The ‘beating heart of Bonanza Marsh’ to become a nature preserve
submitted

Nature lovers in the Slocan Valley and beyond have joined forces to save a precious ‘swamp’ at the north end of Slocan Lake — a ray of hope in a world where wetlands are disappearing at an alarming rate, and with them critical habitat for innumerable rare and endangered species.

Under the auspices of the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology and Social Justice, a large parcel of private land within the Bonanza Marsh area in Hills has been purchased. The Valhalla Foundation is the same organization that purchased the Valhalla Mile waterfront property on Slocan Lake to make it part of Valhalla Provincial Park. The Bonanza Marsh acquisition was completed by the Foundation at the end of August.

The 35-acre parcel, which includes the core wetland habitat of the marsh, will become a nature preserve and will be stewarded with the goal of eventually restoring it to full natural functioning. During its previous decades of private ownership, the parcel of land included a residence and outbuildings, was used as a storage area for heavy equipment, and was subjected to numerous industrial activities. Despite these depredations on the dry-land portion of the parcel, most of the wet marsh component is intact.

As a first step, the Valhalla Foundation, an organization dedicated to environmental conservation and restoration, intends to clear the land of debris and abandoned equipment. Then with the help and expert advice of biologists who specialize in marsh and wetland restoration, the land will be carefully restored to function as a natural wetland.

The intention is to make the nature preserve publicly accessible, open for everyone to visit so long as it is used respectfully. Future activities will include nature appreciation, wetland education, birdwatching and other low-key, non-motorized activities. Gates will be installed to prevent further damage from vehicles and it will be closed to hunting, trapping and camping.

“This is fantastic news for biodiversity conservation around Slocan Lake,” said Wayne McCrory, chairperson of the Valhalla Foundation. “This marsh, the only wetland on Slocan Lake and the only wetland of its type in the entire West Kootenay region, functions as a purifier for the lake, cleaning its water. It is teeming with a rich variety of plant and animal life including the beautiful, and rare, helleborine orchid.”

Fed in part by Bonanza Creek and in part by calcium springs, the marsh includes many rare and endangered plant and animal species, is home to many amphibians and reptiles, and is a major breeding habitat for the Pacific tree frog, whose spring mating choruses can be heard a kilometre away. The wetland also supports a diversity of bird life, including all manner of waterfowl. It is also potential breeding habitat for the endangered screech owl, recently identified in the Slocan Valley, and is an important haven for nesting neo-tropical migratory birds.

Preservation of the marsh also anchors a vital habitat link in the wildlife corridor between Valhalla and Goat Range Provincial Parks. It is also a key element in the recently identified ‘Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor’ to protect numerous wetlands between Slocan and Summit Lakes.

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One dismissal, one guilty verdict in Marilyn James trespass case

by Katrine Campbell

One of two property-related charges against Marilyn James, a Sinixt elder living at Vallican, was dismissed by Judge Ronald Webb in Nelson court Aug. 23.

James, who represented herself in court, had been charged with one count of trespass and one count of mischief $5,000 or under. She did not deny the acts, but was found not guilty of the trespass charge while guilty of the mischief charge. Her sentence was $100, one year probation requiring her to stay in court, had been charged with one

Marilyn James, a Sinixt elder living in the house.

Tribes (CCT) in Washington State through its registered society, the Arrow Lakes Aboriginal Society. The Sinixt are a member tribe of the CCT.

The house was occupied by Angela Tuovinen, who acknowledged she paid no rent but was house-sitting for the permanent resident Bob Campbell, a Sinixt man who is currently in Washington State. A week prior to the alleged trespass, Tuovinen was joined by Melissa Dorey, after the locks were changed on the nearby cabin Dorey shared with Sinixt caretaker Robert Watt. Dorey said Watt had asked her to stay in the cabin when he recently returned to Washington after being removed from Canada for overstaying the six-month limit.

James objected to the two women living there because, she says, they were “free-loading” who had no right to stay on Sinixt property. She originally referred to them as “white bitches” but modified that to say “non-tribal members” after learning Dorey is Mi’kmaw. James and other Sinixt wanted to use the house as a language and cultural school. She freely admitted to breaking and entering, and changing the locks and burring the windows, but said as a Sinixt person she had the right to be there.

James had posted her name, phone number and address with instructions to Dorey and Tuovinen to contact her for access and to reclaim their possessions. Instead, they managed to get back into the house and called the RCMP.

Judge Webb had a difficult job. Under Canadian law, which James calls “colonial” law, her admission of the trespass and the lock-changing would seem to make it a straightforward case; however, the dispute between the Vallican Sinixt and the Colville Tribes over cultural and traditional jurisdiction made it challenging.

The court heard testimony from Dorey, Tuovinen, Constable Sophie McLean, and CCT Chair Dr. Mike Marchand. James then cross-examined them all, with guidance from the judge. She questioned the women’s right to be in the home, and asked who had given them permission. In response to Dorey’s statement to the RCMP that “the Sinixt community” didn’t have permission to enter the house, James asked if they had ever seen her at Sinixt events, and if they had ever seen her being thrown out of such events. They said they had seen James attending but had not seen her thrown out.

James questioned McLean about her understanding of Indian culture; the constable said she had taken RCMP training, but also had grown up with Indigenous people and had a deep understanding of the culture. She added that she had resolved problems through healing circles. McLean acknowledged that there were many different cultures and she wasn’t familiar with the Sinixt, having recently arrived in BC.

To James repeatedly asking why it had taken from the date of the offense (November 30) until January to lay charges, McLean replied that she wanted to talk to the Colville Tribes for their input, and “knowing how Indigenous people like to handle things, I gave them time.”

Marchand took the stand and answered Crown prosecutor Sunday Patola’s questions. He explained that the CCT, a confederation of 12 tribes, has a 1.5 million-acre reservation in Washington. It created the Arrow Lakes Aboriginal Society to own the small acreage in the Slocan Valley. He testified that he personally didn’t know of the small acreage, but that all occupants require either a lease or a resolution from the board council.

Asked if James had permission on November 30 to be at or inside the house, or to change the locks, he said “no.”

James questioned the existence of the ALAS, noting that under the BC Societies Act, an AGM must be held every year but that the ALAS had not filed notice of an AGM since January 2014. The society’s incorporation was elected to represent all twelve CCT, a confederation of 12 tribes, and we have nearly 3,000 enrolled Sinixt. The Colville Tribes and its Arrow Lakes Aboriginal Society will continue to advance the interests of the Sinixt people by protecting the integrity of this culturally-significant property for all Sinixt people.

Marchand later told the Valley Voice the tribal-owned property was “really no different from personal property. I don’t let anyone walk in and out of my house” at will … she should have [to have] permission. She [James] doesn’t represent or speak for the tribe in any way.”

He said he was surprised the judge felt she had an interest in the property, as “she spent no money on it.”

Asked about her assertion that she had the right to be in the house because she is Sinixt, Marchand said, “Apparenty she was pretty convincing but I’ve never heard that in a court of law. We’ll work within the law, we’re not going to break the law.

My concern is that if she has the right to be in the house, then all 3,000 Sinixt will have ideas on what to do with the property. We have to have a look at the decision … we have a large tribe of 9,500 independent thinkers on the reservation.

“We have a formal organized government with elected leadership, constitutional laws and a decision making process. No authority refers to her.”

One dismissal, one guilty verdict in Marilyn James trespass case

One dismissal, one guilty verdict in Marilyn James trespass case
Wage increases for ambulance workers bring stability and jobs to small communities

by Jan McMurray

Two significant wage increases for ambulance workers this year and long ways towards addressing the chronic recruitment and retention problems in rural and remote communities.

“We’re moving on from the era when paramedics were quasi-volunteer positions,” said Cameron Eby, provincial secretary treasurer of the Ambulance and Paramedics and Emergency Dispatchers of BC.

For years, ambulance workers received only $2 per hour to be on call, and if called out, would receive regular paramedic wages for the call. As of July 1, paramedics on call receive $2 per hour plus a guaranteed four hours of call-out pay, whether they are called out or not.

The other significant change eliminates a $5 hourly wage disparity between full-time and on-call paramedics. The universal rate is being phased in, so on-call paramedics received a $2.50 per hour raise on April 1 this year, and will receive a $2.50 per hour raise on April 1 next year for their call-out time.

“These two changes are transforming the job in rural and remote communities to something you can make a living doing, so we’re hoping that will translate into more paramedic jobs,” said Eby.

Eby reports that the four hours of guaranteed pay is a temporary measure. “BC Ambulance Service has said it’s a temporary measure because they are looking at a more sustainable model for rural and remote communities.”

Looking forward, Eby says he hopes the more sustainable model will mean full-time jobs, and he looks forward to working with BCAS to make that happen.

Eby explained that the universality rate has been an objective of the paramedics union for many years, and was finally realized in the 2014 round of bargaining between the union and BC Ambulance Service (BCAS). The guaranteed four-hour call-out pay was agreed to outside of the bargaining process, during discussions about how to address the recruitment and retention issues in rural and remote BC.

“It’s all about us [the union] trying to work with the employer and the new government to think about new ways to staff those small communities. These two changes and the community paramedic program are helping bring forward, Eby says he hopes the more sustainable model will mean full-time jobs and qualified paramedics back to rural and remote communities,” Eby said.

Eby explained that the guaranteed four-hour call-out pay has its origins in Northern BC with the opioid crisis. Around Christmas time 2016, a measure very similar to the guaranteed four-hour call-out pay was instituted across northern BC. “We saw stations that would typically have 70 vacant shifts in a month go down to 0-5 vacant shifts, so it had a dramatic impact,” Eby said.

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Follow the link to “2017 CP Development” and each CP will be posted by CP number.

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Note: the 2017 CP Development posting is for information purposes only and is not a formal referral process. CCC appreciates all comments; however, CCC will only respond to those comments that may affect a material change to the CP.
Legal advice

Be careful what you say or do. Donald Trump just loves to sue. Slander, libel — easy prey. Anything you do or say, His lawyers, they have lawyers, too. And they just might come after you.

Kristen Jacks
South Slocan

Health care in Kaslo

The Kaslo Primary health care and emergency clinic services are excellent, and part of why my husband and I decided to make Kaslo our permanent home in retirement. Recently I needed help, and went up the hill in the morning, where I was checked in by Dorothy, then met by Carol, a very caring and competent nurse, and soon after, examined by a very polite and professional doctor. It was his first day on a locum in Kaslo. This great team did all the tests, reviewed appropriate medication, kept me in the clinic to try the meds, and affirmed that this is the place to be for appropriate, efficient and superb health care. Thanks so much, Dorothy, Carol and Dr C.

Nancy Gibson
Kaslo

Why the Navigation Protection Act matters

Right now, the federal government is reviewing the Navigation Protection Act—that’s the law that should give all Canadians the right to paddle up and down this land’s waterways. That right is very important to me.

In recent years, 99% of Canada’s waterways lost navigation protections under the act. Unless our waterways have full legal protection we’ll all lose our right to enjoy and play in streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.

Even worse, when waterways are blocked by development or land owners, sensitive ecosystems are put at risk. There’s currently no law that makes it mandatory to evaluate environmental impacts on blocking and obstructing waterways, which can seriously harm fish, fish habitat and water.

Long-lasting decisions are being made right now about our basic right to explore this country by kayak and canoe. Fellow outdoor enthusiasts, I hope you’ll join me in writing or calling your MP to tell them to make sure the Navigation Protection Act protects our environment, heritage and way of life.

Water is life and must be protected wherever it is. On private land, public land or Indigenous land. Do the right thing and make it so.

Michael Brown
New Denver

The Slocan Valley is a green jewel

The Slocan Valley is a green jewel, sparkling with life from clear water, and still relatively quiet and with clean air! Others want it, and plan to change it to suit themselves, not thinking that the changes they make would change the valley that is.

Jill and I have loved our life of 26 years here, and we could not have asked for a better environment to live in and raise our family, or for better bonds of friendship and community. With extreme thanks in our hearts for this great gift, we have had great difficulty in accepting the dictates of life that now put us in Castlegar.

I believe that only engaged and vigilant citizens can protect this valley, because ONLY vigilant and engaged citizens care to be the stewards of this Valley. I urge all of you to TAKE PART somehow with money, membership, time, interest, support, letters, action, politics or whatever else you can do to support those who work for our valley’s values.

I’ll be seeing you on the valley trails for a long time yet. We can’t leave the Valley’s legacy behind! Thank you all for being part of our happy life here!

Eric & Jill Faulks
Hills

JMRM et al.

The Jumbo Mountain Resort Municipality, the politically contrived entity of the previous BC Liberal Government, continues to tick along. The inference that there is a municipality in the Jumbo Valley that needs a mayor and council is a mind boggler. Yet they meet occasionally so they’ll be sure to not only collect funding from the province for the municipality but also receive their stipends for their strenuous jobs on behalf of nothing-o.

And nothing has happened with the proposed resort since the former provincial Environment Minister, Mary Polak’s non-substantial start decision in Oct. 2014, and the subsequent cancellation of the proposed project’s environmental assessment certificate. But Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality continues.

Council members are awaiting the decision from the Knuxna’s appeal to the Federal Supreme Court contesting the BC Supreme Court’s decision that the proposed resort would not alter the sacred qualities of Qat’Muk (the Ktunaxa’s name for the Jumbo Valley area), where the Knuxna Nation’s benefactor, the grizzly bear, goes to play.

As well, Oberto and Torsacio Oberti, proponents for the Glacier Resorts Corp., are exploring both the option of a reduced bed base in order to be exempt from the Environmental Assessment Act, and the option of having the decision to cancel the Environmental Assessment Certificate overturned.

If development plans have been clarified by 2018, it is expected that the Jumbo Mountain Resort Municipality will move forward with the comprehensive zoning bylaw for the resort base.

So, now that we have a new government it is time to lobby both John Horgan and Andrew Weaver. Convincingly suggest that the entire proposed resort site, plus the Lake-of-the-Hanging-Glacier, need in perpetuity protection because—list all assets the site offers the future as undeveloped among which are: four glaciers sending clear, clean water into the Columbia River system, a flourishing mixed habitat from mountain top (think wolverines) to marsh (think marsh orchids) and the forest habitat that supports all the large mammals (prey and predators) as well an abundance of healthy flora. It is an all-seasons non-motorized recreation location with easy access and, of course, a favourite destination wilderness for locals and the many visitors who come to experience the wild Jumbo.

John Horgan MLA@leg.bc.ca
Andrew Weaver MLA@leg.bc.ca

I’m going to tell them to pay off the Obertis for jumping through all the hoops that were required and get them some real help.

Rowena Eloise
Argenta

Fire suppression not people suppression!

This newbie to the Koots is confused about British Columbians’ views on fire suppression. It was for a 60-foot-wide slash that I witnessed to burn completely unattended in 30’ Celsius heat during May long weekend, 20 feet from a Retrack forest. But have a campfire, attended in a contained steel fire-pit by a lake and I’m threatened with a fine — for this might grow into an unattended 60-foot wide slash fire?

Wow, how am I supposed to read this … and still give fire ordinances, fire police and policy makers all the credibility they need to keep intelligent people onboard. Believe me I want to make our fire suppression leaders’ job easy and obstacle-less, but something doesn’t jive here within me. The messages aren’t clear here. Industry backed by huge allocated lobby/court room budget get their fires. Simple citizen with no lawyer is easily bullied into discriminatory fire bans. Boring.

It seems that the campfire ban and ensuing motorized vehicle ban is reflective not of an annually well-managed prevention strategy but ultimately reflective of a lack in resources. Fair enough. Old school approaches always precede new school. The trend as in other sectors seems to be ‘let the masses be the pressure continued on page 5
Fire departments across Canada ensure that local fire halls are filled up with manpower and fire trucks. With their 4-minute (or whatever) response. Every year. Every municipality. It’s time to fund the wildfire suppression teams in exactly the same way. For all of BC. A permanent fixture. Make sure that every region has all the manpower and all the equipment & aircraft & latest in strategic advances to keep everyone safe. Any and all new fires are completely under control within 24 hours and in an amount of time I imagine in the old days going up fire halls province-wide was done only once the thinking changed from “only big cities can afford to have fire halls.” People deserve fire suppression not people suppression!

Marc Huron
Slocan Valley

Wildfire Survival
Support our local RN Dave Fox, who hopes that we will take better care of our timber resources, and agreeing with “small scale salvage,” I’d just like to further comment on what to “select for fire.”

With regard to fire prevention, or more accurately, surviving inevitable fires, “taking the best and leaving the rest” is not the right move. All the experts agree that we need to keep the best and the biggest trees because as the climate changes: they may not grow back; they have the best seed; but firstly, and most importantly, the large trees can withstand fire, especially when the fire is on the ground, the big trees are spaced out and when the branches (up to 10 feet) if possible are not there to Wick the fire upward.

If we can achieve this, and make room for fire to race through the forest floor, I believe we may stand a better chance of reducing the ecological impact.

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for firewood, and the other ground fuel

We love our trees, and they give us so

room for fire to race through the forest

with ‘small scale salvage,’ I’d just like

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Slocan Valley and show them the sights!

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2017

The Valley Voice

September 7, 2017

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2017

The Valley Voice

September 7, 2017
New Denver council, August 22: Search still on for new doctors

by Katrine Campbell

• Mayor Ann Bunka reported she participated in a teleconference August 9 with Drs Chuck Burkholder and Mike Magier. Interior Health reps Cheryl Bethune and Dr Curtis Bell, and Sylvain Turgeon, the Physician Recruitment Lead at the Kootenay Boundary Division of Family Practice. They discussed where they were at with recruiting two new doctors for the health centre. Two about-to-graduate doctors from UBC have applied, and the group talked about choosing one for the third physician position next year while aggressively recruiting for the replacement for Magier. There is a posting up for extra locums.

They also discussed the importance of establishing a Recruitment and Retention Committee to consolidate information and track progress; the Division of Family Practice will help to set up the committee. (‘Divisions of Family Practice’ are community-based groups of family physicians working together to achieve common health care goals.) Bunka noted that IH has been helpful with suggestions, and that a ‘background checks and set up interviews’.

Bunka also had a teleconference August 14 with MLA and Minister of Children and Family Development Katrine Conroy, Area H Director Walter Popoff, Silverton Councillor Leah Main, and Colin Moss from the Chamber of Commerce. They brought Conroy up to date on the issues at the health centre.

Councillor Nadine Raynolds asked where councillors should direct residents who had questions about physician recruitment. Bunka said they could contact her or Moss, or go to the IH website, interhealth.ca.

Bunka’s short RDCK report included that directors approved up to $10,000 for a feasibility study on mosquito abatement in the Winlaw area.

• Council received a letter from the RDCK Grants Coordinator advising that the Village’s request for $11,200 had been approved. The money is allocated for the Economic Development and Expense Bylaw #710, 2017 and the Sign Bylaw, #711, 2017. The remuneration bylaw raises the stipends for the mayor from $5,000 to $5,900 per year. Councillors’ stipends will rise from $2,750 to $2,800 per year.

Both have remained unchanged for 10 years. The proposed bylaw will allow for an annual cost of living increase. The sign bylaw clarifies its provisions are applicable to signs with an area of more than one square metre in a Development Permit Area; this removes the development permit requirements for small signs in the downtown core. It also lists a consistent maximum for house numbers of 0.2 square metres, and increases the allowable size of a home business sign from 0.2 to 0.5 square metres. The CAO noted that the existing bylaw contained “very unclear language” and it was “somewhat onerous to go through the development permit process for very small signs.”

• Public Works’ monthly water monitoring report showed a drastic increase in consumption between July and August. In May, residents used 2,215,374 US gallons (8,366,076 litres); that number almost quadrupled in July–8,023,913 (30,373,720 litres). Average daily consumption in July was 71,464 gallons; in July, it was 258,806. CAO Bruce Woodbury pointed out that leaks could cause a problem — a broken half-inch line can lose 10,000 gallons a day. Public Works also submitted a work list of items completed, in progress, and yet to be done. This list ranged from removing fruit trees to figuring out why water pressure in the Orchard is lower than it is in the rest of the village. Bunka said it was “cool that the Public Works list has gotten smaller and smaller, over and above the everyday work.”

• Council gave final adoption to the Emergency Measures Repeal Bylaw #709, 2017. Council gave three readings to the Council Member Remuneration and Expense Bylaw #710, 2017 and the Sign Bylaw, #711, 2017. The remuneration bylaw raises the stipends for the mayor from $5,000 to $5,900 per year. Councillors’ stipends will rise from $2,750 to $2,800 per year. Both have remained unchanged for 10 years. The proposed bylaw will allow for an annual cost of living increase. The sign bylaw clarifies its provisions are applicable to signs with an area of more than one square metre in a Development Permit Area; this removes the development permit requirements for small signs in the downtown core. It also lists a consistent maximum for house numbers of 0.2 square metres, and increases the allowable size of a home business sign from 0.2 to 0.5 square metres. The CAO noted that the existing bylaw contained “very unclear language” and it was “somewhat onerous to go through the development permit process for very small signs.”

• Public Works staff Steve Deakoff and Keith Macduffy were authorized to attend a technical conference in September which includes formal training sessions.

• At an in camera session after the regular meeting, council approved wage increases for office staff. At his request, the CAO’s wage was not increased.

Several dozen people attended a public meeting at the Larreau Community Centre August 30 to hear about the nearby Rapid Creek fire. Personnel from the Southeast Fire Centre as well as the three-person SE 720 crew attended, along with Area D Director Aimée Watson and an RCMP constable.

Mike Allan walked the crowd through a PowerPoint presentation on the chronology of the fire, from its discovery on July 24 to now. He showed the fire’s progression, and explained that because it is in Goat Range Park, it is actually BC Parks’ responsibility. In general, fires in parks are kept small so as to regenerate the forest and cleanse the forest floor of debris, unless they threaten people or property.

The fire was sparked by lightning and as of August 30 covered 750 hectares. The nearest it got to any home was about 1.5 kilometres, Allan said. Even had they wanted to extinguish the blaze, he said, it would have been nearly impossible given the large timber and extremely steep slopes. Neither helicopters nor water bombers could hit the fire at that angle and crews on foot would have had to wait until it burned further down the mountain.

The fire was monitored daily, and crew SE 720 created a fire guard with heavy equipment and established a sprinkler line to reduce the fire’s spread past an acceptable line.

Deputy Fire Centre Manager John Knupf said the multiple fires burning throughout the province were a “tremendous resource drain” on all areas; risk management analysis showed the higher priority fires which were threatening communities so resources could be thrown at them. He added, though, that even if the Fire Centre had more resources, they wouldn’t have handled the fire any differently.
Nakusp council, August 28: record water consumption, senior housing tax request
by Claire Paradis

• Public Works Director of Operations Warren Leigh reported that this past July saw one of the highest water use in the history of the Village – 111,087 cubic metres. Leigh said people are using the same amount of water to do everything from watering lawns and gardens to providing livestock and “elecutive use” for things that aren’t essential for day-to-day existence, such as filling pools, overwatering lawns or watering all the time.

“We’ve never gone through that much water,” he emphasized. “The infrastructure held up very well, but that is an absolutely incredible amount of water.”

In other news, the clean water and wastewater project is almost complete, which Leigh said has the side benefit of eliminating previously undetected leaks.

• Nine delegates from the Arrowtarian Senior Citizens Society, including Director Kathy Bone, Manager Trish Cannon and tenant Shirley Wyatt petitioned Nakusp council with a Permissive Tax Exemption Request.

“We provide safe and affordable rentals for seniors in Nakusp,” Bone said. The Arrowtarian Senior Citizens Society (ASC) is also a lot for people aged 55 and older with low to moderate income when there are few rental housing providers in Nakusp. Many tenants qualify for Shelter Aid For Elderly Renters (SAFER), said Bone, who added that 34 applicants are on the waiting list, and the majority of those are Nakusp residents.

“We need more [affordable housing],” agreed one tenant seated in the public gallery.

Arrowtarian tenant for the past four years and area resident since 1951, Shirley Cameron Wyatt also spoke passionately to council. “I couldn’t ask for a better place to live,” she said.

• The Nakusp and The Arrow Lakes community event will be taking place on Sunday, September 17 this year.
• The mayor asked staff to look up the water consumption and show them the municipal campground in downtown Nakusp. She suggested that they be a priority for the 2018 budget, and that money from the campground revenues be earmarked for the upgrades.
• The Village is posting one informative post a week on its new Facebook page.

The motion to advance the bylaw for reading consideration was defeated three to two (Mueller, Tobey, Hopper) to two (Mueller, Hamilton) recommended a meeting between Leigh and Chemuz, and an information meeting between residents and Leigh.

• Urban planning student Sarah Holden presented the work she has done over the summer reviewing the zoning changes that were made based on the Squires Planning report from a few years ago.

Holden looked at the actual usage of areas in Nakusp that are currently zoned Highway Commercial (C-4) and Resort Residential (R-5). Holden’s presentation recommended that the lots be rezoned to suit their current usage. In the Resort Residential zone, 16 of 34 lots are being used for industrial purposes, 5 are residential, 18 are either submerged or partially submerged for some of the year, and a total of zero are resorts.

Holden’s report also recommended amending Highway Commercial zoning – which includes the Esso gas station and Bear Ridge Cabins – to allow tourist accommodations, laundromats and automotive towing.

• A total decrease in number of visitors to the Nakusp Visitor Centre was recorded, CAO Laurie Taylor told council. Councillor Mueller said it was interesting to see what ferry traffic statistics revealed, because anecdotal it’s been a very busy year for businesses in town. Visitor Centres across the province are showing lower numbers of people coming through their doors, said the CAO, likely because more people are going online to get their information.

• The majority of councillors were not ready to vote on a new Officer Bylaw. The current bylaw is outdated because the full-time Chief Financial Officer position has been replaced with a part-time treasurer position. The new bylaw would allow a deputy CAO to be appointed in case the current CAO was unable to perform her duties, said Mayor Hamilton. Councillor Hopper asked if the proposed bylaw was standard in the province; Mayor Hamilton and CAO Taylor replied that it was part of the Community Charter.

Councillor Tobey said people had been asking him about this and that he would like more time to go through the proposal.

Like this at alternatives, and suggested Bart Chemuz of Highways be consulted. Mayor Karen Hamilton recommended a meeting between Leigh and Chemuz, and an information meeting between residents and Leigh.

• Warren Leigh was designated a signing authority, as two municipal campground in downtown Nakusp. He suggested that they be a priority for the 2018 budget, and that money from the campground revenues be earmarked for the upgrades.

• The Village is posting one informative post a week on its new Facebook page.
Special Meeting. Council usually tries invitation for the Village to join the Spirit of Slocan Committee’s Slocan council, August 21: SOS cenotaph project approval delayed

Business workshops? More Random Acts Brief artist presentations, refreshments, Admission: $5.00 No charge for children 12 & under Advance tickets: $4.00 & under

Advance tickets: $4.00 & under

No charge for children 12 & under

SLOCAN VALLEY
SOS cenotaph project approval delayed

by Barbara Curry Malacy

Council considered three matters: the spirit of Slocan Committee’s request for approval of the Cenotaph Landscaping Project; the West Kootenay Permaculture Co-op’s request for Village sponsorship of a grant application; and the Community Energy Association’s invitation for the Village to join the Transition 2050 Project.

Councillors Joel Pelletier and Barry Van Byen were unable to attend the Special Meeting. Council usually tries to make major decisions with at least four members present, but decisions were needed quickly in this case so Mayor Jessica Lunn and Councillors Madeleine Perriere and Jean Patterson pressed ahead.

The Spirit of Slocan Committee (SOS) has received a $10,000 grant to landscape the area around the cenotaph. SOS proposed creating a low-maintenance area that would accommodate Remembrance Day crowds and traffic, not interfere with the Seniors House parking area, and leave space for the future installation of a memorial wall inscribed with the names of all valley veterans. Plans include building a wheelchair accessible path, made with paving stones, from the library’s sidewalk to the cenotaph. An ornamental brick wall will be placed at the base of the sloping land by Harold Slett and the slope filled in and evened out with topsoil. Ground cover, shrubs, and deciduous trees will be planted. If possible, the budget will include two flag poles (for provincial and federal flags) and decorative lighting to illuminate the cenotaph. In the past, the uneven ground around the cenotaph has caused the wreaths placed at the Remembrance Day ceremony to topple. To address this, the “apron area” around the base of the cenotaph would be expanded and paved. SOS asked for the Village’s permission to remove nearby mature cedars along with some unsightly stumps.

Approval of the removing the cedars proved to be a stumbling block for the whole project. A letter to council from village resident Teaca McGreal spoke about the importance of the trees, and Councillor Patterson said removing three mature cedars on the grounds of the Wellness Center “wasn’t necessary.” Councillor Perriere, a member of the SOS committee, responded that the paving preparations would disturb the nearby cedars and increase the risk the trees could be blown down on to a nearby property. Perriere said that, as a member of SOS Committee, it would be inappropriate for her to make the motion to approve the project.

Mayor Lunn pointed out that council had already achieved the first two steps of the project and had been part of the in the 5-Milestone Framework of the Partners for Climate Protection Program. Lunn noted there would be no penalty if the Village couldn’t complete all the steps in 10 years and there would be no cost to undertaking the plan. Council agreed climate protection was a priority for the Village. Councillor Perriere emphasized the importance of joining in the group effort. “Numbers count,” she said. Council passed a resolution to join this program.

Heritage walking tour launched in New Denver historically. Walking tour maps will be available at the museum and Visitor Information Centre.

von Krogh recently wrote and published Early New Denver: 1891–1949. Using information and photos from the book, he created the content for the signs. New Denver resident Amanda Murphy did the graphic design work as a volunteer, Speeddro in Nelson produced the aluminum composite signs, and the Village now has them installed.

The signs are 6’ x 13” and are non-intrusive, posted on the exterior of public buildings and on fences around private buildings. The sign on the school is bigger, and includes information about several schools in New Denver’s past. The $690 project was funded by New Denver’s Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiative funds.

Slocan valley, August 21: SOS cenotaph project approval delayed

Expect Pedestrians

Annual General Meeting Slocan Valley Arts Council Tuesday, Sept.19, 2017 7 PM Passmore Hall

BC Hydro presents proposed Burton Flats wildlife enhancement project

by Jan McMurray

BC Hydro presented its proposal for a wildlife enhancement project on the Burton Flats at the community hall in Burton on August 30. About 20 community members were there, and keen interest was shown in the project.

Margo Sadler of BC Hydro explained that the intent of the project is to improve habitat for nesting and migratory birds, western toads and other amphibians, and wildlife in general in the drawdown of the Arrow Lakes reservoir. The Water Commons for BC ordered BC Hydro to investigate the feasibility of this type of work following the submission of the 2007 Columbia River Water Use Plan.

After looking at several potential sites for the project, BC Hydro narrowed it down to three – Burton Flats, Iononaklin, and Edgewood – and finally decided on Burton.

Allison Matfin, junior environmental engineer with Kerr Wood Leidal, showed a PowerPoint presentation to describe the project. Generally, it would involve excavating shallow pools and using the excavated material to create mounds, where native species such as willow and dogwood would be planted. A deep waterfowl pond would also be created.

Two different design options were submitted.

Whispers of Landscapes at Studio Connexion Gallery

Artist Robyn Gold from Winlaw will present her series Whispers at Studio Connexion from September 5 – 23. In its sixth exhibition of the season, the Landscape genre stars again, accompanied by a little abstraction.

Living in the Slocan Valley, Robyn gets inspired by the raw beauty of her surroundings. Her expressionist art can be influenced by reality. She is mainly self-taught and strives to continually grow and learn by participating in workshops as often as possible. Robert Genn and Charlie Easton are two of her favourite landscape artists, and for the abstract her main influences are Harry Ruff, Ted Wallace and Blu Smith.

Positive and negative, freedom and loss of freedom, forgotten culture and rejuvention… all are happening around our world. Robyn believes in standing tall and strong. Many layers of our society are hidden in the imagery through the texture and the colours in her paintings.

Option 1 would see six tiered shallow wetlands, which would look like cascading pools, one to two feet deep. There would also be a disconnected shallow wetland “because we want to learn from the works,” Matfin said. BC Hydro will look at how a disconnected system functions compared to a system with connectivity. If the disconnected wetland doesn’t perform as well, it can be connected to the other tiered pools. Otherwise, it will be left as is to serve as a different kind of habitat. Harry van Oort of BC Hydro said he hopes the disconnected wetland will provide habitat for shorebirds.

The three planting mounds in the plan would act as a breakwater, Matfin said, and would allow for the planting of native species such as willow and dogwood.

As part of the project, the existing gravel ponds at the site could be connected to the reservoir with minimal excavation work. This would likely address concerns of fish stranding in the gravel ponds and partially re-establish the original outfall of Burton Creek, which was diverted when the gravel ponds were excavated by a local resident. “We are currently looking into this further to better understand the potential benefits and consequences,” said Mary Anne Coules of BC Hydro in an interview after the meeting.

The deep waterfowl pond would have a drainage channel to the existing gravel pond.

Option 2 is slightly scaled down, with only two tiered shallow wetlands and one hybrid pond (half shallow and half deep). The “disconnected pond” in Option 2 is actually connected to the existing gravel pond. Otherwise, the two options are quite similar.

If the project is approved, Sadler said it would be implemented in a phased approach over the next few years. The first phase would include digging the top two shallow tiered ponds, creating part of a mound, and doing some reed canary grass trials. In phase 2, the remaining four tiered wetlands would be completed, and the disconnected wetland would be created. The first planting mound would be completed and a second one begun. In phase 3, the planting mounds would be completed and the deep waterfowl pond would be dug.

“Ideally, we want to have time after we have done a phase to evaluate if it’s working, but we only have a few narrow windows when reservoir conditions will allow us to do the work,” said Sadler.

Sadler said the earliest start date would be fall 2018. She said BC Hydro could possibly have all the permitting in place by then, and the reservoir is low “50% of the time” in the fall.

People at the meeting provided quite a bit of input. One man suggested that the lower tiered ponds be installed first to see how they do when inundated at high water. Others asked for walking trails, interpretive signage, and picnic areas.

In response to a question about local employment opportunities, Sadler said they hadn’t decided on a procurement strategy, but there was interest from First Nations.

Anyone with feedback for BC Hydro can contact Mary Anne Coules: Maryanne.coules@bchydro.com or 250-365-4565.
Slocan Park Hall hosts three juicy events September 24

The West Kootenay Permaculture Coop (WKPC) is bringing back their beloved Community Fun Day. Take a break and combine it with the hall’s Community Fun Day. Take a break and see some familiar faces as the summer winds down and the harvest comes in.

This event marks the first annual Community Fun Day, featuring live music by Diamond Willow, vendors, homemade borscht and burgers, kid’s activities including a bike parade and baseball game and so much more. The hall folks are passionate about creating opportunities for families and community members to connect and celebrate the beauty of our region. Please leave your dogs at home and bring lawn chairs to relax on. The WKPC will feature two of their favourite community initiatives. The ‘Pickle Palooza’ canning contest is sure to create some jowly competition amongst canners both experienced and new. There are so many incredible food preservers in the Valley that it is part of the very fabric of our communities. Canning is certainly not for the faint of heart and should be celebrated, so pull up your canning pants and get to it.

‘Press Fest’ returns after a very successful pilot run last year. The coop has partnered with Fields Forward from Creston to host their new mobile commercial juicer. Bring down unripe apples and pears; there is a fee of $1.50/litre that covers the expenses of the pressing process. Your fresh pressed juice will be pasteurized and sealed in tetra packs that are shelf stable for a year, ideal for groups for fundraising ideas and for farmers looking to bring an easy new shelf-stable product to market.

If you want to help pick fruit for your community, you can head to the volunteer page at kootenayfood.com. Our valley is overabundant with fruit that could feed a lot of local people. The events take place Sunday, September 24 from 10 am to 4 pm. For details and times of particular activities head to www.kootenayfood.com.

Hills Garlic Fest celebrates 25th anniversary with zero waste goal

On September 10, the Hills Garlic Festival will celebrate 25 years of all that is homegrown, homemade and organic. Enjoy the bounty of our farmers and food vendors and the creativity of our craftpeople. And to celebrate this anniversary the festival features four favourite bands from past festivals: Brisas del Palmar from Cuba, Mountain Station from Nelson (who will include square dancing with a caller this year), Motes & Oats from Castlegar and Freez from Vernon.

‘Pickle Palooza’ will be presented by the Kootenay Treasure Trail. It will feature two of their favourite community initiatives. The ‘Pickle Palooza’ canning contest is sure to create some jowly competition amongst canners both experienced and new. There are so many incredible food preservers in the Valley that it is part of the very fabric of our communities. Canning is certainly not for the faint of heart and should be celebrated, so pull up your canning pants and get to it.

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Tickets available at Sunnyside and Willow in Kaslo for the three evening events and a full Weekend Pass ($20) available by calling the office 250-352-2661. Individual evening events, Thursday Welcome $10, Friday Gala Performance $22, Saturday Certified Mango concert $20. All other events are by donation. Visit www.thelangham.ca.

The events take place Sunday, September 24 from 10 am to 4 pm. For details and times of particular activities head to www.kootenayfood.com.

For many years the Garlic Fest has implemented an increasingly effective waste management process, which now an issue which significantly impacts the Village of New Denver, the festival site. Each year they have dedicated resources to mitigate that impact, including engaging a shuttle bus, creating secure parking areas throughout the village, hiring traffic flaggers, providing handicapped parking close to the site, and designating no-parking routes for emergency vehicle access. This year, the emergency vehicle access route is First Avenue in the Orchard.

To encourage car pooling they offer an incentive: free passes. The first three adults in the vehicle will pay and the rest get in free. So if you’ve got an eight-passenger van, fill it up and five adults will get in free. Children 12 and under also get in free. The more people who travel together, the smaller the festival ‘footprint’ will be.

Before the festival, check out the website www.hillsgarlicfest.ca; at the event look for the Hills Garlic Festival tent next to the stage for schedule information, raffle tickets and some special 25th anniversary souvenirs.

The schedule of events is as follows:

Thursday October 6 - Theatre program for youth, workshops and Evening Gala Reception and Performance with dignitaries; Saturday October 7 - Cultural activities for all ages and an afternoon panel discussion, Memory and Reflection, Saturday evening concert with Certified Mango, Sunday October 8 - A Sunday service at St. Andrews United Church.

The events will feature two of their favourite community initiatives. The ‘Pickle Palooza’ canning contest is sure to create some jowly competition amongst canners both experienced and new. There are so many incredible food preservers in the Valley that it is part of the very fabric of our communities. Canning is certainly not for the faint of heart and should be celebrated, so pull up your canning pants and get to it.

The Langam Gallery exhibition opening Friday, September 8 at 7 pm will commemorate the 75th anniversary of Japanese Canadian WWII internment with a great line-up of events: evenings, films, theatre and music performances, an afternoon panel discussion, cultural activities for all ages, and workshops. Universal Theatre company from Vancouver will be here with their play, Japanese Problem, an immediate and affecting performance with original music, highlighting a small group of people who intimately experiences the incarceration of Canadian citizens at Hastings Park in Vancouver in 1942, in a re-created horse stall.

The following events is as follow: Thursday October 5 - A Welcome with host bar reception and film night; Friday October 6 - Theatre program for youth, workshops and Evening Gala Reception and Performance with dignitaries; Saturday October 7 - Cultural activities for all ages and an afternoon panel discussion, Memory and Reflection, Saturday evening concert with Certified Mango, Sunday October 8 - A Sunday service at St. Andrews United Church.

Gray Creek Pass closure for bridge replacement

The Valley Voice September 7, 2017
Lucerne School’s Harvest Festival celebrates seeds
submitted
This year, Lucerne School’s Harvest Festival on September 27 celebrates the season with such activities as a display competition, and save various different seed types. Seed savers are encouraged to bring seeds they have harvested to add to the demonstration. Local seeds are a valuable resource in terms of adaptation and genetic diversity. Harvest Festival musicians Hank Hastings, Noel Fudge, Sam Tichener and Ezra Barker will entertain the crowd and provide some old classics for folk dancing. Lucerne school chefs will lead the soup-making for all participants and the kindergartners are happy to share their garden ingredients for Stan Streatch’s borscht. Bakers will bake bread in the newly renovated cob oven.

Austin Healey Club of Australia visits Kaslo
submitted
The Austin Healey Club of Australia visited Kaslo Friday, September 1 for an overnight at the Kaslo Hotel. Fourteen pristine and classic Austin Healeys graced Front Street in front of the hotel.

The group was on a five-week tour of Western North America. They shipped their cars in containers to Oakland, California, went to a car show in Monterey (Pebble Beach) and then headed north. They visited Vancouver, Banff, Revelstoke, and Kaslo. On Saturday, they departed for Fernie, then Waterton Lakes, Glacier Park, and returned to another car show in California before shipping the cars back to Australia.

A good time was had by all, especially Kaslo residents who were delighted at the impromptu classic car show. Next Sunday, Kaslo and the hotel are hosts to the Old English Car Club’s Kaslo Invasion car show on Water Street.

CORRECTION
In our August 24 issue, we incorrectly referred to Travis Barrington as RDCK Resource Recovery Manager in the article, ‘RDCK developing new plan for organic waste diversion.’ Barrington’s position is actually Resource Recovery Technician; Mike Morrison is Resource Recovery Manager.

CORRECTION
In the article, ‘RDCK board votes on mosquito abatement, Community Development grants’ in our August 24 issue, we incorrectly reported that Area D Director Aimee Watson received a $20,000 grant for mosquito abatement in the Lardeau Valley. In fact, Director Watson and the RDCK board approved the $20,000 for the Lardeau Valley mosquito abatement program from the RDCK Area D Community Development fund.

Thank you to our community...
Anita Daniels and her family wish to acknowledge the overwhelming support that so many neighbours and friends have given recently and will continue to provide during her significant medical set-back. It would be best if each one that helped financially, with delicious home-prepared meals and much appreciated socializing could be reached directly and personally but so many, many, many, gaaanmously. Please forgive us if all of you have not been acknowledged as you deserve to be. Both Stuys Fredericks and Richelle Johnston deserve a special mention for surprising us by organizing and administering the generously supported bottle-drives in New Westminster, Vancouver, Banff, Revelstoke, and then headed north.

DIY TIPS
1. DIY spray paint can be made at home using a can of Krylon or Rustoleum and a spray gun. No need to spend a lot of money on fancy tools, a basic spray gun can be found at any hardware store.

3. DIY furniture can be made using old wooden pallets and some basic tools. With a little creativity, you can create a unique piece of furniture that fits your style.

Thank you to our community...
Anita Daniels and family

Kootenay Food Market

Kootenay Food Market

Kootenay Food Market

Kootenay Food Market

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Kootenay Food Market
Slocan council receives Heritage Assessment and Recommendation Report for Slocan Hall

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

Bob Inwood, Heritage Design Engineer at Mainstream Concept Associates in Winlaw, presented his plan to preserve the heritage of the Silvery Slocan Legion Hall and improve its fire safety at a special Slocan council meeting last month.

"The hall is an extremely special building with significant heritage value," said Mayor Lunn. "I would love to see it rehabilitated both to preserve its heritage value and to better serve the community for generations to come."

Slocan council has not made any decisions on the plan though Mayor Lunn said it would "definitely guide decision-making … and assist with future grant applications."

The Village hired Inwood, who has extensive experience in heritage restoration, because it wanted to ensure any improvements to the Village-owned building also preserve its heritage. Inwood consulted with Joyce Johnson of the Slocan Valley Historical Society, Slocan CAO Michelle Gordon, and the Slocan Silvery Slocan Hall Committee before preparing the plan.

Inwood said the hall was "generally in remarkably sound condition" but "a long series of well intentioned but historically inaccurate renovations… have obscured the authentic historic character of the Legion Hall – both inside and out." He also said the roof membrane, the staircase for the second-floor rear exit, the flammable materials used to finish the interior, and the lack of a sprinkler fire suppression system were fire safety issues.

Renovation, Inwood said, would be a "rehabilitation project."

His plan describes the hall as being originally constructed in a Late Victorian "vernacular" style, with a typical Western Boom-town false front façade… "raised to hide a gambrel (barn)-style wood-shingled roof." The plan calls for "authenticity in the maintenance of all original historic materials and detailing" and also "some flexibility" in interpreting how the Legion Hall has changed through the years.

Key character-defining elements to preserve include the barn-style roof, two-storey false front with central pediment form, modest Late Victorian neo-classical decorative details, and original siding. Inwood called the ground-floor interior of the hall "also noteworthy for the retention of a large amount of original wall finish materials and the presence of a full raised stage at one end of the hall – reminiscent of many local theatrical productions and community movie showings."

Previous renovations changed the look and composition of the siding; covered over three windows facing north and reduced the size of the two front windows; added electrical clutter on the exterior; and covered over the original interior. In 1973, new metal siding was placed on the building — rounded "logo-style" siding below and 1" by 8" lapped style above. The original wood siding was 1" by 6". A new fire escape stairwell added to the side of the building was covered in fibre-cement 1" x 8" lapped siding to match the previous renovation.

Inwood’s plan calls for four main changes to the exterior of the building: removing the current metal roof and the original shingle roof underlying it and replacing it with a decking of plywood sheathing and a new metal roof; removing existing siding material from the front façade (and, once the historic façade materials and elements are visible, preparing a rehabilitation plan to restore the front façade to its "original historic appearance"); removing siding from the side and rear facades and installing new fibre-cement 1" x 6" lapped-style siding; and constructing a new rear fire-exit stair-tower. The three north facing windows would be uncovered, and the front windows would be redesigned with shadowboxes to have the large front window they originally had, and electrical clutter would be removed from the front façade. Relocating the electrical attachment services and possibly a second floor rear connec­tion, would be considered.

Changes recommended for the hall’s interior include removing paneling that covers the original cedar wainscoting and capital beams and wall plastering, and replacing fluorescent light fixtures with period-style LED pendant fixtures, possibly re-facing the bar front, and painting.

Slocan Legion President Pat Ashton said the local Legion has received grants for renovations, but nowhere near enough to cover all the work outlined in Inwood’s plan.

Ashton said the Village’s desire to preserve the hall’s heritage has to be balanced with the Legion’s need to have a functional building with low-maintenance costs.

That council had limited the scope of the Inwood plan to heritage preservation and fire safety was "unfortunate," according to Ashton. Plumbing, electrical, and insulation improvements are also needed.

Ashton said piece meal improvements in the past had created situations where work had to be redone and where future improvements ended up being expensive renovations. He said Inwood’s plan to remove the interior paneling and uncover the original wainscoting could dramatically increase the price of future renovations and suggested that it might make more sense to cover over the original interior with a six-inch wall that could hold plumbing, electrical, and insulation renovations.

The Silvery Slocan Legion Hall was constructed in 1922 by a local branch of the International Order of Odd Fellows, an international fraternal organization. During World War II, the hall was used first to house Japanese Canadians interned in Slocan and then, later in the war, as a community centre for the internees. Weekly movies were shown and dances, weddings and funerals held. When enrolment in the IOOF declined, the group disbanded, handing the building over to the Village, which has allowed the Silvery Slocan Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion to use the building for its many community services and events.

New Denver emergency department stayed open submitted

Despite an advisory from Interior Health that the emergency department (ED) at the Slocan Community Health Centre would be closed over the long weekend, staff managed to fill the shifts to allow it to stay open.

The original announcement of closure came August 23, because of “unfilled physician shifts.” On August 28, IH rescinded the advisory, saying it “appreciates the support of physicians in addressing this situation. We regret any inconvenience this notice may have caused.”

The ED is open 24/7.
Kaslo council, August 22: Briefing notes for meetings with ministers at UBCM approved

by Jan McMurray

• Council approved briefing notes prepared by CAO Neil Smith for the Village of Kaslo delegation at the upcoming Union of BC Municipalities conference. Mayor Hewit, Counsellors Knoll and Lang, and CAO Smith will meet with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and the Minister of Energy and Mines to present Kaslo’s position on Kaslo’s "$9 million initiative of the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, East Kootenay, and Kootenay Boundary with support from Columbia Basin Trust, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Province of BC, FortisBC, BC Hydro, and Powertech Labs. The project is facilitated by the Community Energy Association.

Kaslo wants public input on Waterfront and Parks Strategy

submitted

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo’s Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Committee (PROSC) encourages the community to participate in the Village’s Waterfront and Parks Strategy Project. Photos of parks and recreation have been identified as valuable resources for residents and visitors alike. Striving to manage these areas to their full potential, the Village has recognised the need for an environmental management plan, a beach grooming plan, an invasive species control program, and the creation of standard maintenance guidelines for Village staff and volunteers. In addition, much of this work will support and provide recommendations for a future Parks Master Plan for the community.

The Project Management Team will study and evaluate all regulatory, social and environmental aspects of the waterfront and uplands project. This project will expand upon the work initiated by the objectives in the 2016 Consolidated Parks Regulation, 2014 Sustainability Strategy, and the 2011 Village of Kaslo Official Community Plan.

Community consultation is central to the success of this project. PROSC and the project management team are requesting residents’ input on the important values and uses for Kaslo’s waterfront and parks spaces. The team has already been engaging with community members in a variety of ways to gather information and ideas on park and waterfront use.

The first public open house will be held on September 14 at JV Humphries Elementary/Secondary School from 5:30 pm – 8 pm. This will be a drop-in format with no formal presentation in order to accommodate as many attendees as possible. A second public open house will be held on October 5. On behalf of PROSC, the project is being managed by Marie-Ange Fournier-Beck of VIVID Consulting Ltd. in Kaslo and Brian Anguilla of Mountain Pacific Environmental Consultants Ltd. from Vernon.

The public consultation process is ongoing throughout this project. Anyone who is unable to attend the public open house, or who has any questions, comments or concerns, can contact: Marie-Ange Fournier-Beck, marie_ange_fbeck@yahoo.com, 250-335-1335; or Brian Anguilla, info@mtnc-pac.com, 250-540-4623; or The Village of Kaslo, Box 57, V0G 1M0.

Kaslo Hotel gets a Tesla charging station

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo Hotel now has a charging station for Tesla vehicles. The level 2 station on the Water Street side of the hotel was up and running on August 25. Kaslo Hotel owner John Eckland found out about Tesla’s ‘Destination Charging’ program from Kaslo resident Blair Ennis while enjoying a ride in Ennis’ Tesla vehicle. The Destination Charging program aims to expand Tesla’s charging network by providing businesses with incentives to offer Tesla charging.

“I think it’s a great deal!” says Eckland. “Tesla shipped us the equipment for free, and paid a portion of the installation costs. And the hotel benefits from Tesla advertising – we’re on their map on their website, and every Tesla vehicle has a touchscreen showing all charger locations.”

Details on the program and an application form are posted online and was accepted within three weeks. About a month later, the installation of the charger by Pace Electricians, a licensed Tesla service company, was completed.

“We have the only Tesla charger at a private place of business in the West Kootenay,” said Eckland.

The Tesla charging stations in the West Kootenays are along Hwy 3, in Trail, Creston, and Slocan, and they are all in municipal locations. There are several Tesla chargers on Hwy 97 in the Okanagan on the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, and along the Trans-Canada into Alberta.

Eckland is confident that the charger will bring in business from Tesla vehicle owners. He says the charging service will be provided at no extra cost to people staying at the hotel, while those stopping by to power up will likely be charged.

It will take about six hours for a full charge and two-and-a-half hours for a half charge at the hotel’s level 2 station.

Tesla ‘superchargers’ are available mostly in communities along the Trans-Canada highway. It takes about 20 minutes for a half charge at a supercharger.

The Tesla charger at the Kaslo Hotel is part of the ‘Accelerate Kootenays’ public EV charger project network, “but it will be complementary to the general EV network,” said Trish Dehnel of the Community Energy Association, which is facilitating the Accelerate Kootenays (AK) project.

Under the AK project, EV chargers will be installed in 40 communities throughout the Columbia Basin. Whereas Tesla chargers are strictly for Tesla vehicles, the AK chargers (AddEnergy and part of the Flo Network) are universal and will accommodate all EVs – both pure electric and hybrids. Teslas have an adaptor that enable them to also use the AK charger.

The AK level 2 unit that will be installed in Kaslo later this year (and the ones in Nakusp, New Denver and Slocan) will cost the municipality $1,000 plus potentially some in-kind civil work. The actual cost of each unit plus site work and installation is $6,000 to $7,000 will be covered by the project. The municipality is also responsible for the annual network fee of $150 per year. For two years, the municipality is required to provide the electricity free to the EV user. “At local electrical rates, this will amount to about 50 cents per hour of charging,” Dehnel says. “After two years, at project expiration, the municipality may choose to charge the EV users to recoup their costs.”

Dehnel says the main goals of the AK project are to reduce greenhouse gases in the transportation sector, and to promote EV tourism. “An EV tourist may not come to Kaslo if they are unable to charge their vehicle. So by providing about $2 of electricity for four hours of charging, there are economic benefits (lunch, shopping, experience) to Kaslo,” she said.

Village of Kaslo CAO Neil Smith explained that the Village had initially hoped that a local business would take the AK project forward “rather than the municipality getting directly involved in what is ultimately going to become a commercial sale of power instead of gas in the years ahead.” However, no local business showed interest, so the Village will go ahead and participate. Smith says the AK EV charger will probably west side of 4th. Staff was directed to respond based on existing policy and prior responses on the same issue.

• The proposed street closure on Water Street for the Old English Car Club of BC’s car show on September 10 was approved.

• The new Prevention of Public Nuisances Bylaw 1209 was adopted. This bylaw replaces the old Unsightly Premises bylaw, and streamlines and improves the capacity of the Village to act on offences. The Outdoor Burning Bylaw 1207 and the Municipal Ticketing Bylaw Amendment 1208 were also adopted.

Brett Wildeman to play the Bluebellie

folk musician Brett Wildeman will be performing at the Bluebelle on September 16 in support of his album The Tools We Possess. The Tools We Possess is the result of new ideas and inspiration Wildeman acquired while cycling the windsing rural roads of the Pacific Northwest. In 2015, he spent the summer on his bicycle, logging more than 2,800 km. The album is an eclectic mix

of traditional instrumentation (guitar, ukulele) meshed with midi-instruments and drum samples.

The Tools We Possess was released on August 22 on bandcamp, iTunes, Apple Music, & Spotify.

Wildeman’s tour is funded in part by the Columbia Kootenay Art Alliance, through Columbia Basin Trust, and funded by Oso Negro Coffee.
Mosquito control issue resurfaces in Winlaw

by Jan McMurray

Mosquito control for the Winlaw area, a very controversial issue in the past, is back on the agenda.

The RDCK board has agreed to spend up to $10,000 on a feasibility study for the service.

Once the feasibility study report is submitted to the RDCK board, the board will make a decision on whether or not to hold a referendum on the issue.

“The intent is, if this is going to forward, we should be holding the referendum in 2017 to get it into the 2018 budget,” said Area H (Slocan Valley) Director Popoff in an interview.

Popoff reports that RDCK staff will hire a consultant to do the study. In consultation with residents, the consultant will look at possible treatment area strategies and control of their environmental impacts, and the costs involved.

Popoff says a 2003 referendum on mosquito control in Winlaw was defeated by a clear majority (67%). When he became Area H Director in 2008, he received a few requests for another referendum, but he wasn’t prepared to do so just a few years after the resounding defeat.

From 2008 to 2017, he has been getting requests, and has received a petition with 200 signatures in favour of mosquito control.

“The argument is that the demographics have changed, so there is an appetite for it now,” Popoff said. RDCK staff is now verifying the signatures on the petition to ensure they are of residents of the Winlaw area.

In the meantime, Popoff has had calls from residents expressing their opposition to mosquito control, and informing him that they were starting a counter petition.

Unusually, on August 27 and 28, the counter petitions disappeared from some of the businesses where they were available.

“This raises serious concerns for me,” said Director Popoff. “A petition is a public document and shouldn’t be tampered with. Due process must be followed. My message to whoever took the petition is that it’s an infringement on the public process, and I would strongly suggest that the documents be returned to the RDCK office in Nelson, even anonymously by mail.”

The Rdck is remaining neutral on the mosquito abatement issue. “I am not taking one side or the other. I am allowing the process to continue and the residents will decide,” he said. “I just want to see due process, and by removing that petition, due process is being interfered with.”

Popoff says that all petitions on the issue will be given to the consultant and will be part of the feasibility study report.

Nakusp RCMP canvassing for victims of decades-old sexual assaults

Kaslo Housing Society submits update on ongoing work

At the September conference of the Union of BC Municipalities, Kaslo Mayor Suzan Howat, with the support of RDCK Area D Director Amaze Watson, will meet with Selina Robinson, the provincial minister responsible for municipal affairs and housing. On record will be a document prepared by the housing society and edited and amplified by Kaslo CAO Neil Smith.

The ministerial brief is a request that the province 1) review and revise legislation (BC Building Code etc.) and policies which stand in the way of smaller dwellings being created; 2) offer incentives to all sectors so that new rental units will be encouraged, including tax breaks and supporting and seed-funding land trusts; and 3) enter into a dialogue with the Village and the RDCK with the intent of supporting a regional Housing Coordinator position.

KHS has completed a survey of landlord/tenant experiences and has mapped housing data. Board members have also learned volumes about funding formulas, septic systems, air pump heating, grey water and composting toilets and various building codes regulations.

The Kaslo Housing Society welcomes your input, ideas and support by email at info@kaslohousing.org. And let your politicians know it is important to provide affordable housing for all of our community members. See MP Wayne Stetski’s online petition about funding formulas, septic systems, air pump heating, grey water and composting toilets and various building codes regulations.
**Visitor Information**

A Wanderer's Paradise.
Where the journey is the destination.

**Things to do**

**CHOCOLATE SHOPS**

Jennifer's Chocolates (205) 265-1799

The Valley Voice
September 7, 2017

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

**Golf Courses**

Kasil Golf Course - Kasil
Phone: (205) 333-2262 www.kasilgolf.org

9-HOLES GOLF COURSE - NO TEES NEEDED
GREEN FEES: $25/9 holes $38/18 holes, $18 twilight rate

POLICY: CARTS: $19/holes $20/round RENTALS: Clubs and pull carts available (Free club rentals for motorcyclists)

RESTAURANT OPEN 8 am - 9 pm

Please join us in any of the following regular events and get to know the members: Men’s Night - Thursday 4:30 pm; Ladies’ Day - Tuesday 4:30 pm Senior Men - Tuesdays 9 am.

**Hot Springs**

Halcyon Hot Springs Resort & Spa - Nauvoo

(205) 699-6499 (205) 265-3544

Fax (205) 265-3887 halcyon-hot springs.com

info@halcyon-hot springs.com

Choose your own private, secluded hot tub, complete with soothing waterfall, relaxing aromatherapy spa spray, and beautifully landscaped surroundings. Or enjoy the shared hot tubs and heated pool as you relax in the comfort of your own room.

Naukse Hot Springs Chalets & Campground - Naukse

www.nauksehot springs.com (205) 265-4528

1-888-999-4528 info@naukse.com

Take the word “vacation” out of your mind when you think of hot springs. Naukse is the perfect place for an all-inclusive, relaxing vacation in the heart of nature. Enjoy the peace and quiet, the beautiful scenery, and the warm waters of the hot springs, surrounded by nature.

Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort - Ainsworth

www.ainsworth hot springs.com

1-400-681-1571 (205) 229-4212

Visit us and see what makes Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort so unique! Our hot springs are open daily for public entry from 10am to 9pm. Experience our unique Hot Springs cave and pools. Savour your delicious meal at the Riverway Grill and enjoy the comfort of one of our 45 contemporary guest rooms. Complimentary access to the hot springs is included with your stay in the resort. Wireless internet available.

**Museums**

Nikkel Interpretive Memorial Centre National Historic Site — New Denver

(250) 358-7320 sandonmuseum.ca

Open 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Located 13 km east of New Denver on Hwy 1A in historic silver mining town of New Denver. Collections of photography, and artifacts. Admission (Cash only): $5 over $5, $10-17 yrs. Children under 12 and Members free. Family $15.25.

S.S. Moyie National Historic Site — Kasil

Ph/Fax: (205) 353-2525 khs.bc.ca

324 Front Street, Kaslo, BC. Visit the world’s oldest intact passenger steamerboat in Kaslo. A heritage gem located on the shores of Kootenay Lake A 19th century steamship, beautifully restored enjoy access to history in the Kootenay valley daily.

The Langham Cultural Centre - Canmoan

(250) 353-2661 thelangham.ca

467 A Avenue, Kaslo. Named as one of the 12 best buildings in BC, The Langham is a national historic site and the centre for arts and culture in Kaslo. Art exhibitions in our two galleries, live performances in our theatre. During WIFIL, Japanese Canadians were interned here—visit these rooms in the Japanese Canadian Museum. Museum open Tuesday-Sunday 10-4:00 pm. Galleries open Thurs to Sun 1-4 pm. Office open Wed to Fri 10-4 pm.

Lardeau Valley Historical Society Museum - Meadow Creek museum.lhs@gmail.com

1945 highway 3, (8 km from center of Ladner Valley Hall property) Meadow Creek, BC. Visit the RHS Museum in Meadow Creek and experience the history of “The Ladner.” House in the historic Geront Trout Hatchery residence, the museum collection is in remembrance of the rich and colorful past of people and places of north Kootenay Lake and the Ladner and Duncan River valleys. Open weekends: mid-June to mid-September.

**Restaurants & Accommodations**

The Paddy Shack - Nauvoo

(205) 265-3255 The Paddy Shack, located on Highway 6, Nauvoo is open daily 6 days a week 11 am-6 pm. Closed Mondays. Choose a homemade burger, hotdog, wrap, donut, or something equally delicious from our varied menu! Top off the local food with a drink in its hit a scrumptious sundae.

K2 Rotor Lodge - Naukse

(205) 358-2722 k2rotorlodge@bellsouth.net

K2 Rotor Lodge is the only full service hotel in Downtown Naukse, a short walk from the public beach. We have 64 rooms, 19 air conditioned and pet friendly. On site lake and wine and cold beer store 7 days a week. Restaurant, outdoor patio and Anchor Lake Tavern and sports bar.

Cottage in Hills - Hills

(250) 388-2722 cottageinhills@xplornet.com

thecottageinhills.com Relaxing at beautiful cottage vacation in Hills near Stoney Lake. Sleeps 6 guests, mountain view from covered front porch, full kitchen, diningroom, BBQ, outdoor hot tub, lovely landscaping. July & August: 4-night minimum stay/ Sept & Oct: 3-night minimum stay/ Nov-May: 4 nights and get your 7th night free! Rates and photos at www.thecottageinhills.com

Valhalla Inn New Denver

www.valhallainn.biz info@valhallainn.biz

Enjoy the rich culture and history of New Denver. From the Inside Out, you won’t believe the character in with so many amazing families located in beautiful derelict outdoor patio. Open 7 days a week starting Friday May 1st. Breakfast, Lunch, Enter especially and our in-house Chinese food located on Hwy 8 at Stoney Avenue. Open & Off Sales open 7 days a week. Free WiFi.

William Hunter Cabins - Silverton

(250) 358-2647 williamhuntercabins.ca 330 Lake Ave, Silverton - We have two lovely log cabins divided into a total of four suites. All suites feature a queen sized bed, spacious living room with comfortable sofa, bathroom including shower/ tub and kitchenette completely with 2 burner cook top, microwave, fridge, coffee maker and cooking utensils.

Fomi’s Bakery - Winlaw

(250) 226-7186 640 Hwy 6, Winlaw Fomi’s is a family run bakery, with a European flair. We are stops away from roads to trails, and offer light lunches, pizza, espresso, tea, over a dozen varieties of breads, and dozens of pastries and Fomi’s chocolate muffins. Open: Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm.

Kariju Park Cottages & Campground - Winlaw

1-888-452-7428 karijpark.com

Our picturesque property is located off highway 6 in Winlaw, next to the Trail Rail and Stoney River. We have 7 fully equipped, comfortable cottages and 33 campers in a forested setting, 15 with power, water and sewer hookups, the next in line. Booking area, gardens, dishes, tools, and wifi.

Mama Sita’s Cafe - Winlaw

(250) 226-2702 Mama Sita’s Cafe located in the heart of Winlaw is the perfect spot for adventurous foodies and friendly folks. Open for breakfast, lunch, dinner and drinks. Our famous roasted Valhalla beer, cocktails, Mexican cuisine, pizza, salads, vegetarian and gluten free options, homemade desserts. Open every day 7 am-9 pm, longer on live music nights.

Woodbury Resort & JB’s Restaurant/Pub - Kasil

The Valley Voice September 7, 2017

CAFÉ LANGHAM PRESENTS Primalove: Enter the Inconceivables September 16 at 7 PM. A breath-takingly beautiful short film documenting the ancient Inconceivables, with a multimedia presentation on the plan to save it. $10 at the door. www.thelangham.ca

SUKRA ROSE AZZOPARDI debut concert: Saturday, September 9, 3 pm at Klahn Gardens. Weather permitting. Call 250-358-2562 for RSVPs.


SLOCAN VALLEY SENIORS’ HOUSING SOCIETY SOCIAL & AGM: Tuesday, September 19. Social refreshments and displays at 6:30 pm, AGM at 7 pm. All are welcome! Passmore Lodge, 3650 Passmore Rd.

KNOWING OMAR ABRUK? HIS ROOTS, FAMILY HISTORY & LIFE

TONY’S ROADSIDE FRUIT SALES in Silverton
FOR FRESH FRUIT AND
winning, hand-stretched artisan pizza.

Buddy’s Pizza, Kaslo:
16 Futures! Through this program you will
Employment program at Community
WORK YOUR DREAM JOB
Any questions, contact Sharon at 226-7191.

THE HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY is now accepting applications for its 2018 season. Please apply to: Exhibitions, HGG, Box 201, New Denver, BC, V0G 1S0, by October 15. Along with a brief description of your work, its size, the number of pieces and medium used, include a few photographs and/or a CD of your work. Application deadline is October 15.

SLOCAN TOWING Serving the Slocan Valley 24-Hour Towing & Recovery Flatdeck Service 250-226-7084

B B U D D Y’ S P I ZZA, K A S L O: 16
Futures! Through this program you will
Employment program at Community
WORK YOUR DREAM JOB
Any questions, contact Sharon at 226-7191.

BUDDY’S PIZZA, KASLO: 16
Futures! Through this program you will
Employment program at Community
WORK YOUR DREAM JOB
Any questions, contact Sharon at 226-7191.

COMING EVENTS
THE FRIDAY MARKET happens in downtown New Denver every Friday, 10 am – 5 pm. Fresh fish, preserves, plants and flowers, baking and handmade artisan wares. For info: 250-358-2774.

TEXAS HOLD’EM 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 250-356-2672 to reserve. Tickets may not be available at the door. BC Gaming rules apply. The Legion welcomes members & guests.

COUNSELLOR: Sue Mistretta, M.A
CHIROPRACTOR: Dr. Larry Zaleski
Over 30 years experience of Spinal Health Care
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Two films and talks at the Langham

submitted

- Incomappleux film and discussion at The Langham September 16 at 7 pm.

From award-winning filmmaker Damien Gillis (Fractured Land) and the Valhalla Wilderness Society comes a new documentary of breathtaking beauty – Primeval: Enter the Incomappleux.

This 20-minute film tells the story of the majesty, magic and endurance of one of the world’s last truly intact temperate rainforests, right in our backyard – the Incomappleux. To document its 2,000-year-old trees and rare lichens, Gillis joined a Herculean expedition of conservationists, biologists and wilderness explorers, deep into the heart of the Kootenay’s Selkirk Mountains.

Visiting the Incomappleux is like going back in time, to a forest that has been growing continuously since the last ice age – until recently, untouched by the hand of man. But in recent decades, most of the ancient forest has been logged. The magnificent core that is left has been spared only by the hard work of a small band of defenders.

See this larger-than-life world for yourself on the big screen, along with a multimedia presentation by VWS director Craig Pettitt on the Selkirk Mountains Caribou proposal – a plan to preserve the Incomappleux from the very real threat of logging.

Access to the ancient forest has always been difficult and few people have seen it. Now, you are invited to experience the Incomappleux for yourself in all its splendor. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Admission by $10 donation at the door.

- Hospice film For Dear Life, Friday September 22, 7 pm at The Langham Theatre.

With all the flair of a seasoned theatre producer, terminal cancer patient James Pollard rallied his family and friends to turn death on its head and stretch his final years into an unconventional preservation project, stoically captured in For Dear Life.

The Hospice Society of North Kootenay Lake presents this brave documentary about a most unusual death, plus a post-film discussion with filmmaker Carmen Polland.

“I’ve known James all my life,” says Carmen. “He’s my cousin, my friend. And when we got the news I had no words to talk about it.” For Dear Life, then, steps in to show the support, heartache, and even darkly comic truth of a terminal illness.

At once heavy and heartfelt, the film shines a spotlight on oft-avoided conversations about mortality – particularly the obligations around remaining time spent with loved ones. Carmen’s hope is that viewers might find their own path forward in the story of a brave fight against the very real threat of logging.

For Dear Life, then, steps in to show the support, heartache, and even darkly comic truth of a terminal illness.

The Langham Cultural Society has awarded a $75,200 grant from the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). The grant matches an earlier award from the BC Canada 150 program.

Paul Grace-Campbell, Langham executive director, says, “We are very excited that CBT has joined BC Canada 150 to make such a significant investment in The Langham. It allows us to continue our primary mandate – the stewardship of this award-winning structure, beautiful heritage site, and dynamic arts and culture center.”

Grace-Campbell says the two awards carry the conversation forward with a multi-faceted view of death’s impact on all its subjects, as well as its place in comfortable ritual and conversation.

The Langham receives $75,200 matching grant forms the core of a major improvements project for the 121-year-old building.

“We have had a very successful capital campaign and raised considerable funds towards some much-needed building upgrades. We anticipate the total budget to be in the $170,000 range, so this is a major project for the Langham.”

Among other items, the improvements project will include re-painting the Langham’s exterior, installing a heat pump system to cool and heat the theatre, replacing and refurbishing old doors and windows, and overhauling the Japanese-Canadian Museum and art gallery.
Earl Grey Trail celebration features Ric Careless on Purcell Wilderness Conservancy

by Jan McMurray

A large crowd gathered to celebrate the completion of the three-year Earl Grey Restoration Project at the Agenta Hall on September 2.

The Earl Grey Trail extends across the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy, from Agenta and up over Earl Grey Pass to Toby Creek near Invermere. The 63-kilometre trail connects the East and West Kootenays, and takes five days to hike.

The celebration began with a dinner, and was followed by welcoming words from Carolyn Schramm and Peter Jonker, who acknowledged all of the volunteers on the project.

Bill Bryce of Friends of West Kootenay Parks showed a slideshow illustrating the trail improvements. Before he began, Bryce gave credit where credit was due: “There wouldn’t have been any [Earl Grey Trail Restoration] initiative if it hadn’t been for Carolyn [Schramm].”

Chris Webster of Kaslo & District Community Forest Society, in charge of the youth trail crew, and two members of the crew said a few words about their exceptional experience working on the project; and Roy Daniels of Cooper Creek gave a slideshow of her recent hike on the trail with a group of young people, organized by Wildsight.

The featured event of the evening was a talk by Ric Careless, one of BC’s foremost conservationists, who gave a fascinating account of the role he played in establishing the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy (PWC). Careless has been involved in protecting wilderness all over BC for 47 years.

Careless said that standing in front of the crowd in the Agenta Hall “takes me back to the time when we decided we wanted the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. There was a broadly held desire to see these mountains remain wild, and this is carrying on the legacy.”

The campaign to purchase the Purcell property was started in 1972 at the Earth Watch Conference in Golden. At the time, Careless was travelling throughout the province in search of priority wilderness areas for protection, a project he had raised funds to do. In Golden, “We sat down and mapped out our wish list, and the Purcells was the one we wanted to do first,” Careless stated.

It was at this conference that Careless met Art Twomey and John Bergenske, two of the main characters in the PWC story.

A few months later, Careless got a call from Twomey with the news that a resource road was being planned for Fry Canyon. “They wanted to decarbonate the areas early on in a race against preservation. The intent was to get into the [Purcell] range as fast as they could,” he said.

Careless began lobbying the Sacred government at the time, and then the NDP came into power – a game changer for Careless’ efforts and for conservation in BC. A powerful person in the new government, Bob Williams, was very supportive of Careless’ work, and offered him a job with a secretariat of all cabinet ministers involved in land use and conservation issues. While at that job, Careless was given a prominent role in looking at protection for the PWC.

Careless got Twomey involved, and Careless says he “ drew two boundaries of the PWC at the kitchen table. “We were going after 325,000 acres of protection; no one had gone for that amount of protection before in Canada,” he said.

With Williams’ support, Careless was able “to convince Mining and the Forest Service that this was going to happen.”

The Purcell Wilderness Conservancy was enshrined under an Order in Council (OIC) in 1974. This was the first time an area was protected with an OIC rather than under the Parks Act. This new vehicle for wilderness protection was inspired by the US Wilderness Act, and the wilderness was explained. However, protection by OIC was not as strong as protection under the BC Parks Act.

In the late 1970s and early 80s, there were threats to dismantle the conservancy under the Sacred government. “The big thing for the Purcells was then, the thorny issue drew two serious attempts to take them apart,” Careless said.

Then in the 1990s, Careless was part of a group of a group that included Vince McCrory and Vicky Husband that put pressure on the government “to have a go at wilderness.” Careless said McCrory “got them to buy into the idea of 12% protection in the province, and key was in getting the government to understand that we have to go big.”

Then Premier Mike Harcourt set up the CORE [Commission on Resources and Environment] process, “which would radically expand wilderness areas,” Careless said. The PWC increased from 300,000 to 500,000 acres, gaining the Aiton Creek and Carney Creek drainages. Also in the CORE process, “we evaluated all parks to full legislative status. Before that, the PWC could have been wiped out with one bite.”

Although Careless wasn’t at the CORE tables – “the people at the table really get the credit,” said Careless – it was Careless who gave a fascinating account of the work during his in the 1970s made it to those tables.

“[I was] doing lots of lobbying, and got the agreements to the table, and then industry would come and try to knock them down in Victoria. Not many people were working the corridor to counter the effects of industry, but we were lucky and they turned out to be lasting agreements,” he said.

“[There was] stuff we had to give up that was painful, but we did something pretty amazing and we didn’t lose the province apart, we came away.”

After CORE came the Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP), and the PWC was protected, Careless said. More recent wins for careness came with Chris Clark’s announcements of the BC Parks and the BC Parks Foundation with an endowment of $5.5 million.

“The Purcells are a fundamental part of the PWC, and it was a great win in 2015,” Careless said.

“Thousands of people have worked for decades, and the Purcell Parks is now the third largest in North America and the sixth largest in the world,” he said. “We got to protect what we believed to be so much was born here with the spirit of people like yourselves. It just took a few people who really care to change the world.”

As Careless says he finds it painful to be reminded how much wilderness has been lost when he looks out the airplane window or check Google Earth – “it looks like an animal with a very bad case of mange” – but he believes “we will make it through.” He says human beings are genetically programmed to develop, “but we go too good at it and didn’t realize we had a problem until the 1960s when we saw the earth from space.” He says we’ve been going in this direction for 200,000 years, and have only started to turn it around in the last 50. “I think we’re going to make it. We’ll be on the razor’s edge – it will be tough – we will lose a lot that we love, and it will take heroics – but we’ll make it through.”

Careless concluded with his acknowledgments to the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy needs to expand to include Jumbo Pass and the Lake of the Hanging Glacier, and the Argenta Face. He urged the community to consider solutions to the wildfire risk on Argenta Face other than cutting down the forest.

“The Purcell Wilderness Conservancy is precious beyond belief. It’s your responsibility, my responsibility and the responsibility of the young people coming up to keep it intact,” he said. “Vigilance must remain, and the loving of it, the hiking and rejoicing of it… and completing it by adding Jumbo and Argenta Face.”

Some people at the event were disappointed that there was no information on the history of the Earl Grey Pass Trail, as advertised. Others noted that Careless’ account of the establishment of the PWC didn’t cover the whole story.

Valhalla Wilderness Society biologist and long-time activist Wayne McCrory attended the presentation, and said he enjoyed hearing about Careless’ involvement with the high-level politics that helped save the Purcell Conservancy.

“He deserves a lot of kudos for helping make it happen, but I was also aware of dozens of unsung, now grey-haired, local heroes in the audience without whose passion the Purcells would never have been protected. These were the locals who had to face the logging companies and angry local loggers in their communities on a day to day basis.”

“However, the real untold story in the Careless presentation were the stalwart efforts of the conservation groups during the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan to have the Purcell Conservancy extended from mountain tops down to the Agenta Lake such as on the Argenta Face, since the conservancy was largely a high-elevation protected area. Tragically it did not happen except to add the Fry/Canyon watershed. During the 1940s and 1950s, many of the local wilderness activists endured hateful campaigns stirred up by the logging Share Groups. We used to drive home over the pass from Kaslo after hung over the Eagle Pass with a large group of angry loggers and mill workers actually fleing for our lives.”
Travel trailer and minivan burn just north of Burton

by Jan McMurray

The Burton Fire Department prevented a structure fire from spreading on the night of August 30.

“What saved us was our purchase of the old tanker from the Nakusp Fire Department last week,” said Burton Fire Chief Brian Harrop. “That was a timely acquisition!”

When the department responded to the fire just one kilometre north of the community at about 10 pm on August 30, a travel trailer and minivan parked next to it were ablaze.

“Our truck only has a 300-gallon capacity, whereas the old Nakusp tanker has 1,500,” said Harrop. “We ran out of water in our truck, but the extra water in the old Nakusp tanker saved us from having to go and get more water. That saved us precious time.”

The travel trailer and minivan were totally destroyed. “The fire started spreading up the grass slope into the trees, but we were able to extinguish that immediately,” reports Harrop.

Luckily, the fire did not spread to a larger residential trailer on the property. “It was slightly singed and we sprayed it down. There was no interior damage at all. We were surprised it didn’t ignite,” said Harrop.

No one was injured. The resident of the travel trailer escaped at the first sign of flames, and was fine when fire department members checked his health at the scene. The resident of the larger trailer was at home at the time, and was fine.

“There was a good response from all members of the fire department and the community,” said Harrop. “People came out and assisted with traffic control – a good portion of the highway was closed.”

There was full response from the RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, and Forestry, but the fire department was able to handle it alone. The scene was cleaned up by midnight.

36th Annual Rosebery Regatta held September 4

by Dan Nicholson

It was clear skies, with a favourable breeze for the 36th annual sailing of the Rosebery Regatta.

A moderately-sized crowd attended the home-made toy boat race in Rosebery Bay, September 4.

Three heats were rowed out and launched into the heart of the bay by past Commodores Howard Bearham and Judith Maltz and Ensign Ben Hagen. Richard Johnson had his boat repair station on the beach.

The first heat was won by a vessel manufactured by Lawrence (Larry the Lawn Guy) Martin, and captained by his son, Asher. The driftwood and house-wrap vessel powered through its opposition to win the race in a very convincing fashion. Odds-makers were predicting a Martin victory.

The 2nd heat was won by a pool-noodle and clear plastic vessel captained by Arlo Jacks. The result was contentious because Mikul Dorsey’s vessel fouled the Martin boat. The 3rd heat was won decisively by Arlo Jacks’ Boat. In keeping with the size of the crowd, corruption was minimal.