2017 wildfire season worst in BC history

by Art Joyce

It’s official – according to the BC Emergency Operations Centre, this summer has been the worst wildfire season since records started being kept in 1950. Kevin Skrepnek, Chief Fire Information Officer for the Kamloops Wildfire Centre, reports that since April 1st there have been 1,057 fires across the province, burning 981,000 hectares of land. To date the Province has spent $345.3 million in firefighting costs, with 3,600 Provincial personnel, 550 out of province personnel and 1,500 contractors from the forest industry along with more than 200 aircraft.

According to Canadian Forces Major Jeff Allen, of the Joint Pacific Taskforce based in Esquimalt, a further 600 military personnel have been engaged in firefighting or providing security in evacuated communities. Firefighting-trained Canadian Forces members were deployed in self-sufficient camps to assist with the mop-up and monitoring stages of the wildfires, including air support. Dawn Roberts, Director of Communications for the RCMP, conservatively estimates that 2,000 RCMP staff have been deployed over the past six weeks – including municipal police officers – and an additional 500 officers in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region.

A record 37,000 people have been evacuated from their homes since July 8, when a series of lightning strikes set off a series of fires in the Cariboo and Chilcotin regions, as well as near Cache Creek and Princeton. As of August 20 there were 27 evacuation orders and 35 evacuation alerts issued across the province, with 9,700 residents still on evacuation alert. Interior Health CEO Chris Mazurkewich says the outpouring of support has been outstanding for the unprecedented numbers of patients evacuated from health facilities.

“We’ve seen our own staff, along with physicians, emergency responders, First Nations, social services agencies, churches, charitable organizations, universities, businesses, and individual citizens come forward to ensure these vulnerable people are kept safe and comfortable. I cannot say enough about the generosity of health sites in Interior Health and Northern Health who have taken in patients and clients evacuated from their home facilities.”

As of August 20 there were 107 fires still burning, down from 138 a few days earlier. There was little hope for relief in the weather forecast, with continued hot, dry conditions, minimal rainfall and stiff winds. The EOC on August 17 announced that the provincial state of emergency would remain in place until September 1st, when it will be reassessed. That has meant a ban on off-road vehicle traffic and a total campfire ban. The Cariboo-Chilcotin region, probably the hardest hit in the province, has a total backcountry closure on all Crown land.

The last provincial declaration of a state of emergency was issued during the 2003 wildfire season. Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lawrence MacAulay and BC Agriculture Minister Lana Popham are investigating financial assistance for hard-hit ranchers and farmers in the province. The Province is offering direct financial support to evacuees, with $600-per-household funding, renewable every 14 days until evacuees return home. Small businesses affected by the fires can also now receive a $1,500 emergency grant through the Canadian Red Cross and Province of BC. Eligible businesses are those located along Highway 20 west of Williams Lake, Highway 97 south of Prince George, Highway 26 to Barkerville, and the eastern Cariboo Regional District communities of Horsefly and Likely.

Air quality advisories have been issued by all levels of government. The City of Vancouver had an advisory in place from August 1 to 17. As of August 14, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy amended its ‘smoky skies’ alerts to remove Slocan Lake, Arrow Lakes, Kootenay Lake and the West Kootenay from their list.
With huge swaths of the province burning, the West Kootenay has not been immune to wildfires in this record-breaking fire season. Residents and visitors alike have been confronted with smoky skies across the region due to several small to medium sized fires. Unlike the rest of BC, however, the weather has mostly cooperated, with brief rain showers helping prevent these fires from becoming major. As of press time Monday, August 21, there were 40 active fires in the Southeast BC fire region, down from a high of 280 this season.

The Morley Creek fire near Kokanee Provincial Park on Kootenay Lake’s West Arm had grown to 80 hectares. Both Morley Creek and Harrop fires had firefighting crews from Australia and as of August 21 were transitioning to BC crews. Morley Creek is now 100 percent contained. The McCormick Creek fire near Salmo had grown to 750 hectares with 59 personnel, six pieces of heavy equipment and one helicopter. At one point the fire had jumped the Salmo River, causing an evacuation order for the Nelway area and forcing the Shambhala music festival to close early. By Monday the 21st that fire had been reduced to 410 hectares and was mostly contained. The 250-hectare Galena Bay area fire had 21 personnel on site working to “tie off” the northwest corner, but with no other change as of August 21. No change has occurred at Rapid Creek, the 750-hectare fire still burning northwest of Malakwa Creek near the Lardeau River.

The week the Valley Voice went to press a new 0.1-hectare fire erupted at Hell Roaring Creek in the Salmo area. It was actioned immediately by a bucketing helicopter but no growth is expected due to the quick response. Similar fast action prevented a small fire on Ranch Ridge in Hills from becoming a serious problem. On the afternoon of August 17 a barn fire in Edgewood received prompt action from the local volunteer fire department, preventing the fire from spreading. The cause as of press time was unknown.

The BC Wildfire Service was called by the fire department and sent a helicopter just in case the blaze got out of control. On the same day around 6 pm a power line came down on Needles North Road causing a small fire but it too was quickly put out. “We had more calls over that four day period than we’d had in two years,” says Dummitt. “There was also a lightning strike that week that kept us busy for a couple of hours.”

As of August 18, the RDCK had reinstated an evacuation alert for the Rapid Creek and McCormick Creek fires. Regional district residents can get the latest on evacuation orders and alerts at the RDCK website under the ‘emergency services’ menu item ‘evacuation information page.’

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Highway 6 from the Nelway border crossing to the junction with Highway 3 was closed due to poor visibility from smoke. Those with travel plans to the US are advised to change their route until further notice. Regular updates for travellers can be found at the Drive BC website, www.drivebc.ca.

According to Southeast BC Fire Centre information officer Carlee Kachman, the wind will be shifting this week, bringing in more smoke from the central BC region, where the Cariboo-Chilcotin fires are still burning.

So far this season, the 280 fires in the Southeast BC fire region have burned 18,131 hectares of forest. Of these, 212 were caused by lightning while the remainder were human-caused. In April this year, the Province of BC instituted stiff fines for anyone defying the campfire ban or causing a wildfire. Not complying with a fire restriction under the Wildfire Act has tripled from $345 to $1,150. Failing to properly extinguish a burning substance, such as a cigarette, will now cost an offender $575. Maximum fines under the amendments jumped from $5,000 to $1 million for corporations and up to $100,000 for individuals.

Motorists and residents are urged to report any signs of fire or smoke when sighted by calling *5555 on a cellphone or 1-800-663-5555 on a landline.
RDCK developing new plan for organic waste diversion

by Art Joyce

The RDCK is in the process of updating its 2010 Resource Recovery plan to meet both Provincial government guidelines, in particular the need to divert organic waste from the waste and recyclables stream. A draft report was released in August 2016, and a final report in 2017. This report is the final report for this phase. A report to the RDCK board estimates a 10 percent reduction in organic waste, targeting food waste and food waste disposal. There are already programs in place for yard and wood waste.

Impetus for the revised plan comes from the Ministry of Environment, which is nudging regional districts to move toward more “closed loop” systems, similar to the recycling systems, where waste is unknown. From a resource recovery perspective, this means diverting as much material from the waste stream as possible either for reuse or composting. To accomplish this goal, the RDCK is encouraging polluter-pay and user-pay incentives, including “market-based incentives, disposal restrictions on industry-steward products, zoning to support collection facilities, and support for reuse and remanufacturing businesses.”

RDCK Resource Recovery manager Travis Barrington says the MoE has mandated a goal of 75 percent of BC’s population living in an area where there’s a ban on organic waste disposal; and for regional districts to meet a total waste disposal rate of 350 kg per capita.

The public survey returned 645 responses from RDCK residents, including all municipalities and electoral areas, representing over one percent of the total population of the district. The survey shows that overall, residents participate willingly in resource recovery, 47 percent stating that they haul their yard waste to a regional district or municipal collection facility and 62 percent who said they back yard compost. Slightly over half those surveyed, at 53 percent, agreed with the statement, “It is important to introduce programs for diverting food waste from the landfill, even if it increases user costs.” The report stressed that, “this suggests that there is a gap between enthusiasm for the concept and behavior change.”

Saturday night saw cyclists dressed in Canadian attire at the day-one post-ride Canada 150 themed dinner at Nelson’s Lakeside Park. Guests enjoyed dining and dancing, and listened to speaker Patricia Bevilacque share her inspiring story of life with multiple sclerosis (MS). MS Bike is the largest fundraising cycling series in North America with the second of four BC tours kicking off at New Denver’s Green Park August 19 Atool of the many noteworthy highlights of the weekend was the Murray Collection. This extraordinary two-day 222 kilometre MS Bike tour loops around the Kokanee Glacier in the Selkirk Mountains, from New Denver to Slocan, to Kaslo, and back to New Denver with an overnight in Nelson. Cyclists also had the option of a relay partnership to complete the course.

Top teams this year included The Rear Guard, Ride Sally Ride and Heart and Soul Tea Kwon Do, Save-On-Foods corporate team as well as sponsors, just to name a few.

New Denver’s Richard James, whose wife Barbara Wejr has MS, has been a regular participant in the MS Bike since its inception in the West Kootenay in 2012.

“Theoretically, I’ve been looking for a breakthrough in the gene research for ALS” was raising a million dollars through the gene research for ALS was a chronic, often disabling disease of the central nervous system comprising the brain, spinal cord and optic nerve. It is one of the most common neurological conditions in young adults in Canada. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 15 and 40, and the unpredictable effects of MS last for the rest of their lives. The MS Society provides services to people with MS and their families and funds research to find the cause and cure for this disease.

For more information or to make a donation visit msbiketours.ca or call 1-800-268-7582.

Forest fire prevention

Forest fires continue to destroy our forest resources and threaten our lives every year. Dead snags along the highways and forest roads are a substantial threat to public transportation. The threat of devastating forest fires is imminent. Small-scale salvage and single tree selective harvesting our timber substantially reduces this danger.

The reclamation and maintenance of existing forest roads allows access to single tree selective harvest, which in turn allows observation of timber floater, monitoring stream channel flows, preventing foods, and access for fire fighters.

The removal of unhealthy beetle-infested and mature timber reduces fire fuels as well as enhances young timber growth. Unsual branches and broken tops are left flat on the ground and absorb water in the winter which does not dry out in the summer. This wood provides moisture and nutrients to young timber growth.

Small trails created by small crawler tractors allow for access for fire fighters and act as a fire guard. Small-scale salvage permits the harvesting of wind-fallen, dead standing beetle-infested timber. Single tree selective harvesting permits the thinning of green healthy timber.
Thanks for your service
If you're trans-gender, you've now been banned.
You're being sent home from Afghanistan.
News over there tends to lag, but fold up your uniform, pack your bag.
You're not of the military, back on the street.
And now it's official: He's done it by Tweet.

Kristen Jacks
South Slocan

No to Geo-engineering
Premier Horgan: The recent revelation of the documentary
Frankenskies shows the effects of geo-engineering on our weather,
environment, and health. It adds another dimension to the effects of climate change. Nano-particles of aluminum, barium and strontium regularly sprayed to seed clouds are but one part of the problem. They cause respiratory illness, likely increase Alzheimer's, poltuate water, and land and accelerate forest fires burning into human settlements.

This documentary traces the sources, delivery and profiting from this globally and can be seen online and should be mandatory viewing for both decision-makers and the public. See also Dr. Russell Blaylock's article 'Chemtrails, Nano-aluminum, and Neuodgenetic and Neurodevelopmental Effects.'

According to Elana Freedland, author of 'Chemtrails, Nano-aluminum, and Neuodgenetic and Neurodevelopmental Effects.'

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lake Valleys from South Slocan/Playmor Junction to Edgewood and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake.

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY
The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers. Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material. Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

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

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The Valley Voice August 24, 2017

OPINION

Transgender fatigue
This is a letter in response to ‘Parent fights for removal of gender on ID’ in the August 10th edition of the Valley Voice. I am a white Caucasian woman, I am overweight and under tall, I say what I think about whatever, I have earned that right, in my opinion.

I am not in favour of transgender segregation, but on the same note, I feel if you don’t want to be singled out, then don’t make such a deal about it. For you to decide your child should not be labelled male or female is you putting your beliefs on them. If later in life they decide to follow in your footsteps, so be it, but to make it an issue before they have the mental aptitude to make such a decision for themselves is not right either. You are then doing what you say the government is doing by labeling them on IDs.

There are definite items on the personal anatomy that tell whether you were born male or female; even animals have them. Yes, sometimes, the wrong appendage is attached, but it is still the way in birth.

I, quite personally, am getting tired of all the uproar of people trying to change the world because they are the different ones. Just go with what you want, be it a redneck, ignorant, old-fashioned, uninformed, but whoever you are.

You can call me whatever you want, be it a redneck, ignorant, old-fashioned, uninformed, but also the right to my opinion, and being as you have made your opinions known in social media, I am doing the same.

Cathie Roberts
Nakusp

The Concentrated
Nitrogen Cure – Ta-Da!

Hawkweeds, docks, thistles, knapweed, comfrey gone wild and, no doubt, others that I have not treated, are generally unwelcome in most rural as well as urban yards and gardens. But they sure have proven to be difficult to say farewell to without applications of various herbicides. However, starting a few years ago, a chain of events led me to applying non-toxic, concentrated nitrogen, called UREA, or 46-0-0.

We are all aware that mammals bodies produce urea in the form of an organic compound in urine as well as in blood and lymph. But it is the synthetic organic compound that I speak to here. I found it at Ellison’s, but in a larger quantity than I need. So, I buy it at Farm Supply for less than 10 dollars for 10 pounds. It comes as dry, white pellets about 2 1/2 mm diameter, which makes it easy to use.

Depending on the plant, or plants, I either use a good pinch of pellets on the wheel of the emerging plant, or, if the plant is mature, a good pinch of pellets in the cavities made where the leaves emerge from the stem. Frequently one finds a cluster of plants, so I use a flexible plastic cup, which I squeeze into a spot and I can dribble the pellets where I want them. If the wind or rain disturbs your pellet treatment, you may need to reapply. Very shortly you will see browning, drooping and then the dead plant(s).

I have very successfully eradicated pretty large clusters, or just a plant, of all those mentioned, in the past three years. However, before I went public, I needed to see what would naturally emerge in the future from the previously treated, now empty, brown spot. Without fail the local indigenous wild flora came back – grass, clover, selfseeded plantain and dandelions, all with really good colour, as now they were growing up through the newly diluted, nitrogen enriched, soil that was treated last season – ta-da!

Rowena Eloise
Argenta

Flatulence vs. carbon
After my second reading of Ron Anderson’s letter about flatulence, it remains unclear to me whether he is referring to his personal emission of methane or whether he is including the emissions from the animals he has chosen as a food source. Regardless of that question, I do have a somewhat different view of this matter of animal flatulence.

If we are considering reducing ruminants (animals that produce methane) from the earth we must first study the work of the biologist Alan Savory who restores grasslands with grazing animals and of Joel Salatin who raises cattle and chickens while increasing the topsoil in the process (both on the web). It turns out that without grazing animals the world’s grasslands would die and their soil would turn to dust.

Methane is only a problem if it is released into the atmosphere in localized high concentrations, as occurs in LNG plants and feed lots. In modest quantities, as is produced by cattle, sheep, buffalo, etc., roaming about in fields, the methane is absorbed into the atmospheric moisture and comes down with the rain to fertilize the land. So don’t feel intimidated into guilt for your personal flatulence or that of the cow in the field behind the house.

But this does not mean we should trivialize our personal impact on the environment. We hear a lot about how the big corporations should straighten out their act. Certainly they should, but we should never give up on our personal potential to play a role.

For example, we could all focus more on the building of topsoil. Fifty percent of healthy topsoil consists of organic material.

Fluoride
Continued on page 5
Lost in the Mail

The Mail Denial Team, Executive Director
Integrity BC

It had to have been lost in the mail. It’s the only plausible explanation. I can’t imagine any other explanation for the lack of an invitation to at least one of the ‘by invitation only’ dinners held since 2013 with BC’s deputy ministers. The annual campaign for fall access is hosted by the BC Chamber of Commerce.

After all, it might seem like a little cruel or crass for the BC Liberal party in a year that sees the host private fundraising dinners with deputy ministers, even by BC’s Wild West standards. There’s no missing their purpose, though. The Chamber’s 2014 six-page invitation read, in part: “(BC’s) deputy ministers are tasked with ensuring that the goals and outcomes of the provincial government are met. While often working outside the public spotlight, they are invaluable sources of information and knowledge about their ministries and ministry policies.”

This private, invitation-only event creates an ideal forum for dialogue and discussion between guests and leaders of British Columbia’s public service. The evening consists of a reception and a dinner, where guests are seated directly with the deputy minister of their choice. This is an unparalleled opportunity to express your perspective and concerns directly to BC’s deputy ministers.”

No ambiguity there. And all for $275 a plate. Sponsorships were also available for well-heeled inviters. The platinum sponsor for the 2014 dinner was Telus, the BC Maritime Employers Association, Spectra Energy were the ‘gold sponsors’ and McKesson Corp. the ‘silver sponsor’. McKesson acquired Rexall pharmaceuticals in 2016.

While on the long fly to be given the chance to rent the ear of a deputy minister over dinner? Guest lists don’t seem to be readily available online, but someone – bless their heart – hired a photographer for the 2013 dinner at the Empress Hotel’s Crystal Ballroom. The by-invitation-only crowd barely filled half the ballroom. The comradeship between lobbyists and deputy ministers shines through in the photos.

Guests included a veritable ‘who’s who of BC’s lobbying industry. A notable lobbyist Steve Vander Wal chose to have dinner with Deputy Minister of Health, Stephen Brown. At the time, Vander Wal’s clients included Eli Lilly, AbbVie and Merck Canada. Michael Cunningham, a consultant lobbyist for Purdue Pharma – makers of OxyContin – was at the dinner. The former vice president of government relations at Telus, Dave Cunningham, chose John Dyble then leader of the BC Liberal party. John Dyble’s ‘happy Christy Clark’ – as his dinner date. In addition to Spectra, the energy industry was well represented with lobbyists from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the BC LNG Alliance, Woodfibre LNG, the Independent Power Producers of BC, Imperial Oil, ConocoPhillips Canada and Cenovus Energy.

Kinder Morgan found time to squeeze the dinner in between the B.C. Liberal party’s annual leader’s golf tournament in September and Clark’s Burnaby homecoming dinner in November. The golf tournament and homecoming dinner are all the more surprising because the company made a number of referrals to the BC Liberal Mountain Pipeline application to the National Energy Board that the company’s code of ethics forbids it from donating to political parties.

The executive director of the BC Securities Commission, Paul Bourque, was in attendance, as was Josh Christensen, a Hill+Knowlton lobbyist whose clients included the Port of Vancouver at the time.

Former CEO of the B.C. Chamber of Commerce, John Winter, appears in a number of photos. Winter headed up Future Prosperity for BC, a group that may have spent up to $2 million on an anti-NDP campaign in advance of this year’s provincial election.

The group went dark just prior to the writ dropping, with Winter telling the Globe and Mail at the time: “We feel we’ve done what we can do with what we had, without coming under the scrutiny of the Elections Act. Why would that be nefarious?”

The 2014 invitation included a shopping list of deputy ministers. As of 12:22 a.m. this morning, there are on that list, including Richard Fyfe, then and still deputy Attorney General.

They say BC stands for bring cash. Maybe that’s because everything seems to be for sale, including eating with the deputy minister of your choice. Let’s hope the 2016 dinner was the last supper.

Letters

Andy Marlow of Nelson

I have every right to speak as a taxpayer and an artist. I have no axe to grind.

I am quite disturbed that this so-called ‘art’ is the picture of Jesus with a gun in his hand. I find it disturbing that this city council would tolerate the installation of such a picture in a public space.

Removing this piece of art would be an action that would start to show council’s concern for the people of Nelson. A good start would be to consider other options for art in public spaces.

Kathleen Macera

Kaslo (where everybody counts or nobody counts?)

Kaslo (where everybody counts or nobody counts?)

From the Hill

by Richard Cannings, MP

South Okanagan-West Kootenay

It seems hard to believe, but the summer school break is three-quarters gone. Members of Parliament are home for the summer too, however we do continue to work on local and national issues. I thought this would be a good time to highlight some of the work that we do here in the riding – especially the work of my staff.

I have two assistants in my Pentagon office and one in my Castlegar office who are kept busy year-round with a wide variety of tasks. Much of their work is helping constituents navigate the federal bureaucracy, and with their years of experience and expertise they can certainly make that often daunting experience more fruitful, if not more enjoyable.

The big federal files of taxes, pensions, employment insurance and immigration make up three-quarters of constituency work. A lot of baby boomers are applying for pensions for the first time, both through Old Age Security and the Canada Pension Plan. The process usually goes smoothly, but any number of hiccups can occur that can cause significant cash flow problems.

Federal taxes of all sorts – notably income tax and GST – can be problematic for some and we can help you through some of that. Many people aren’t aware of certain benefits such as the Disability Tax Credit, and some constituents have received thousands of dollars in tax refunds after registering.

Crossing international borders is getting more difficult these days, and we can help there, too. For some, exercising a visitor’s visa to allow relatives to come to Canada for a special occasion can be a real problem. It’s always best to start well in advance and deal with any issue regarding passports and visas, and if you run into problems please get in touch.

Over the past two years my staff have helped community groups working hard to bring families in from Syria, Somalia, and other war-torn countries. Welcoming families to Canada is just one of many, many things we do. On the government side, the most heart-warming tasks I’ve been involved in are the following. Sometimes we have to pass on requests for help to more appropriate government agencies, since not all bureaucracy is federal. Some provincial files include health care, highways, public utilities, labour, forestry and other natural resource extraction practices. And of course there are many important services provided by municipal and regional governments.

Not all constituency tasks are rewarding. Matters of bankruptcy, divorce and deaths are undoubtedly the most emotionally challenging tasks I’ve been involved in. I’ll be hosting my second annual Ride the Riding for the second time in a row. Last year he decided to complete a bicycle trip through the riding, which gave him a unique chance to meet the people, businesses and industries that make up the area.

His 2014 ride was a combination of rail trails and highways, starting in Glenridding (Summerland) on August 22 and finishing in Crescent Valley on August 30. The tour included the first part of the Okanagan Rail Trail, Gymkhana grounds.

“Enjoying the ride was such a success and I’m really looking forward to hitting the trails again,” he says.

“Everyone is invited to join in on the ride and I look forward to hearing what everyone has to say.”

Richard Cannings’ paraslc.gc.ca.

I’d be cycling around the riding from August 23-30 with frequent stops for public breakfasts, coffee and lunch. The full itinerary is posted on my website at http://richardcannings.ndp.ca/

MP Cannings to ’Ride the Riding’ for second time submitted

Richard Cannings, MP (South Okanagan-West Kootenay) is happy to announce that he will ‘Ride the Riding’ for the second year in a row. Last year he decided to complete a bicycle trip through the riding, which gave him a unique chance to meet the people, businesses and industries that make up the area.

His 2014 ride was a combination of rail trails and highways, starting in Glenridding (Summerland) on August 22 and finishing in Crescent Valley on August 30. The tour included the first part of the Okanagan Rail Trail, Gymkhana grounds.

“I enjoy riding these rail trails myself,” says Cannings, “and one of the reasons for this cycle trip is to highlight their importance to the riding.”

As he did last year, Cannings invites people to ride sections of trails with him as he travels from community to community. He has scheduled numerous coffee and meal breaks at various points where the public can meet him to share their experience and concerns for the South Okanagan-West Kootenay. The complete itinerary is available online at richardcannings.ndp.ca.

The 2014 ride was such a success and I’m really looking forward to hitting the trails again,” he says.

“Everyone is invited to join in on the ride and I look forward to hearing what everyone has to say.”
Tuition fees eliminated for Adult Basic, English Language programs

Students, teachers and educational institutions are welcoming the BC government’s move to eliminate tuition fees for Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English Language Learning (ELL) programs. The NDP government says it is opening the door for tens of thousands of people to upgrade their education and skills every year.

“By eliminating these fees, we’re tearing down the roadblocks to the basic education and skills people need to improve their lives,” said Premier John Horgan. “The action we’re taking today gives hope and help to people throughout the province and is a long-term investment in BC’s economy.”

The policy reverses action taken by the previous government in 2015 to impose tuition fees for ABE and ELL learners. Under that policy, Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning fees were set by each institution up to a maximum of $250 per term for full-time studies, the equivalent of the average cost of tuition for an arts and science undergraduate program. Enrolment in Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning programs subsequently dropped almost 35 per cent from 10,244 full-time equivalent spaces in 2013/14 to 6,832 full-time equivalent spaces in 2016/17.

“Our province can’t afford to lose students who are keen to learn or advance their skills training in the post-secondary sector because of financial barriers,” said Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training Melanie Mark. “I’m proud we’re taking this action to expand opportunities for ABE and ELL students to thrive in the workforce and achieve academic success.”

The announcement is welcome news for learners interested in upgrading opportunities in this region, says Selkirk College. The college offers academic upgrading at all of its campuses and learning centres across the West Kootenay and Boundary regions. In a supportive classroom environment, students are able to complete high school level courses in math, English, biology, chemistry and physics, as well as advanced computer science and social studies.

“Removing financial barriers to this program brings students one step closer to realizing their dreams,” said Allison Alder, the college’s chair of the School of Academic Upgrading and English Language Learning. “It’s now a step closer to realizing their dreams.”

More than half of the students who enrolled in the upgrading program plan to attain a First Year Diploma at Selkirk College. On average, 20 per cent of students registered in Selkirk College programs have previously taken at least one Adult Basic Education course from the previous government.

“More obvious to those who pass by the campus in the coming weeks.”

The 53-year-old Silver King Trades Campus renewal project will cost $18.9 million. Funding includes a $10.34 million investment by the Government of British Columbia and a $5.84 million infusion by the Government of Canada in addition to $1 million from Selkirk College, and $1.72 million from donations and industry sources.

The new campfire building will enhance the student experience and provide an important hub at the Silver King Campus. The student commons building will be constructed adjacent to the existing administration building which is scheduled to be removed at project completion.

General contractor Yellowstone and other programs continue to run at full capacity during the construction period.

For more information visit http://selkirk.ca/school/industry-and-trades-training.

Chuckleberry Community Farm hosts workshops on emotional intelligence and sustainable living

Chuckleberry Community Farm, a local year-round commercial producer of micro-greens and intentional community for recently created the Chuckberry Sustainable Community and Education Society. As such, the Chuckberry Community is hosting a series of workshops this summer, each with a focus on emotional intelligence, sustainable living, and abundant food production.

All workshops take place at Chuckberry Farm, a commercial farm and micro-greens operation with a zero net energy main building. The community practices emotional intelligence and non-violent communication, building, and healthy community relating. They also strive to have more fun with less consumption and substances.

The farm is in Beasley, a 15 minute drive from Nelson.

Workshop Participants will learn how to create their own high yield bio-dynamic intensive gardens, how to produce nutrient-rich soils; how to grow year round micro-greens; skills to adapt natural systems for sustainable living, as well as solar heating/ solar power/ solar dehydration as well as air convection/ earth heat sink/ earth refrigeration and rain catchment systems; and emotional intelligence and effective communication skills.

Chuckleberry founder Jon Scott and community members are eager to share what they are learning as they explore more wholesome and eco-friendly way of life. Maxim Grunn invites workshop participants to enjoy his abundant, healthy, organic food, prepared daily on site with ‘Mac’ love and many ingredients right out of Chuckberry’s thriving gardens. All participants are welcome to camp on the farm, with access to washrooms and showers. Upcoming workshops are Sept. 8, 9, 17 Producing natural Intelligence for Sustainable Living.

For more details, visit the Chuckberry Community Farm Facebook Page, or cbc.com and other programs continue to run at full capacity during the construction period.

New farm advisors program helps agriculture grow

Applications for a new farm advisors program are now open. Agricultural producers in the region now have access to a new service offering technical support and expertise to help them succeed, says the Boundary Farm Advisors is a free service that is launching this summer. The regional districts of Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary and East Kootenay have partnered with Columbia Basin Trust to provide the service. The new program offers agricultural expertise to producers to improve farm productivity and viability of their farming or ranching operations.

Applications are free and open to agricultural producers working towards commercial viability in the regional districts and Columbia Basin Trust region. Services include expert advice on topics such as irrigation, pest control, production, water, soil, climate change and research.

“The program is active now with workshops and on-farm sessions to be held this spring,” explains Rachael Roussin, program coordinator. “Producers can now sign up and share their challenges, helping us connect them to appropriate technical expertise and workshops and educational opportunities.”

The Alliance of BC Students (ABCS) commended the move, noting that “reversing a decision made by the previous government in 2015 to charge $1,600 per semester for adult learners to study means that thousands more British Columbians will be able to access programs meant to enhance their workforce and achieve academic success.”

In 2015 the ABCS lobbied the government to provide ABE and English Language Learning free of charge. “The elimination of tuition fees is a win for students who go on to complete high school courses later in life particularly valuable for marginalized groups and individuals. Traditionally marginalized groups participate disproportionately in ABE, with 64 per cent of participants being women, 12 per cent Indigenous peoples, and 72 per cent below the poverty line.”

“In loving memory of Ted Reitmeier

April 1937 - August 2007

Ten years have passed since that sad day When the one we loved was called away Good God you are with Him But in our hearts you linger still.

Miss you every day.

Love, Isabel, children Rod, Rick, Ken, Kathy Marlene and Barbara; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
BC government puts Kinder Morgan pipeline on hold
submitted

The provincial government has hired former Supreme Court Justice Thomas Berger as external counsel to government in the legal challenges and hearings on the options for participation by the BC government in the National Energy Board hearings on the Kinder Morgan project. Adam Olsen, now MLA for Saanich North and the Saanich Gulf Islands, said he was an intervenor in the National Energy Board hearings on the Kinder Morgan project. Olsen added that the government’s decision, stating that there would be little ability to do all we can to protect the bear’s hide, head and paws. However, Olsen said that he “is not aware that for years there has been no legal hunt for the most at-risk populations of grizzly bears in BC, yet some of these populations continue to decline to perilous levels.”

Wildsight, like the Coast to Cascades initiative, points out that habitat loss and connectivity are key issues affecting grizzly populations, and are calling for a broader consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy for all species. “Industry has dominated land use for far too long. Without significant changes in how we manage the human footprint on the land in BC, declines will continue for many species.”

Wildsight plans to participate in the upcoming consultations with the minister.

Kootenay Carshare offers new wheelchair lift van
submitted

Kootenay Carshare now has a wheelchair accessible van available for use in the Nelson fleet. Its permanent location is in the Raitt parking lot next to the Nelson Visitors’ centre. It is able to carry four passengers and one wheelchair passenger, and has a collapsible wheelchair inside for use as needed.

The ‘Get a Lift’ committee was concerned about the number of seniors and people with mobility issues of such a vehicle due to the fact that seniors and people with mobility issues were having difficulties completing everyday tasks. Going to the doctor or going to the grocery store were challenging because there was no convenient transportation accessible to them. As well, services that are available for those with disabilities like handicap DART are not available on weekends.

Kootenay Carshare has 12 vehicles in the Nelson fleet, including the wheelchair van, and more than 24 vehicles in its Nelson, Kaslo, Revelstoke, Kimberley and Rossland branches.

For more information on pricing and booking please visit www.carshareco.ca.
BC takes first steps toward $15 minimum wage

The provincial government is making its first move toward a $15-an-hour minimum wage for British Columbia by announcing a $0.50 increase in the minimum wage and renewing its commitment to a Fair Wages Commission. Premier John Horgan said moving toward a $15 minimum wage is long overdue in making life more affordable for British Columbians. The wage will be phased in by 2021.

“British Columbia’s lowest-paid workers need a raise,” Premier Horgan said. “The action we’re taking will make life better for working parents, seniors, new Canadians, students and more. These are people struggling to get by.”

Effective Sept. 15, 2017, minimum-wage earners will see their pay increase to $11.35 per hour from $10.85 per hour, giving B.C. the third-highest minimum wage among Canada’s provinces – up from seventh position.

“Today’s increase and our commitment to the $15 minimum wage will benefit almost 100,000 British Columbians who have been getting by on one of the lowest minimum wages in the country,” said Horgan, adding that 62 percent of minimum-wage earners are women.

Labour Minister Harry Bains said details around a fair wages commission’s composition and terms of reference will be announced in the coming weeks, but that its overarching objective is to get British Columbia to $15 along a planned, responsible path. The commission will submit its first report within 90 days of its first meeting.

“We’ve listened to business owners, who have told us gradual, predictable increases are the way to go to minimize the impact on their businesses,” Bains said. “And they recognize that the move to a $15 minimum wage is good for retention and productivity, and good for the BC economy.”

At the same time as the general minimum-wage increase, the liquor servers’ wage is also increased by 50 cents to $10.10 per hour. Other minimum-wage provisions in the employment standards regulation will also rise proportionally with the general minimum-wage increase of 4.6 percent. This includes the daily rate for live-in home support workers and live-in camp leaders, as well as the monthly rates for residential caretakers and the minimum farm worker piece rates for harvesters of certain fruits and vegetables.

“We look forward to working with the BC government as we advocate for better wages, including increasing the minimum wage to $15 per hour as soon as possible,” says Irene Lanzinger, president, BC Federation of Labour. “We need to make sure that in 2017 the minimum wage in BC was frozen for 10 years by the previous government, and as a result many low-wage workers have suffered a setback as they lose their heads above water.”

Mark von Schellwitz, Western Canada vice-president of Restaurants Canada, said the move is a positive step. He said the association supports wages increases that are announced well in advance, “to give businesses time to adjust, and do not trigger large menu price increases or a reduction in entry-level employment.”

With rental rates at an all-time high in BC, seasonal communities recently have struggled to attract and retain enough service staff to keep businesses functioning smoothly during the high season.

Andrew Weaver, leader of the BC Green caucus, says establishment of a Fair Wages Commission was a key element of the Greens’ 2017 election platform. He welcomed the renewed commitment in the Confidence and Supply Agreement signed by himself and Premier Horgan. But Weaver has concerns about the timeline for the $15 minimum wage.

“Although I am pleased to see an important piece of our agreement made concrete, I am concerned that the apparent addition of a 2021 timeline is prejudicial to the work of the Fair Wages Commission,” says Weaver. “The Commission must consult with small businesses, which are the backbone of our economy, to ensure they can continue to thrive. The timeline and wage increases should not be made for political purposes and should not be arbitrarily set in advance.”

Regional district adopts Burton water treatment plan

“The water has never tested badly ever at the wellhead, it’s something in the distribution system,” says Peterson. “Somebody years ago may have tapped into it and the system got into the system, we’re not sure.”

Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection was considered by RDCK staff but rejected as “does not provide protection downstream of the UV reactors and would only be effective if the source of bacteria was from the groundwater system”.

By Art Joyce

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has rescinded the boil water notice on the Edgewater water system that has been in place since May 31. The RDCK issued the notice due to poor water quality as a result of seasonal increased turbidity (cloudiness). Turbidity has decreased and the water quality is now good. However, the RDCK board on August 17 adopted an action plan for dealing with the ongoing problem with water quality.

At a public meeting on March 28, Burton residents made it clear they are opposed to a permanent chlorination system. In response, the RDCK board proposed and has adopted six treatment options, starting with issuing a permanent water quality notice for Burton and samples for each such as the campground, school, community centre, food and beverage establishments, and the future senior’s facility will be encouraged to flush and disinfect their water systems when not used for extended periods of time. Water testing will be done on a weekly basis, sampling from the wells, two distribution locations and the water storage reservoir. Interior Health has agreed to pay for increased testing on a temporary basis. And, finally, a water quality notice will remain in place until the system with chlorine will be done.

“Regional district staff do not feel that two short periods of chlorine, possibly increases in one year is unreasonable,” notes the staff report.

“It is hoped that chlorination twice a week will help clean and disinfect the distribution system.”

We passed the motion that was on the floor just before the meeting.

Community

New buses arriving in the West Kootenay transit system

Seven new BC Transit Vicinity buses are coming to the West Kootenay Transit System, with two buses arriving this summer and five in 2018. The 30-foot and 35-foot medium duty buses will help meet the transit demands of the communities they serve as they perform better and have more safety features than the current fleet.

Each 30-foot bus will cost approximately $319,000, funded by the Province of BC and a local government through BC Transit’s 10-year Capital Program. Each 35-foot bus will cost approximately $347,000 and are part of the almost $160 million in federal and provincial funding for BC Transit projects that was first announced in June 2016.

The 30-foot Vicinity bus seats 24 passengers with room for another 20 standees; the 35-foot bus seats 30 passengers with room for 24 stands. In both models, there is also space for two mobility aids. They are equipped with two doors for more efficient operation and easier access for passengers.

The new buses will also have active closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras to improve the safety of customers and drivers.

Details about the CCTV camera program can be found at bctransit.com.

The seven vehicles will replace older vehicles in the fleet, part of a larger province-wide refresh and expansion of the fleet. They will also help the RDCK meet the 100 buses arriving in communities across BC over the next two years.

“This is good news for the Kootenays, and is an important step toward having a better BC,” said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development and MLA for Kootenay West. “My hope is that it will encourage more people to choose public transit in the region.”

SDIO

SD 10, in the beautiful West Kootenay region of southeastern BC, is seeking a highly competent and dynamic business leader to take on the important and challenging role of Assistant Secretary-Treasurer in our district. This is a 0.60 FTE (3 days) per week position.

Our small rural district is staffed with people who care about students and who go the extra kilometres – literally and figuratively – to make a difference! We are blessed not only with breathtaking geography – long lakes, snow-capped mountains and lush forests – but also with warm and welcoming staff, parents and community in all of our six district schools. Our parents, teachers, support staff, Leadership Team and Board of Education are committed to doing all that they can to support student learning.

Reporting to the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer, the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for providing leadership in the Finance Department in all business areas with specific emphasis on the development of the District’s operating and capital budgets, internal and external reporting of financial results and the development and maintenance of appropriate systems of internal control. In addition, the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer provides support to the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer and the District Leadership Team in the areas of risk management, strategic business and capital planning initiatives, and the development of recommendations to the Board of Education. The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer also acts on behalf of the Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer in her absence. Other duties include providing business-related leadership to personnel in Payroll and Purchasing, and providing support to school principals in a decentralized decision-making model.

As an accomplished business leader, you possess strong business acumen with demonstrated knowledge and expertise in strategic financial planning, financial accounting, capital planning, audit, and internal controls and risk management. You hold a professional accountant’s designation and are familiar with PSAB accounting and budgeting standards. You have a proven record of leading organizational transformation. Your leadership skills enable you to lead and develop a team of active and productive staff in a productive and collaborative manner. You have strong interpersonal and communication skills, which enable you to foster a team approach in leading and supporting multiple concurrent projects. You are able to lead and adapt to changing priorities adeptly, multi-task and consistently meet deadlines.

Please submit your resume and cover letter, together with three professional references by email to:

Ms. Terry Taylor
Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer
terry.taylor@sd10.bc.ca

no later than noon on Friday, September 15, 2017. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

World Class Learning In A Rural Environment
Nakusp volunteer offers chronic pain management skills

by Katrine Campbell

Those living with chronic pain and disease are invited to take advantage of a self-management program being offered in the Nakusp area by local volunteers working with the University of Victoria.

The Self-Management Health Coach Program is a telephone-based coaching program to support people living with chronic conditions to become better self-managers. Health Coaches connect with participants by telephone, once a week for 30 minutes, for a period of three months. Coaching can be extended for another three months upon a mutual agreement between both parties.

Fran Ure is one of three volunteers coaching Nakusp, Burton and the Halcyon Hot Springs area. She became involved, as do many volunteers, because she suffered from chronic pain and was determined to learn to manage without drugs.

“I was looking for non-drug ways of coping with my pain from two complete knee replacement surgeries. I didn’t want to go the ‘zombie route,’” she says. Through her research, she discovered there are ways to manage chronic pain, “better ways than taking other drugs. I’m convinced that the mind can do a lot more than just drugs.”

Ure took a two-day course of training for self-management of chronic diseases such as arthritis and diabetes, then two days for managing chronic pain.

The health coach program is done on the phone, 30 minutes every week. The self-management program participants meet in a group every week for six weeks, for two, and a half hours each week. Each member of the group shares the same problem; there is one group for chronic pain, one for cancer, one for diabetes and one for other chronic disease.

They learn how to manage their conditions, and also share tips and ideas with each other. Ure said she wants to hold a six-week workshop on managing diabetes in Nakusp in the fall.

She adds that more volunteers to coach are needed. They don’t need any special medical skills, just the ability to listen, answer, support and nurture the clients. They also need to be interested, dependable, insightful and non-judgmental.

Those who are interested in being matched with a coach should go to the website selfmanagementbc.ca, scroll down to Health Coach Program and follow the link to add your name to the waitlist to be assigned a coach. Someone will follow up with you to discuss the process of pairing you with a coach.

Anyone interested in volunteering to coach should call program coordinator Sofia Khosrow at 604-940-1273 or her assistant Suzanne at 604-940-8973. They plan 12 1½-hour training sessions in select communities across the province and ask you to contact them for details of the next session in your area.

For more information on the programs, go to selfmanagementbc.ca.

Nakusp clinic offers affordable dental for low-income residents

Nakusp’s Saddle Mountain Dental Clinic has teamed up with the West Kootenay Community TEETH Clinic Society to offer affordable dental services to low-income residents from the area. The program makes it possible for patients to benefit from a 40% discount on their dental bills, as TEETH operates in close cooperation with Interior Health Authority and other funding resources.

People of all ages can take advantage of the program, but special concern will be given to the elderly, youth, or disabled persons who live on a limited income or pension. To be eligible to apply to receive services, the family net income must not exceed $30,000.

Maya Sand of Interior Health can provide further information and details. Her email address is: bands1@telus.net. Paulette Sparreboom and Marilyn Boxwell are local contacts for the society. Paulette can be contacted at 250-265-4202.

Sufferfest organizer achieves personal best in triathlon

by Katrine Campbell

Nakusp’s Janis Neufeld, the driving force behind Sufferfest, has just completed an ultra triathlon in Penticton, beating the goal she set for herself. The event was restricted to five women and nine men, all of whom had to apply and be invited, ranging in age from 21 to 58. They came from Canada, the US, Mexico, Spain and Japan. Because of the mixed genders and age groups, the athletes were competing against themselves, setting and trying to beat personal goals.

“There’s a little bit of competition but it’s about challenging yourself,” Neufeld says.

On day one, participants swam 10 kilometres and biked 144.4 kilometres. Day two, they biked 273.5 kilometres. Day three was the run, 84.4 kilometres – twice as long as a standard marathon.

The overall first place winner was Canadian Jordan Boyden, who finished in 24:12:36. Neufeld’s goal was to finish the entire three days in under 30 hours; her time was 29 hours, 27 minutes and 48 seconds. She was the third place female, and ninth overall.

“It’s something to be proud of for my life, my kids,” she says. “I did it for myself and it turned out it was more than just for myself. It was life-changing for my crew, my family and my kids. It has a ripple effect.”

Neufeld has two more events to compete in this year, but plans to take next year off. Her next challenge is Sunday, again in Penticton. She will represent Canada in her age group (44–49) in the long course triathlon world championships. In November, she’s off to Mexico for the Los Cabos Ironman.

“I am looking forward to having time off from competition,” she says. She’s toying with the idea of starting a running clinic to give back to the community by helping people become more active and healthy. Neufeld enjoys coaching but found she can’t train and teach at the same time.

To see a slide show of the Ultra520, go to ultra520canada.com/videos.
Slocan council deals with aging infrastructure issues

by Barbara Curry Malchuk

Council directed staff to schedule appointments with BC cabinet ministers during the UBCM Convention in Vancouver September 25-29. Among others, a meeting will be sought with Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General regarding the 2014 lockdown, manhunt, and shooting death of Peter DeGroot and the still unfinished investigation by the Independent Investigations Office.

Mayor Jessica Lunn and Councillors Madeleine Perriere and Burly Van Byen will represent the Village.

Public Works Supervisor Tim Hill reported that his department had dealt with “quite a few issues with infrastructure and equipment this summer.” For this reason, Hill has been too busy to attend council meetings. “A few months back, a flash flood took out our intake building,” clogging the intake screen and breaking it away from the wall so that it collapsed. It took “10 hours for four or five people to get the mud all out,” he said. “Of course, it happened at midnight.” Among many other problems reported by Hill were that the breakwater lost one of its main anchors, causing the gateway to fall off in “the slightest wind.” New anchors have been made but Hill is waiting for an excavator to install them.

The water plant produces 240 gallons of water per minute but the Village has been using 400 gallons per minute during the four hours allotted daily for watering gardens. Hill was worried that a sticky valve could empty out the reservoir and so it had to be checked every two hours during the heat wave. Hill was up at night on his computer making sure the plant was operating properly.

Hill reported that changes had to be made in the Village paving plan, which was made in the winter when snow made it impossible to see on what condition the roads. The assessors got to the Village last month, well after the paving contract had been signed. The paving contract stipulated the size of batch of asphalt to be used and there was not enough to do all the planned areas. The contract did not include repaving the roads. In the end, changes had to be made to the plan for the Harold Street drainage, Ward Street paving was extended, and Hume Street was not repaved.

Hill further reported that Public Works cleans up the beach several times a week and has noted “fresh burn piles” where people have had campfires. There is a campfire ban throughout the Southeast Fire Centre. Violators can get $1,150 tickets, $10,000 penalty fees, and if convicted in court can be fined up to $100,000 or sentenced to a year in jail. Hill said the Fire Department has attended fires in the mill site where there is “a lot of dust” and a fire could spread easily. Campfire permits can be applied for by calling 1-800-636-5555.

Three delegates gave presentations: Patricia Dehnel, Community Relations Manager/Senior Energy Specialist for the Community Energy Association, asked council to partner in a Climate Protection Program, the Transition 2050 Project. Shauna Fedd, West Kootenay Permaculture Co-op, asked council to partner on a grant application for $25,000 to offer one year of programming for youth and healthy food. Dick Kelly, of the Spirit of Slocan Committee, asked Council to approve their plan to landscape the area around the cenotaph. The three presentations will be discussed at a Special Meeting on August 21. There is some resistance to part of the cenotaph landscape proposal. SOS had asked Council for approval to remove large trees by the cenotaph in order to level the land and plant more “decorative” trees and bushes. A letter from Teacula McGreal protested that “the removal of these large trees in the heart of Slocan will forever change the Village, negatively impacting both the visual character of the Village and local bird and small mammal populations.”

Patricia Dehnel reported that Slocan’s Electric Vehicle Station has been ordered and will be delivered soon. It and all the other Electric Vehicle Stations should be up and running by next spring.

CAO Gordon said Colin Moss, Chair of the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce Health Committee, will attend the Village’s next meeting to discuss municipal health issues with the Community Health Centre. Councillor Perriere said 24-hour emergency care in New Denver would be “at risk” if a health care physician replaces the one who is leaving.

Councillor Perriere reported damaged concrete in a few places at the Village-owned Tenacity Skateboard Park. Council directed staff to find out who could inspect and maintain the skate park.

The Village agreed to support the Slocan Valley Lions Club Fireworks on September 3 at Expo Park. Council okayed the parade route and gave SOS permission to use the ballpark concession building. Councillor Burly Van Byen will drive the Village’s antique fire truck in the parade which starts at 10:30 at the north end of Harold Street. Mayor Jessica Lunn will address the crowd at Expo Park at 2 p.m.

A Financial Report submitted by CFO Colin McClin was received for information. CAO Michelle Gordon called it “a brief snapshot” and said “everything is looking as it should.”

Zoning Amendment Bylaw # 657 and Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw #658 were adopted. These bylaws reduce how the Mill Industrial Zone could be used; re-designate three lots on Harold Street to residential use; amend the Core Commercial Zone off-street parking requirements; and amend the minimum site area requirement for the Core Commercial Zone.

New Denver council seeks sustainability and physician recruitment

by Katrine Campbell

Trish Dehnel, Senior Energy Specialist with the RDCK, gave a presentation about her program, a joint project of the Regional District of Central Kootenay and FortisBC. Its goals are to establish a regional sustainability program; to coordinate an approach to implementing Corporate and Community Energy Plans; to identify and implement low carbon energy initiatives; to educate and promote energy conservation solutions. Local governments have to implement policy to reduce emissions in three key areas: buildings, transportation and waste. She also talked about the Regional Retrofit program, BC Hydro’s incentives for energy use including the Home Energy Rebate offer, Low Income Program and business incentives, and Accelerate Kootenays’ “community-driven, collaborative strategy to build a clean transportation network,” i.e. charging stations for electric vehicles.

Mayor Ann Bunka reported on her activities. She attended a meeting about physician recruitment and retention with representatives from the Independent Doctors Association of the Village, the Chamber of Commerce, Interior Health, Area H, the RDCK, MLA Katrine Conroy’s constituency assistant, BC Ambulance, Dr. Chuck Burkholder and Dr. Mathew Conroy who are present in person or by speakerphone. The group looked at an overview of emergency department stats and population data. Interior Health updated them on the recruitment program and said there has been interest from two UBC students who graduate next year.

“Doctors Burkholder and Magier are fantastic; they do so much for the community. I can’t stress enough how lucky we are,” said Mayor Bunka. “It was quite a positive meeting, with everybody rolling up their sleeves and pitching in.”

Council received a letter from resident Ross McGinn requesting that the timbers of the old paddlewheeler be replaced or, failing that, signage be erected to let trail walkers know what that location represented historically. Staff noted that the request would be supported and discussed at the next meeting put on by the Mori Trail improvement project.

Council received a notification from the Union of BC Municipalities that the Rural Roads Funding Works Funds payments was on the way. The money, $37,028.27, comes from the Federal Gas Tax Fund.

Mayor Ann Bunka submitted a progress report on the fuel management project to the UBCM Program Officer along with a request for $85,507.81. His report said five workers and one project supervisor started work January 30, but were snowed out four days later. Once the snow had receded, they started again March 6 and worked on and off until July 14, when the bush was shut down due to the extreme fire hazard. They completed 21 ha. (52 acres). This project put wages of $52,395 into the community.

Council gave three readings to the Estate of Slocan’s Family Fun Fair Bylaw #709, 2017. The original bylaw was passed in 1997 in response to provincial legislation, but is no longer required; municipalities must have an emergency plan but don’t need a bylaw. The Village’s Emergency Program is now handled by the RDCK.

Council approved the Silvery Slocan Historical Society’s Heritage Signage Project.
Slocan City hosts second annual Family Fair Day

submitted

The Spirit of Slocan Community Group invites everyone for a day of fun and games at the second annual Family Fair Day in Slocan City on Sunday, September 3.

Toadfest is supported by the FWCP, BC Parks, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Columbia Basin Trust, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. For more information on Toadfest call 250-354-6333 or visit fwcp.ca.

The day will begin with a pancake breakfast at 8:30 am at the Legion Hall. At 10:30 am, the parade will leave the Legion Hall and proceed to Expo Park. The parade is hosting vintage cars, trucks, kids with decorated bikes, floats and horses. At Expo Park, there will be free carnival games for the kids, a market with great outdoor vendors, live music, a silent auction, entertainment and food. The outdoor market will be open at 10:30 am, while the music and food will start at 11 am. Games for the kids will begin at noon.

The Spirit of Slocan Community Group formed to organize and implement various volunteer projects designed to improve the appearance, quality of life and spirit within the Village of Slocan. The organization is currently working on a project to expand and beautify the cenotaph area, located in front of the Slocan Wellness Centre. The group holds a village-wide garage sale every spring and is responsible for the Christmas Tree Light-Up in December. The Family Fair Day is a major undertaking for this small group of volunteers. They hope to attract people from throughout the valley to support the event.

For more information contact spiritofslocan@gmail.com and for more parade information, kcoutsont64@gmail.com

Invasive burdock from the entrance of the Park.

invasive burdock from the entrance of the Park.

invasive burdock from the entrance of the Park.

invasive burdock from the entrance of the Park.

The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society has already prepared toadlets outside of this organized event.

Drop in anytime. Parking is limited so please car pool. Do not transport any toadlets outside of this organized event.

The weather patterns in 2017 have had an effect on the western toads at Summit Lake. The long, cold winter and cool spring resulted in their breeding a full month later than 2016. Then, the higher-than-normal temperatures this summer helped speed up tadpole development. As a result of the hot weather, and rainfall in mid-August that broke the dry spell, there has already been a mass movement of toadlets from Summit Lake to upland habitat. But biologists anticipate there’ll still be some toadlets present during Toadfest.

“Toadfest is a great opportunity to connect with nature, and learn more about local species and their habitats,” says FWCP’s Columbia Region Manager, Crystal Klym. “While it is timed to coincide with the movement of the toadlets, much of the work at Summit Lake focuses on the adult toads that migrate to the lake in the spring, since one female can carry up to 16,000 eggs.”

Work to date has included the installation of wildlife fencing and toad tunnels to help provide safer passage under the highway. The public are reminded not to carry toads across the road, outside of this organized event.

This year, the public are also invited to participate in planting some native seeds during Toadfest. The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society has already prepared the ground by clearing out a patch of invasive burdock from the entrance of the Park.
Another successful year for the Valhalla Fine Arts program

by Art Joyce

Artists of all disciplines will tell you the Kootenays are the place to be for creative inspiration. Every year for the past two decades, families have come to New Denver and Silverton from all over Canada and the US for the Valhalla Summer School of Music (VSSM) and the Suzuki Valhalla Institute music program for kids. The Valhalla Fine Arts board has expanded the program in recent years to include dance and theatre instruction—a big hit with kids. This year as always all the programs were fully subscribed.

Miranda Hughes, coordinator Katrina Sumrall. “We have had a home here for 40 years. Van der Sloot is currently building a home in Rosebery. “Along with the music, the main attraction here are the towns and the scenery, it has a very magical appeal."

One hundred students enrolled this year and Kadz says the long history of the program has created a legacy of skilled musicians performing in orchestras all over the world. To name only two examples. Meghan Nenninger is with the Bavarian State Opera and her sister Emily is in the Irish Chamber Orchestra.

This year’s theatre and dance component was no less inspiring, with instructors Mark Ikeda, Slava Doval, Ibraim Taylor, Agnes Tong and Julie Mortensen. Doval runs the dance component of the program. Ages ranged from six to 15 with a total of 125 students enrolled.

The two-week program included Music Explorers classes for four- to six-year-olds, taught by Kelly Courbough and Julia Greenlaw. Many students took classes both weeks, learning theatre one week and dance the next, with performances combining both disciplines. Ikeda encouraged kids to get in touch with their “inner ninja” and tell a story of something they overcame.

“It was incredible,” says coordinator Katrina Sumrall. “We learned the story of a little girl who was in Israel during a bombing raid, a child’s father dying, and someone overcoming a fear of snowboarding. It went from easy to talk about to fairly deep.”

For all your New Home Needs!

Contact Jesse Oldham (licensed HPO Builder) cell # 250-551-2593 • josedoldham@hotmail.com
SCHOOL OPENING 2017/2018

September 5, 2017
School District No. 10 Arrow Lakes

*September 5, 2017 – all district schools will be in session ½ day only*

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS: Each school will be providing information on transition plans to full-day kindergarten. Call the school for details.

REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS

EDGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Brent Cook, Vice Principal
Ph: 250-265-3638, ext. 3
Monday to Thursday: Hours 8:40-12:15 & 12:55-3:11
A 4 day week school calendar is available on school website

NOKASP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Peter Gadka, Principal
Ph: 250-265-3638
Hours: 8:55-11:40 & 12:20-3:02

NOKASP SECONDARY SCHOOL
Mike Hibbison, Principal
Ph: 250-265-3638, ext. 4

Lucerne Elementary Secondary School
Nicholas Graves, Principal
Ph: 250-265-3638, ext. 3
Hours: Grades K-6: 9:00-12:10 & 1:00-3:00
Grades 7-12: 8:55-12:10 & 1:00-3:04

Arrow Lakes Distributed Learning School
Nicholas Graves, Principal
Ph: 250-265-3638, ext. 3
ALDL Nakusp (Selkirk College ABE): Wednesday 12:30-3:30 / Friday 9:30-3:30
ALDL New Denver (Lucerne School): Wednesday 9:00-3:00 / Thursday 1:00-3:00

BUS ROUTES & TIMES

If you are a new bus student or family and you have not already done so, please contact your school directly between August 28 – September 1 to arrange for bus pickup at your child’s stop and to register for bus transportation through the year.

STUDENTS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES MUST BE AT THEIR STOP 5 MINUTES PRIOR TO POSTED BUS ARRIVAL TIME.

RED MOUNTAIN/HILLS/NEW DENVER/SILVERTON ROUTE

AM RUN PM RUN
6:55 Pre-Trip 7:00
7:20 Leave YRB 7:15
7:45 Red Mountain South 7:30
7:55 Red Mountain North 7:45
7:55 Silverton Bowl 7:55
7:56 6th Street Silverton 8:00
8:25 First Ave New Denver 8:25
9:25 Purdy Rd 9:25
9:31 Badwin Rd 9:35
9:37 4652 Hwy 6 9:45
9:38 Badwin Junction 9:55
9:38 Hills Upper Rd 9:55
9:44 Log Dump 10:00
9:46 4659 Hwy 6 10:05
9:50 Arvie LESS

FAUQUIER TO NAKASP ROUTE

AM RUN PM RUN
6:35 Pre-Trip 6:40
7:04 Leave Base 7:05
7:55 J&S Transfer 7:45
7:57 Leave J&S 7:55
7:59 7767 Hwy 6 8:00
8:11 Revelier Rd 8:05
8:13 Silver Queen Rd 8:15
8:14 McCormack Rd/Hwy 6 8:20
8:15 Burton Main Rd/Hwy 6 8:25
8:17 5305 Hwy 6 8:30
8:19 5115 Hwy 6 8:35
8:21 4890 Hwy 6 8:40
8:23 Burton Main Rd/Hwy 6 8:45
8:24 4410 Hwy 6 8:50
8:27 Arrow Park Ferry Rd 8:55
8:34 Braggart 8:55
8:37 1471 Herdige Mill 8:55
8:45 NES 8:50
8:46

SCHOOL ZONES: Between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on school days the speed limit in all school zones is 30 km/hr.

BOX LAKE/GLENBANK/HWY 23 ROUTE

AM RUN PM RUN
7:25 Pre-Trip 7:30
7:50 Leave Base 7:55
8:00 Box Lake Mailboxes 8:05
8:09 1216 Hwy 6 8:10
8:09 1198 Hwy 6 8:15
8:10 501 Alexander 8:20
8:17 Hepner Rd 8:25
8:18 Alexander Turn Around 8:30
8:20 612 Alexander Rd 8:35
8:22 481 Nakusp East Rd 8:40
8:22 324 Nakusp East Rd 8:45
8:23 367 Nakusp East Rd 8:50
8:24 327 Skapack Rd 8:55
8:24 507 Wells Rd 9:00
8:27 540 Wells Rd 9:05
8:27 Matchett Subdivision 9:10
8:27 Home Ranch 9:15
8:33 Kuskana Bridge 9:20
8:33 13th Ave 23 North 9:25
8:33 Royal Coachman 9:30
8:36 23rd Street & Gracie 9:35
8:36 23rd Street & Gracie 9:40
8:40 NES 9:45
8:43 NES 9:50
8:51 Box Lake Mailboxes

CRESCENT BAY/BROUSE LOOP ROUTE

AM RUN PM RUN
7:40 Pre-Trip 7:45
8:00 Leave Base 8:05
8:10 417 Crescent Bay Rd 8:15
8:11 Waterfield Rd 8:20
8:12 Billings/Crescent Bay 8:25
8:13 Upper Waterfield Rd 8:30
8:14 Bird Rd 8:35
8:15 Beech Rd 8:40
8:19 803 Billings Rd 8:45
8:20 805 Billings Rd 8:50
8:21 Kangaroo Trail 8:55
8:22 Billings Rd/Brouse Loop 9:00
8:23 301 Brouse Loop 9:05
8:23 220 Brouse Loop 9:10
8:25 447 Brouse Loop Rd 9:15
8:26 447 Brouse Loop Rd 9:20
8:30 447 Brouse Loop Rd 9:25
8:30 606 Hwy 6/Nakusp Sign 9:30
8:30 Cotter Rd 9:35
8:37 Carson's Corner 9:40
8:38 352 Hwy 6 9:45
8:43 NES 9:50
8:45 NES 9:55
8:47 Base 10:00

EDGWOOD ELEMENTARY ROUTE

AM RUN PM RUN
6:50 Pre-Trip 7:00
7:14 Leave EES 7:20
7:20 Ferret Rd, N 7:25
7:25 1420 Inakomi Rd 7:30
7:25 Robinson Rd Mailboxes 7:35
7:27 1625 Inakomi Rd 7:40
7:29 Hwy 6 Junction 7:45
7:30 Steak N Shake 7:50
7:30 Gravel Pit 7:55
8:00 Ferry 8:05
8:15 Grave Pit 8:20
8:20 Harmon 8:25
8:22 Robinson Rd Mailboxes 8:30
8:22 425 Ferret Rd S 8:35
8:33 425 Ferret Rd S 8:40
8:33 Jordan Rd 8:45
8:36 EES 8:50

VEHICLE OPERATORS: September 5, 2017 will be the official opening of school for School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) 2017/18 session. We would like to remind motorists to watch out for children walking to school or waiting for school buses.

ALTERNATE FLASHING LIGHTS: School buses are equipped with alternate flashing red lamps and when they are flashing, traffic in both directions must stop and remain stopped until the red flashing lights are turned off. The flashing lights are intended to indicate the school bus is loading or unloading school children.

IT IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLE ACT TO PASS A SCHOOL BUS WITH ITS OVERHEAD RED LIGHTS FLASHING.
John Boivin was among over 90 artists, potters and writers opening up their studios to the public for the CBT Culture Tour this month.

Summer Day Camp in Slocan is off to a great start with six weeks of fun programs for kids in two age groups, 5-8 and 9-13. Here’s a few of them climbing on a brand new school playground structure provided by the Slocan After School Sports and Art Initiative, funded by the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and DASH BC. To find out more or to sponsor a child for summer camp, contact WE Graham Community Service Society at 250-355-2484.

A big day for the WE Graham Learning Centre! Telus made a $2,000 contribution to support the centre’s computer and software upgrades in late June. The cheque was presented to Holly Jack, WEGCSS director and Stuart McQuaig, Learning Centre volunteer coordinator by Telus employees Dylan Appleby and Thomas Jarrett.

Classical Wood Stove
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Classic design in three sizes
The timeless styling of the Classic Wood Stove comes in three sizes producing from 55,000 to 85,000 BTUs of steady warmth for a single living area or an entire home. Up to 77% efficiency means any room can be heated quickly. It also means your wood stove burns cleanly meeting the strictest air quality standards set by DBC Washington Phase II Clean Air Standard of 4.5 grams/hour or less.

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sbs@silvertonbuilding.ca
KASLO & DISTRICT

Partnership releases Kootenay Lake Shoreline regulation guide

by Art Joyce

The Kootenay Lake Partnership, a coalition of governments, biologists, veteran archaeologist Wayne Choquette, and the Kaslo and District Nature Council, have released the Kootenay Lake Shoreline Management Guidelines, a useful regulatory guide for waterfront property owners. The meeting was introduced by Kaslo Mayor Suzan Hewitt and Area D representative Ami Watson, with Area D director Ramona Faust also present.

“It can be a nightmare navigating multiple levels of government,” said Watson. “What’s exciting about this project for me was that all levels of government came together on this document.”

Leischied and company were careful to stress the fact that this is not a new body of regulations nor does it propose any. Rather, it coordinates and summarizes existing regulations.

Village of Kaslo supports Japanese signage, discusses liquid waste plan

by Art Joyce

At its regular meeting of council August 8, the Village of Kaslo voted to support the heritage signage project proposed by the Japanese Canadian Legacy Committee. The decision was in response to a letter from the Vancouver Japanese Language School, noting that the historic locations of internment sites were unprotected and in need of signage marking them. “2017 marks the 75th anniversary of the forced dispersal of Japanese Canadians and Canada’s 150th birthday, two historic milestones in the history of Canada,” explains the letter. “The community galvanized last year to drive the Ministry of Trade and Multiculturalism’s Significant Historic Site online heritage registry project in partnership with Heritage Branch. After an overwhelming number of submissions, including all 15 internment sites, and three road camps, 36 sites were recognized on April 1, 2017. Currently, there are no markers indicating where the internment sites were located. We submitted nominations for all 15 internment sites and three road camps to the Stop of Interest Program in January 2017. However, due to the high number of nominations, the bylaw committee was arrived at, with interpretive signs to be erected at the six internment site “clusters” and two road camps.

Council received a letter from Andy Shadrack and Gail Baumann asking about feral catcolli counts along the Kaslo shoreline and bay area. They wished to raise awareness of what the waterborne illness rate might be in the part of Kaslo not served by a sewage system. Council was also asked if they knew what the differential is between rents charged in areas served or not served by the sewage system, and how bringing in a universal system might affect those rents. “What can encourage and zoning requirements does the Village of Kaslo have in place to protect and maintain existing heritage properties and architecture, and how might the bylaw support any existing enforcement? What is extended to all of lower Kaslo?” Shadrack and Baumann said they came to the community 30 years ago as a low-income couple and are concerned that with rising fees and costs Kaslo may become prohibitive for young couples wanting to move there today. They asked for the council to consider incentives and the civic municipalities of Vancouver and Ucluelet, which are creating bylaws requiring that all new developments include no less than 20 percent low and middle income units. Council responded with a letter from CAO Neil Smith stating that “the steering committee will discuss and report back to council on this issue.”

The KLLCF has supported a variety of projects, including the remediation of shoreline. Osprey, habitat, and over half the bat species in BC are protected under the BC Wildlife Act and颜值 loss and fragmentation, and over half the bat species in BC are protected under the BC Wildlife Act. The KLLCF has supported a variety of projects, including the remediation of shoreline. Osprey, habitat, and over half the bat species in BC are protected under the BC Wildlife Act. The KLLCF has supported projects including the remediation of shoreline. Osprey, habitat, and over half the bat species in BC are protected under the BC Wildlife Act.

The Grizzly Bear Co-existence Solutions project is supported by KLLCF to continue the recovery efforts and improving human-grizzly coexistence. In cooperation with the Valhalla Wilderness Society, the fund also supports the western loud mitigation project on Highway 31A to reduce mortality of this threatened species. Other projects include outreach to support awareness and implementation of the Integrated Management Guidelines. Document and the North Kootenay Lake Water Monitoring Project to gauge how local watersheds will react to climate change.

The KCP will issue a formal call for proposals in September 2017 and the deadline for applications will be 4 pm on October 1, 2017. If you are interested in a variety of projects, the deadline for proposals in September 2017 and the deadline for applications will be 4 pm on October 1, 2017. If you are interested in a variety of projects, the deadline for proposals in September 2017 and the deadline for applications will be 4 pm on October 1, 2017. If you are interested in a variety of projects...

For information on the Fund and how to apply, visit http://kootenaylakeconservation.ca/index.html.

For inquiries, contact KCP Program Manager, Julian Craig at 250-352-2280 or julian@kootenaylakeconservation.ca.

Kootenay Lake Shoreline Management Guidelines include ecological, archaeological and cultural risk tables. Leischied said a complete inventory is supposed to be done every 10 years, although it takes that long to complete. This will help provide baselines for ecological stewardship.

“It helps us understand how the lake is changing and how to protect it over the long term,” said Leischied.

Funding for the project was supplied by the Kootenay Lake Conservation Fund, RDCK, DFO, the Real Estate Foundation of BC, and the Vancouver Foundation. Similar projects have been completed in the Okanagan, plus nine lakes in the East Kootenay, including Windermere and Columbia lakes, and most recently, Kootanoox reservoir.

A copy of the document is available online at the RDCK website or by Googling Kootenay Lake Shoreline Management Guidelines. Or contact Heather Leischied at klp.coordinator@gmail.com, John/Chont-cathro@netidea.com, Meeri Durand at MDurand@rdck.bc.ca, or Nicole Kapell at nkappel@ktnuma.com.
submitted

Don’t miss the opportunity to hear award-winning conservationist Ric Careless speak at the Argenta Hall on Saturday, September 2, 7 pm. Careless, one of BC’s most highly recognized conservationists, was the driving force behind establishing the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. This presentation is sponsored by the Larteau Valley Historical Society and is free of charge.

Careless will wrap up the Canada 150 Earl Grey Trail Restoration Project with a presentation entitled, *The History of the Earl Grey Pass Trail Within the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy.* The author of *To Save the Wild Earth,* Careless has been honoured with multiple awards over the years, including the Order of British Columbia (1994). He is a co-founder of the Sierra Club of BC, was executive director of Tatshenshini Wild and chair of its international network representing 10 million members and, most recently, became an inaugural director of the newly-formed BC Parks Foundation.

The Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park, encompassing 500,000 hectares (1.2 million acres) is the largest protected wilderness area in southern BC. The historic Earl Grey Pass Trail, originally developed along its route.

### Slocan Community Library receives Canada Post grant

The Slocan Community Library is thrilled to be a recipient of a $1,500 Canada Post Community Foundation Grant for the Slocan Community Library New Books Initiative. The library will use the funds to purchase books for children and youth.

Part of the grant will support the purchase of reference materials suitable for WE Graham student projects. The Library and WE Graham have recently started a program where the library supplies the school with crates of books on subjects requested by the school for student projects. The Library’s popular weekly Story Time will also benefit from the grant. As well, materials for dyslexic and reluctant readers will be purchased.

The Slocan Community Library survives completely on donations, grants, and volunteer labour, so when Slocan Postmistress Linda Hicks told the Slocan Community Library board of directors about the Canada Post grant last spring, the group jumped into action. Library board co-chairs Barbara Mack and Barbara Curry Mulcahy were key in setting up a partnership with WE Graham Community School and coming up with the idea of the Library purchasing books to support school projects. The

by Claire Paradis

Kaslo has a new way of celebrating its birthday with iDIDARide, a mountain bike and trail run race organized by the core of volunteers that made the Sufferfest races run. In their first year they attracted a whopping 107 participants to the five races: 40-kilometre mountain bike, 20-kilometre bike or trail run, and an eight-kilometre bike or trail run. The two main bodies behind the race were Karma Halleran and Glen McCrae, “but we had quite the support team,” Halleran told the Valley Voice. A lot of the people who helped get iDIDARide up and running have been involved in Kaslo’s Sufferfest, “so they were a lean mean volunteering machine.”

The new event also came out of a desire in Kaslo for an event that was a little more self-contained, according to Halleran, who noted that Sufferfest is getting big, and Kaslo wanted a more low-key, smaller event. “What Shon and Janis have done is amazing and we didn’t want to let the momentum drop. I expect we will continue to grow as much as we want to now. We’ll see what happens the next few years.”

“It will always be the weekend closest to Kaslo’s birthday, August 14. When it lands on a Wednesday, we’ll have to make a decision,” the race organizer said. “We wanted it away from Labour Day, which was the Sufferfest weekend, to make it easy for families to take part.

“The youngest person was six and the oldest 71, and there were a number of families participating, which is what we want,” said Halleran, who also noted that there were people from every place that’s considered a ‘biking town.’ Forty per cent of the racers were local, and the rest traveled from western Canada and the US to take part.

“We feel that we caught the right balance. We’re probably going to have to have a cut-off at some point. We want to keep it small,” Halleran said.

And it’s a community affair, powered by volunteers, she said, “Our organizing committee is amazing, and just having such capable people taking on these key roles just made the whole thing achievable. Glen McCrae as race director brought it together as slick as a whistle. We had 30 contributors who chipped and the whole community was behind it, it was so awesome.”

**Bike repair café at Larteau market**

Looking to improve your bike knowledge and ride preparedness? Head for the bike repair and maintenance and repairs, fixing flat tires, brakes and derailleur. Take your bike, or attend without it.

Kaslo’s iDIDARide event off to a strong start

The Slocan Community Library recently received a $1,500 Canada Post grant. Barbara Mack, Postmistress Linda Hicks, and Barbara Curry Mulcahy (L to R) helped make it happen.

The workshop is free, part of the Bridge project funded by the Columbia Basin Trust Affected Areas program. Another good reason to visit the Sunday Market and the Larteau Valley.

For more information contact links@larteauvalley.com.

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Councillor Leah Main reported that the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is in the process of developing strategic planning around flood recovery, with the input of a citizens’ advisory group.

“Provincial requirements around the disposal of trash are getting more stringent all the time,” said Main. “What we’re doing looking at organics diversion is definitely right in line with [the Province].” The big takeaway for Main, which is currently being done by the Regional District at a cost to the residents. However, the cost is still less than it would have been if a contract with Multi-Material BC were in place, said Main.

“It’s getting frustrating and it’s getting hard to maintain,” added Main, who said that a ministerial meeting would be set up to discuss the issue before and during UBCM. There will be a real push to get a recycling facility that the Regional District is not totally responsible for, said Main.

RDCK board votes on mosquito abatement, Community Development grants

by Art Joyce

At its regular meeting of August 17, the RDCK board authorized up to $10,000 from the Feasibility Study Fund towards the planning phase of a Mosquito Abatement Program within Winlaw and the surrounding area. Area D director Aimée Watson also received a $20,000 grant for mosquito abatement in the Larder Lake valley.

The board voted on Community Development grant applications for the district. Grant awards for Areas H, K and D include $500 for the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley, $1,750 for the Slocan Valley South Recreation Commission, $5,000 for the Slocan Valley Historical Society, $5,000 for the Nakusp and District Historical Society, and $500 for Kootenay Sufferfest.

New boom coming for Kootenay Canal submitted

BC Hydro will replace the current log boom at Kootenay Canal & Generating Station, 14 kilometres downstream of Nelson, in the spring of 2018. The log boom is located approximately 250 metres upstream of the canal headworks and protects the canal and power intakes from floating debris. The boom drops on emergency preparedness for seniors submitted

Are you a senior 60 or over? In the event of a disaster, do you know what to do, where to go? Do you know how to prepare, what you need to take if you’re evacuated? Do you understand the evacuation process? The Coldstream Recreation and Aquatic Centre (Coldstream Seniors) hosts a project and presentation and discussion sessions this week to answer these questions. The first is this Saturday, August 26 (today) at 3 pm in the Passmore Hall. The second is from 10 am to noon at the Columbia Basin Trust building. 445-13th Ave in Castlegar. No registration is required.

Silvertown council highlights Health Centre meetings, road work, energy efficiency

RCM News

COMMUNITY

by Claire Paradis

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The Valley Voice August 24, 2017

Team BC wins a record 146 medals at Canada Summer Games

The 2017 Canada Summer Games have come to a close with a record-setting performance for Team BC with 146 medals – the most ever earned by British Columbia at a Canada Summer Games. Team BC finished in second place in the medal count behind Team Ontario with 212 medals and ahead of Team Quebec with 138 medals.

The last medal of the Games was the one that broke Team BC’s previous record of 145 medals and was a gold won by the women’s softball team on Sunday just prior to the Closing Ceremony. This medal was also a fourth consecutive gold medal for Team BC’s softball team at the Canada Summer Games. After two amazing weeks of celebrating excellence in sport, the 2017 Canada Summer Games came to a close with a memorable Closing Ceremony at Investors Group Field. Titled ‘Grand Summer Party,’ the ceremony celebrated both the Canada Games 50th anniversary and Canada 150 while highlighting the natural beauty of the province and the vibrant culture of the city of Winnipeg. Also hosting competitions were the communities of Gimli and Kenora. Team BC athletes sang along to performances by Fred Penner and Brett Kissel, and celebrated as our women’s softball team was awarded a record-setting performance for Team BC women’s softball at the Canada Summer Games. The last medal of the Games have come to a close with a record-setting performance for Team BC women’s softball at the Canada Summer Games.

KSCU welcomes review of banking terminology

One of War Child Canada’s many initiatives in countries including Uganda, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Jordan, raising funds through personal donations, a silent auction, grants, and pledges. Along with raising more than $150,000 since it began, Keep the Beat also provides positive community growth and student volunteer opportunities, all while bringing the city together for a day of music, dancing and family fun.

For more information contact keepthebeat@warchild.ca, or call (250) 352-5740.

KSCU welcomes review of banking terminology

OSFI will revisit the issue once the Department of Finance has announced the completion of its review.

Keep the Beat fundraiser returns for 14th year and justice.

All proceeds go directly to War Child Canada’s many initiatives in countries including Uganda, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Jordan, raising funds through personal donations, a silent auction, grants, and pledges. Along with raising more than $150,000 since it began, Keep the Beat also provides positive community growth and student volunteer opportunities, all while bringing the city together for a day of music, dancing and family fun.

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Have you done ‘hand work’ such as dyeing and sewing, for generations and this work has traditionally offered plenty of opportunity to chat, visit and be together in community. These making processes are healing and calming,” says Harwood.

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For more information contact keepthebeat@warchild.ca, or call (250) 352-5740.
THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business? If so, call Community Futures in the Arrow Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

SLOCAN MASONIC LODGE meets at Knox Hall in New Denver August, September, October and November—every fourth Friday of the month. We meet with the Nakusp Lodge on December 9.

ENVIRONMENT

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info@vws.org

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Hand & Soul Wellness Centre
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CLASSIFIED ADS

THE LARDEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
‘The History of the Earl Grey Pass Trail within the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy’, with speaker Ric Cansier. Ric is a long-time BC conservationist and recipient of the Order of BC. He played a leading role in the preservation of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy and wrote the book To Save the Wild Earth. The Society is hosting this event to celebrate the Canada 150 Earl Grey Trail Restoration Project on Saturday September 2 from 7–9 pm at the Argenta Hall.


T잎 LEading FUNdRAISER TOURNAMENT Saturday, September 16, Legion Hall, 502 Harold St., Slocan, starting at 6:30 pm sharp. $30 Buy-in. Advance tickets at Mountain Valley Station in Slocan or phone 250-355-2672 to reserve. Tickets may not be available at the door. BC Gaming rules will apply. The Legion welcomes members & guests.

NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK by NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK by THE LARDEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS THE LARDEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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250-384-6737 Mon-Sat 8:30-5 PM

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Safety, Service, Satisfaction Installation and maintenance jim@jemsgas.com

MAIDEN TIMBER CONSTRUCTION, INC. HPO Licensed Builder & a Red Seal Carpenter Timber Frame Homes Stairs, Interior Finishing, Drywall Concrete and Eavestrough Roofing and Siding Log Home Design Wood and Timber Sales dave@maidenconstruction.com 250-265-1007

Crescent Bay Construction Ltd.
Eric Waterfall — Septic Planning and Installation Nakusp, BC 250-265-3374 • 7x, 250-265-9041 eric@waterfall.ca

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nenleafcabinetry@gmail.com

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OLD 16 square-end fibreglass canoe, $200. 14’ utility trailer, new tires, roller bar & winch, detachable 2’ sides, two ‘Herc’ straps, $700. 358-2275.

FOR SALE: Yellow dingly sailboat, 11 ft. x 5 ft. 11”, plywood form construction, marine paint, drop keel – $1.000. Comes with a trailer, sails and oars. Located in New Denver. 250-358-2228 for inquiries with Steve and Karin.


FOR SALE: Other stuff too!

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FOR SALE: Other stuff too!

FOR SALE:

KOOTENAY CONTAINERS Sales & Rentals, 20 ft. and 40 ft. sizes.
submitted

A local group of workers, farmers and investors is pressing the federal government to keep the door open for co-operative outdoor cannabis production in the Central Kootenay region of BC. There’s a new market coming for legal recreational marijuana in Canada, and the Kootenay Outdoor Producer Co-operative is organizing a co-op that will keep the profits and high-paying industry jobs local.

Organizers from across the region need your help now to let the government in Ottawa know that Canadians want to see other business models flourish besides the big corporate warehouse grow shows. Regulations being drawn up this summer will determine the future of the industry, and could shut the door on the potential for community-based outdoor marijuana co-operatives.

Growing marijuana outdoors organically on small Kootenay farms, and bringing workers together to process and package the product in a single central Kootenay location, will create a better product with lower environmental impacts. Small farms in the Central Kootenay are ideally positioned to participate in the new legalized cannabis market, but there are significant infrastructure costs and specific knowledge requirements. In addition to the knowledge needed to grow the plant, at the front end there are regulatory, land preparation and nursery costs. At the back end there are trimming and drying techniques to be learned along with processing, storage, testing and marketing expenses to be considered.

This model is superior in every way to the big-box corporate warehouse weed industry, and it can be replicated in other communities across the country. But right now we need to convince Ottawa that this business model is in the best interests of Canadians, and make sure their upcoming regulations allow it. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Momentum is building among big players in the corporate weed business, and we don’t want to see the Kootenays, or rural Canada, left behind.

We urgently need your help. Contact your Member of Parliament today, and let them know that you support a local, sustainable and community-based industry for legal recreational cannabis. Let your local politicians know that you support outdoor, organic cannabis co-operatives that will keeps jobs and profits in the community.

For more information contact Kootenay Outdoor Producer Co-op President Todd Veri at todd.veri@gmail.com or Compliance Manager Kevin Megale at kevin.megale@gmail.com.

Local outdoor marijuana co-op seeking support

COMMUNITY

Seven new BC Transit Vicinity buses are coming to the West Kootenay Transit System. Pictured here is one of two buses that just arrived in Trail. The remaining five buses will arrive in 2018.

Seven new BC Transit Vicinity buses are coming to the West Kootenay Transit System. Pictured here is one of two buses that just arrived in Trail. The remaining five buses will arrive in 2018.
Fusion reactor film asks: is the future of green energy nuclear?

by Claire Paradis

On the screen, what looks like a blossoming sun transitions to bird’s eye view shots reminiscent of Edward Burtynsky’s photographs. The images of forests, train yards and traffic circles are accompanied by a narrator who likens humanity to a yeast that eventually dies because it consumes too greedily and starves itself. Let There Be Light, a newly minted Canadian documentary film about the potential to harness nuclear fusion energy, asks the question if humans are intelligent enough to prevent their own extinction.

Despite the balmy weather on August 17, 45 people crowded into Knox Hall to watch the film, which concentrates on the enormous International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) and a few of the smaller independent nuclear fusion energy projects. The film was presented by Dr. Steven Lisgo, who works on the ITER project and has a familial connection to New Denver.

So what is nuclear fusion? Well, it’s the same kind of reaction that powers the sun, and instead of splitting atoms like fission its power comes from fusing them together. And like the sun, fusion energy reactors involve a lot of heat. Temperatures over one million degrees Centigrade are reached in the process of achieving ‘plasma’ in the fusion reactor. This ‘sun in a bottle’ reaction could theoretically render the same amount of energy from one litre of sea water that our current fossil fuel systems need 550 litres of oil to produce, Lisgo told the New Denver audience.

With the aid of beautiful, understated animation from E’D Films, the doc tells the history of fusion energy, starting with a self-educated Soviet named Oleg Lavrentiev and the famous scientist Andrei Sakharov. It was Sakharov who developed the Tokamak reactor, which is the model for the massive ITER project being built in the south of France.

Unlike the solitary Lavrentiev, ITER is a huge international undertaking that requires the coordination, cooperation, and funding of several countries. The film summarizes the 2013 management assessment of ITER, which was leaked to the New Yorker, the major points of which were that the project was suffering from a lack of clear decision-making and poor communication. By 2014 ITER was billions of dollars over budget and a decade behind schedule.

Enter the relatively ‘cheap, fast, and out of control’ alternatives, one of which is Canadian Michel Laberge’s General Fusion, which started as his pet project on Bowen Island. General Fusion’s reactor design is much more humble – its parts are all available at Home Depot, Laberge proudly points out in the film, making it affordable and therefore more realistic for energy production.

There’s a frontier feeling to all the projects featured, like fusion reactors could be anybody’s game, as long as you have the theoretical and technological knowhow. And fusion energy has been a collaborative effort from the start, even during the depths of the Cold War.

Although ITER has billions being poured into it, the massive project is not meant to produce energy for consumption, rather it is meant to show what is possible. With the installation of new Director General Bernard Bigot, ITER seems to be back on track, according to Dr. Lisgo. One audience member commented that the movie felt like an advertisement for fusion power, and added that it would be too late for humanity if fusion energy doesn’t become available until the year 2100.

Lisgo agreed that fusion energy will not save us from climate change, and he said that ITER has faced criticism because the project is not well-positioned with regards to the necessary transition that will have to take place from fossil fuels.

And what about fusion reactor fuel and waste? At the moment, fusion relies on tritium, the richest source of which is CANDU fission reactors. Part of ITER’s project includes ‘tritium breeding’ which is the development of tritium using lithium and does not depend on fusion reactors. Lisgo told the Valley Voice. Although the waste from fusion reactors is toxic, its half-life is very short and the waste can be recycled as fuel after 100 years, according to the ITER website.

Lisgo was very clear that people still need to become more energy conservative and work toward addressing climate change even if fusion energy becomes a reality.

‘Fusion won’t be free,’ he said via phone interview, “We don’t want to promote the same ideas that were used in the ‘50s to promote fission, that energy will be so cheap that you won’t need a meter.” It’s still going to be up to us to show that we’re smart enough to conserve the energy we use and to counter climate change in order to save our own skins.

COMMUNITY

Nakusp Library unveils new memorial bench

The Nakusp Public Library is delighted to present to the community a memorial bench created by Nakusp Mobile Mechanics Ltd. on the southeast corner of the Nakusp Centennial Building in memory of Ted Dodge and Vikki Zinselmeyer.

Ted was a voracious reader who devised a code to track the books he’d read. He’d put a dot on the inside ‘date due’ slip for every book he’d read. This system worked so well the library has also suggested its use to other patrons. The library has been the grateful recipient of generous funding from Ted and Vikki, who likens humanity to a yeast that eventually dies because it consumes too greedily and starves itself.

Bobbis. To honour Ted, the library places memorial book plates in the books purchased with the funds. Although our community had Vikki as a community member and library patron for only a few years, she made her mark on the library with her avid love of books and dedicated participation in our library’s lively book discussion group. She was also a devoted Friend of the Library. Her family’s generous memorial donation to the library provided funds to help create the beautiful garden created by Ray Nickel on the south side of the Centennial Building and situated behind the memorial bench.

Roots musician Oliver Swain plays Taghum Hall

Award-winning roots musician Oliver Swain will perform at Taghum Hall Friday, August 25 from 7-9 pm. Original tunes and some old-time music performed on the stand-up banjo and guitar will be accompanied by his unique and wide-ranged vocals will make this a show you will remember. Tickets are available at the door for $15. This is an all ages event with soft beverages and snacks available.

Swain has been a celebrated musician for years, held in high regard for his acoustic and folk music styles.

Roots musician Oliver Swain performs at Taghum Hall on August 25, 2017.
Supporting your local community foundation is as easy as making a phone call or sending an e-mail. Check out the web-site of the foundation in your area, then start the dialogue today. The five community foundations shown below serve the Valley Voice coverage area. Whether you wish to create your personal legacy as a monthly donor, with an immediate gift, or with a bequest in your will, we would love to hear from you.

We are part of a nation-wide network of community foundations serving geographic areas right across Canada. In fact, there are 191 community foundations offering virtually all of the Canadian population an opportunity to leave a personal legacy in the community they love.

Community foundations are one of the largest contributors to Canadian charities and nonprofits. Nation-wide, our collective assets grew to exceed $4.8 billion with more than $250 million contributed to community foundations last year alone. Together, community foundations support thousands of incredible initiatives. Nationally, we grant more than $215 million per year — that’s a lot of community-building power!

Community foundations are a positive force to be reckoned with all across Canada. Here at home we are growing our foundations, as shown on the map below, Kootenay-style. We invite you to join the community-building action: this is about individual donors supporting the communities they love with a legacy that will endure in perpetuity. We count on your support so pick up the phone or send us an e-mail today...or a cheque!

To support your local community foundation:

**Geographic area covered: RDCK Area K & Nakusp**
Name: Nakusp & Area Community Foundation
Board Chair: David Jackson
Web-site: nakuspfoundation.com
E-mail: nakuspfoundation@gmail.com
Phone: David Jackson at 250-265-4818
or Karen Hamling at 250-265-3322
Postal Address: Box 15, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1RO
Status: Registered Charity
Canada Revenue Agency #: 859435281RR0001

**Geographic area covered: North Kootenay Lake:**
RDCK Area D & Kaslo
Name: Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake (CFNKL)
Board President: Honora Cooper
Web-site: nklcommunityfund.org
E-mail: nklcommunityfund@gmail.com
Postal Address: Box 661, Kaslo, BC, V0G 1M0
Status: A community fund held within the Osprey Community Foundation, a registered charity.
Canada Revenue Agency #: 87492-5928 RR0001
Cheques should be made out to the Osprey Community Foundation with “for CFNKL” in the memo line.

**Geographic area covered: The Slocan Valley:**
RDCK Area H, New Denver, Silverton & Slocan
Name: Slocan Valley Legacy Fund
Board Chair: Alex Berland
Web-site: slocanvalleylegacy.com
Facebook page: Slocan Valley Legacy Fund
E-mail: svlfs.chair@gmail.com
Phone: 1-877-649-5643 (toll free)
Postal Address: PO Box 363, Slocan, BC V0G 2C0
Status: A community fund held within the Osprey Community Foundation, a registered charity
Canada Revenue Agency #: 87492-5928 RR0001
Cheques should be made out to the Osprey Community Foundation (with “for the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund” in the memo line)

**Geographic area covered: The Salmo Valley, Salmo and RDCK Area G**
Name: The Salmo Valley Fund
Contact: Mike van Wijk
E-mail: vanwijk.michael@gmail.com
Phone: 250-357-2722
Postal Address: P.O. Box 39 Salmo, BC V0G 1Z0
Status: A community fund held within the Osprey Community Foundation, a registered charity
Canada Revenue Agency #: 87492-5928 RR0001
Cheques should be made out to the Osprey Community Foundation (with “for the Salmo Valley Fund” in the memo line)

**Geographic area covered: City of Nelson and RDCK Areas E & F**
Name: Osprey Community Foundation
Board Chair: Kim Boddy
Executive Director: Tina Choi
Web-site: ospreycommunityfoundation.ca
E-mail: ED@ospreycommunityfoundation.ca
Phone: (250) 352-3643
Postal Address: Suite B8, 625 Front Street, Nelson, BC V1L 4B6
Status: Registered Charity.
Canada Revenue Agency #: 87492-5928 RR0001