by the end of the year.

Expansion of the collection system to Upper Kaslo is expected to cost $8,220,000. Bringing in Upper Kaslo will also require doubling the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant, which is estimated to cost $1,750,000.

During the public consultation in the fall, Wallace hopes to present a draft Stage 3 report.

Comments about the Stage 3 LWMP can be submitted to admin@kaslbc.ca by July 31.

KASLO & DISTRICT

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Kaslo & District
Adaptive mountain biking trails being built in New Denver, Nakusp and Revelstoke areas

Adaptive trails for mountain bikers with disabilities are being built in the New Denver, Nakusp and Revelstoke areas this summer. The adaptive Spine Trail is a 3.5-kilometre section of the 7.5-kilometre Butter Trail extension project in Revelstoke, near New Denver. The North Slocan Trails Society (NSTS) is managing the project.

“During the planning stage, when we saw that the adaptive trail would follow along the spine of the ridge, we decided to call it the Spine Trail,” said Mike Koolen, president of the NSTS. “The name clicked because many of the riders have spinal injuries.”

Tara Llanes, a professional mountain biker who became paralyzed from the waist down after a mountain biking accident, came to New Denver earlier this summer to test the Spine Trail. Mike Koolen of the NSTS says she gave the trail a big thumbs up.

There will be parking areas with signage at the start and finish of the Spine Trail, and there are exits along the trail in case of emergency. Funding for the project came from CBT Recreation and the BC government.

Harrop-Procter Community Forest has been awarded the Robin Hood Memorial Award for Excellence in Community Forestry, a $10,000 grant that honours past president of the BCCFA, Robin Hood. “As one of the original community forest pilots in BC, Harrop-Procter has been a trailblazer ever since its inception in 1999. (See article in this issue.)”

The cooperative was founded on forest stewardship, and the cooperative’s mission is to produce forest products of high quality in a sustainable manner.

“Their commitment to forest stewardship and innovation has set an example for everyone working in community forestry in BC and elsewhere.”

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The original 1999 Silva forest program – values such as sustainability, biodiversity, and culture – remains the goal, but has evolved to include other priorities such as local economic development, youth training, and Indigenous reconciliation.

Harrop-Procter has embarked on a two-year climate change adaptation plan funded by Columbia Basin Trust, based on projections of 5.5-10 times higher rates of wildfires in the coming decades and the increasing risk tolerance for impacting water rights, depleting timber or degrading watersheds.

Procter Community Forest has been a leader in the community forest movement,” noted the BCCFA Executive Director, General Manager Rami Rothkop. “Their commitment to forest stewardship has grown to 10,000 cubic metres annually but without compromising BC’s natural resources.”

The Harrop-Procter Community Forest is scheduled for the end of December. Janis Neufeld, project director, says this phase is focused on the lower section near the lake. “They are mostly cross-country trails that people who have a lot of trail options, the beginner single track trails – and we’re also doing a couple of kilometres of adaptive trail.”

The grand opening of the Spine Trail is scheduled for September 16, and Llanes has confirmed her attendance.

The adaptive Spine Trail is part of the Mount Abriel Project of the Nakusp and Area Bike Society (NABS). The Mount Abriel Project is a five-year project to construct 50 kilometres of trail – about 10 kilometres of trail per year. The Nakusp adaptive trail is a two kilometre section of trail and is being built this season. Work has stopped for the fire season, but the society plans to complete this first phase of trail building by the end of December.

The Harrop-Procter Community Forest is a valuable asset to the community, providing approximately $10,000 in local economic benefits. The community is encouraged to come ride, walk or run the two kilometres of trail that have been built so far. The area is located 10 kilometres north of Nakusp on Hwy 23 towards Revelstoke. Turn left on Adams Road and you’ll see the trails on both sides of the road.

In Revelstoke, a 1.3-kilometre adaptive trail is being built as part of the Mount Abriel trail bike network. The New Denver, Nakusp and Revelstoke groups are collaborating on the adaptive trail projects, and will be making presentation together at a mountain bike tourism symposium September 13 and 14 in Revelstoke.

Miraage Studio opens its doors to art lovers

Tucked in along the Slocan River in Passmore, the artists of Miraage Studio invite you to visit the gallery as they open their doors and hosts to guests for the ninth annual Columbia Basin Culture Tour.

“Whether you are a fan of contemporary yet timeless artistic vision. And Chantal, his partner in life and business, will welcome visitors into their home and studio, displaying their work and with those involved behind the scenes in their locale. Miraage Studio, owned and operated by Frantisek Strouhal and Chantal Robert, is venue for the ninth annual Columbia Basin Culture Tour.

“No one, anywhere in the world, has a job that is as tough as a job coach has been hired to assist them. ‘It’s working out really well,’ Neufeld reports. “It’s a great fit for them.”

“Their commitment to forest stewardship and innovation has set an example for everyone working in community forestry in BC and elsewhere.”

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classified ads
Off the Lake by art photographer Ursula Abresch, August 7-12, focusing on images of Slocan Lake, reception is Thursday, August 10, 7-9 pm with music by Anna B. The Hidden Garden Gallery, 803 Kildare St., New Denver is open 10 am to 3 pm Monday to Saturday.

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Kootenay Jack of school tribute 50s & 60s: Friday, August 18 at 8 pm, Bluebelle Bistro, New Denver is open 10 am to 3 pm Monday to Saturday.


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can get wet.

and Richard Johnson. For this day, we

led by Marcy Maht, Daniel Hellyer,

and some flowers. Trailer has covered outdoor

boats, etc. Trailer has covered outdoor

It is co-sponsored by Valhalla Wilderness

Society.

Wild Days are free and run from 9 am to 9 pm. Don’t forget to dress for the weather, being wet and snarky.

Wild Days 2017 is made possible by Hills Recreation Society, Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, Slocan Lake Legacy Fund, SWAMP, RCKD and Columbia Basin Trust. Please save these dates on your family calendar! For further information, contact theresa.tremaine@...

Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski parking lot on east side of Highway 6, exactly 24 kilometers north of New Denver and south of Nakusp. This walk will be led by Marcy Maht, Daniel Hellyer, and Richard Johnson. For this day, we recommend that you wear footwear that can get wet.

August 19 brings us the last Wild Days program, ‘Fenmenal Fen,’ will take place on Saturday, August 12. Participants will visit Hills wetlands, full of carnivorous plants and cool insects reminiscent of the northern boreal forest. Meet at the

Saturday, August 31. This event is

the northern boreal forest. Meet at the

plants and cool insects reminiscent of

Saturday, August 12. Participants will

‘Fenomenal Fen,’

and Silverton.

Wild Days returns with more family nature programs in August

submitted

Wild Days returns this summer!

If you are curious about the amazing plants and animals of the Slocan Valley, come on out. There’s outdoor fun and learning to be had in August during Wild Days.

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society is offering three family-focused nature programs in August to explore different habitats within the Slocan Lake watershed. Each day will have local naturalists and scientists on tap to make the day interesting.

The first program, ‘Time Travelling,’ takes place Saturday, August 5. Local experts Daniel Hellyer, Richard Johnson, and Rachel Harr will lead participants on a walk through recent and geologic time to explore the diversity of nature at Bosun Ranch. The meeting place is at the Bosun Ranch off Harris Road, between New Denver and Silverton.

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FortisBC South Slocan admin and warehouse buildings to be demolished this fall

by Jan McMurray

FortisBC will be moving from its digs in South Slocan to the new Kootenay Operations Centre near Castlegar in the fall. Efforts to save the historic South Slocan administration building (commonly known as the old staff house) and warehouse building have been unsuccessful. Both buildings are slated for demolition shortly after the move.

“Over the past several months, we’ve worked closely with local members of the community to determine a possible viable option to preserve these buildings over the long-term,” reports Nicole Bogdanovic of FortisBC. “Due to the significant cost associated with renovations and upkeep necessary to operate these buildings safely, we were unable to find a group willing to take on this responsibility.”

Cree Lake Lodge, however, originally built circa 1898 by the CPR as a fishing lodge for tourists at the Slocan Pool, can still be saved. “We are still open to making Creek Lodge available to the public, if repaired and maintained, either on or off the property,” said Bogdanovic.

The cost to refurbish the lodge has been estimated at $500,000. Anyone interested in Cree Lake Lodge can contact Blair Weston at KootenayOpsFeedback@fortisbc.com.

FortisBC will continue to use the South Slocan site. The garage and shop buildings will undergo minor renovations and will remain to support field crews. The public will still be able to access the green space and gardens on the property.

The new Kootenay Operations Centre, located on a 10-acre parcel of land in Ootsaichich, will be 30,000 square feet and will contain office and crew space, warehouse space, and a dedicated Emergency Operations Centre. About 100 people will work there.

The new centre replaces the South Slocan facilities that are at end of life, and will provide improved communications and project coordination within departments, and improved safety. The $33 million project began in June last year and will be substantially complete in August 2017.

The move from the South Slocan administration and warehouse buildings is scheduled to occur September-November, with demolition of the South Slocan buildings to follow. “We ask for the community’s patience and understanding as we work through plans to safely remove and dispose of these buildings,” said Bogdanovic.

MacPherson launches book at Nakusp library

Author Barbara MacPherson has just published her latest book and will launch it at the Nakusp Public Library on August 11. The Land on Which We Live, subtitled Life on the Cariboo Plateau, 70 Mile House to Bridge Lake, is the story of the pioneers who began to arrive in 1891.

MacPherson, who now lives in Nakusp with her family, spent several years as a child in Bridge Lake and has lived in many places in BC. Combining her passion for social history and genealogy with her love of the Cariboo, she began a four-year project of researching, studying, and writing about the lives of those who arrived in the region between 1871 to 1959.

A founding member of the Arrow Lakes Historical Society, she co-wrote the prizewinning Faces of the Past (ALHS) with Milton Parent. MacPherson is a freelance writer in many subjects and has been writing and publishing stories for more than 30 years.

“A treasure trove of early photographs, painstaking research and most of all, marvelous accounts of feckless wanderers and resolute settlers, roadhouse operators, and ranchers in the South Cariboo – tough cookies, bad apples and ashy dudes included!” – author and former New Denver resident Caroline Woodward.

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A group of six diverse individuals from the Arrow and Slocan Lakes come together every Saturday morning to deal with issues around cancer.

All cancer patients in various stages of treatment for a variety of cancers, these six people have two very important things in common; they are not allowing cancer to define them and they agree that having a confidential and safe place to share and learn is vital.

The group’s mission statement is to encourage and empower people living with cancer, so they can maintain and improve the quality of their lives.

Two facilitators have been hired with funding from the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation to keep the group focused. They have investigated techniques and options to deal with stress, relaxation and sleep issues, mental, physical, and social issues, emotional issues such as depression and anger, pain management, chemo brain, medical deduction issues, treatment funding programs, traditional and non-traditional treatment care, and have many more items of interest and concern on their agenda. None of them knows what to expect at the first meeting. The facilitators have been pleasantly surprised by their honesty, compassion, humour, strength and commitment to this group.

According to the newly released 142-page Canadian Cancer Society 2017 Statistics, one in two Canadians will develop cancer and one in four will die as a result, making cancer the leading cause of death in Canada. Also, the Canadian healthcare system is expected to face increasing demand for cancer services, including diagnostics, treatment, palliative care and survivor services. Those statistics alone strongly suggest that at least every health region should be supporting a group such as this, which envisions serving the cancer driving needs of its people. Currently, such groups are few and far between and most are grassroots without funding.

Although many individuals who survive a cancer diagnosis continue to live healthy, productive and rewarding lives, the cancer experience presents many monetary, physical, emotional and spiritual challenges that can persist long after the initial disease is treated. The Arrow group is pursuing several ideas on how to help deal with and advocate for such issues and are collecting what they hope to be a comprehensive resource library that will be housed at the Arrow Lakes Hospital.

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Cancer patients support group meets weekly in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

A petition is circulating to extend the Arrow Park cable ferry service to 24 hours.

The petition is available in Nakusp at the Esso, Anderson’s, and K2 Rotor Lodge, and at bulletin boards in Arrow Park. It will be submitted to MLA Katrine Conroy at the end of August.

The Arrow Park ferry now runs from 5 am to 12:05 pm, then breaks for two hours and runs from 2:15 pm to 9:20 pm. The five-minute run carries vehicles and passengers from Arrow Park (on the west side of the Arrow Reservoir) to Hwy 6, 22 kilometres south of Nakusp and north of Burton.

“We’d like to see the hours increased to make it more convenient for industrial users.

Also, the Arrow Park ferry service to Castle Mountain, which is on the other side of the Arrow Reservoir in Nakusp. “If anything happens over the lunch hour or after 9 pm, emergency vehicles can’t get here, and residents or recreationalists over there can’t get to Nakusp.”

Recently, there was a wildfire at Fife Creek and emergency vehicles came across on the ferry.

Arrow Park is a popular year-round recreation hub, with forestry roads leading to popular trails such as Saddle Mountain Lookout, BC Forest Recreation Sites, and lakes. Thomas says bikers, hunters, skiers, and sledders regularly use the ferry year-round.

The hours are also very inconvenient for industrial users. “The logging trucks start lining up at 5 am and then again at 2 pm after the mid-day break,” said Thomas.

There is an industrial log sort operation in Arrow Park, seasonal tree planting camps, and frequent logging activity.

Residents are also inconvenienced by the mid-day lack of service and 9 pm shutdown. “If there’s an evening school event, or if we want to go to a movie or out for dinner, we can’t get home unless we leave a boat on other side,” said Thomas.

The Arrow Park ferry service was reduced in 2002, when the provincial Liberals imposed 30% cost reductions. Pre-2002, the ferry ran from 5 am to 10 pm with no mid-day shutdown. At the time, there was no government response to a petition with 120 signatures opposing the reduced hours.

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According to the newly released 142-page Canadian Cancer Society 2017 Statistics, one in two Canadians will develop cancer and one in four will die as a result, making cancer the leading cause of death in Canada.
by Art Joyce

For Carleen Ross, her art isn’t simply about having a creative outlet, it’s a way of giving back to the world’s distressed creatures. Her acrylics of the endangered green sea turtle vaulted her work to international status, and prints of her paintings support conservation societies in California and Hawaii.

Ross will exhibit her latest series – her more recent venture into watercolours – at Studio Connexion from July 26 to August 13. Titled ‘Mes Rêves de Jour’ (‘My Daydreams’), the series focuses primarily on animals found in Western Canada. The artist will be present in the gallery for a meet-and-greet on July 28 from 5 to 8 pm.

“For a while there, I looked at my paintings and realized I was painting every animal on the extinction list,” says Ross. “I find people have unique draws to different animals. I ask people what animal draws them and I paint those, and it’s a different animal for everyone.”

Ross was a massage therapist for 20 years before switching to a full-time art career. While studying to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree at university, she focused on studies in animal behavior. But she had to have two fine arts minors to obtain her degree, and she chose art history and Native American art history. It was this that prompted a major change in career direction. With the birth of her first son – now age 12 – she found time to begin painting.

Clearly she is naturally gifted, as she has no formal training, yet the quality of the work speaks for itself. Her early subject material were portraits of children. These were of such realism that she soon found herself being commissioned to paint other peoples’ children. Next she was commissioned to paint a green sea turtle, and her career began to take off. Before long, she had gallery representation in Edmonton, near her home in Sherwood Park.

Ross lives part-time with her family in Edgewood, where they have a hobby vineyard. “One of the ways that I describe my art is ‘dreamscape realism.’ I really like to focus on the colours – I try to see the colours others might miss. The colours aren’t true to the animal, per se, but it’s elements of colour I glimpse in them.”

Ross sees her work diverging into two separate streams: acrylics and watercolours. But it’s more than just the medium that makes these streams unique in her work. Some of her acrylics have been mistaken for photographs, the detail is so precise. Naturally, this takes a great deal of skill and intense concentration, not to mention the sheer number of hours required to complete a single painting. She found watercolours to be a somewhat looser medium, allowing her to relax more into a somewhat impressionist style. Ross limits herself to focus on the colours – I try to see the elements of colour I glimpse in them.”

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• Aug. 16 - Sept. 2: T. Mirkov-POPOVICKI
• Sept. 5 - 23: Robyn GOLD
• Sept. 26 - Oct. 7: Gail McMartin

The gallery will be open on Sat. Aug. 12 & Sun. Aug. 13, 10 am to 5 pm, to celebrate the Columbia Basin Culture Tour.

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