Lemon Creek class action suit seeks evacuees’ stories

by Art Joyce

If you were one of the 2,700 property owners evacuated during the July 26, 2013 fuel spill in Lemon Creek, now’s your chance to tell your story.

Slocan Valley activist Marilyn Burgoon and lawyer David Aaron hosted a meeting at the Slocan Park Hall the evening of September 10 to distribute surveys for evacuees. The survey is also included in this edition of the Valley Voice. Residents are asked to detail the personal impacts of the spill in terms of actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred during the evacuation, such as transportation, accommodation, meals, cost of daycare or child care, water supply, telephone and utility costs, etc.

Aaron stressed that the class action lawsuit is in the initial information gathering stage, not designed to determine diminution of property value at this stage, only of property rights. Meanwhile, environmental damages are being assessed in the separate case currently being tried by the federal government, taking the case, pressing charges against the provincial government and Executive Flight Centre. “If we keep it going, because Marilyn stood up this time, the next time someone will stand up. The government only understands what hits them in the pocketbook, so assess your losses. Don’t let them get away with this.”

The class action applies to all 2,700 property owners within the spill zone that extends from the Little Slocan and Lemon Creek to Pass Creek. If you were an owner, renter, lessee, or occupier of property on July 26, 2013, you are automatically included in the class; you do not have to register to be included. There is an opportunity to opt out of the class but that the spill happened, etc. said Aaron. “What they’re disputing is who’s at fault.”

Deadline for the survey has been extended to October 2. A downloadable copy is available at https://rklitigation.ca/2017/09/lemon-creek-fuel-spill-class-action-evacuee-statement-available-download/
by Jan McMurray

A group of about 20 enthusiastic mountain bikers of all levels celebrated the opening of the Spine adaptive trail on September 16. The trailhead is eight kilometres up West Wilson Creek Road in Rosebery.

The Spine is a three-kilometre extension of the popular Butter mountain bike trail and has been built to a standard to accommodate adaptive mountain bikes for people in wheelchairs.

This is the first purpose-built adaptive mountain biking trail in the Kootenays. Both Nakusp and Revelstoke are currently building adaptive mountain biking trails, following closely behind Rosebery.

The ribbon was cut by Tara Llanes, who is leading the way for adaptive mountain biking in BC. A professional mountain biker from 1996 to 2007, she had a bad crash in September 2007 and ended up in a wheelchair. Llanes was involved in planning the Spine Trail.

“There were so many people who believed in this and made it happen,” said Llanes. “BC, and this corridor in particular, is the first place where people believed in building adaptive trails and ultimately in creating destination tourism around them.”

The Spine Trail is a project of the North Slocan Trails Society. Society President Mike Koolen said the group decided to build the adaptive trail to add diversity to the trail inventory in the area. “We’ve been working on hiking trails, cross-country ski trails, and snowshoeing trails, so this adds to the diversity of the product. Adaptive is innovative – it broadens trail use and provides inclusivity.”

“The really wonderful thing about adaptive trails is that anyone can ride them,” Llanes says.

Indeed, mountain bikers of all levels rode the Spine Trail on the opening day. Koolen and Llanes had just been at a Mountain Bike Tourism Symposium in Revelstoke the day before the opening, where they made a presentation about adaptive trails along with Janis Neufeld of Nakusp. “We were approached by other trail managers who are looking at including adaptive trails into their systems as well, so I think we’ll see a lot more of that kind of trail building in the future,” said Koolen. “Our plan is to speak to other trail managers in the Kootenays – Kaslo, Castlegar, Nelson, Rossland – to get them thinking about bringing adaptive trails into their trail planning.”

Another exciting development for adaptive trails is the release of the guidelines for adaptive mountain bike trail design. This 17-page document, written by Tara Llanes and Mark Wood, will be an excellent resource for trail societies, trail builders, and land managers interested in building adaptive trails. The document is available at trailholistics.com.

The four-member trail crew worked from May through September 1 to complete the Spine Trail. They had established the trail corridor with heavy equipment prior to the shut-down of the forest due to the hot, dry weather this summer, and finished off the trail work using hand tools – picks, shovels and rakes. The paid crew included Sonja Lercher, Mike Meloche, Rob Kozarachuk, and Tyler Payton, with Koolen and Greg McAree offering volunteer support.

Slocan seniors’ housing project to break ground this fall

Submitted

“...It's been a very long haul,” said Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society president Rita Moir, “but we are really pleased to announce final funding has been approved for affordable seniors’ rental housing in the Village of Slocan.”

BC Housing, Columbia Basin Trust (the Trust), the Village of Slocan, Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, RDCK, Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society, Heritage Credit Union, Slocan Legion Branch #276, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, local housing and trades professionals and the entire local community have contributed funds, land, and many thousands of volunteer hours toward making the $1.9 million project a reality.

Along with the good news, there is still one hurdle: the 12-suite project in the heart of Slocan has been downsized to eight units due to sharp increases in construction materials and additional requirements since initial budgeting two years ago. BC Housing is encouraging the society to pursue the additional four units when a future program becomes available.

“We’ll think of these eight units as Phase One,” said Moir. “We’re so glad to get going with these eight beautiful suites, and construction will include the infrastructure to get those final four done as soon as possible.” The four-plexes, directly behind the Slocan Library and Wellness Centre, will include six one-bedroom suites with lofts and two two-bedroom suites.

BC Housing is contributing $831,000 plus a low-interest mortgage, the Trust is providing $269,000, and the community will be matching those aged one to ninety-one, raised since $45,000 last year during a three-day Hike or Bike for Housing. The Village contributed land leased for $1 per year for 99 years, $55,000 and was funded by CBT (Recreation Infrastructure Program and Community Initiatives Program from New Denver and Silverton), SIFCo, Rec Sites and Trails BC, the New Denver Community Pharmacy, Hills Recreation Society, and Recreation Commission #6.

A group of about 20 enthusiastic mountain bikers of all levels celebrated the opening of the Spine adaptive trail on September 16. The ribbon was cut by Tara Llanes.
100% Renewable Energy Model for the West Kootenays unveiled at Castlegar conference

by Jan McMurray

It is possible for the West Kootenay region to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050, according to the West Kootenay EcoSociety’s newly released ‘100% Renewable Energy Model for the West Kootenays.’ The model was unveiled at the Renewable Energy and Sustainability Conference, September 7-9 at the Castlegar Community Complex.

The energy model report was commissioned by the West Kootenay EcoSociety and part of its 100% Renewable Kootenays initiative. The society’s online petition has over 5,300 signatures from residents, businesses and organizations across the region in support of transitioning out fossil fuels and on to 100% renewable energy no later than 2050. The petition is available to sign at www.ecosociety.ca/RenewableKootenays.

“Across the Kootenays, thousands of residents and dozens of businesses have already shown their support and this report only strengthens the case that the transition to 100% renewable energy is a realistic, achievable goal for our region,” said Matthew Carroll, Co-Executive Director of the West Kootenay EcoSociety.

The energy model calls for a 34% reduction of overall energy use by 2050, with the projected renewable energy mix coming from hydroelectricity (43.7%), solar photovoltaic (27.2%), biomass electricity (11.8%), biomass heat, and methane gas (6.7%). The electrification of transportation is the biggest factor in the 34% reduction in energy demand.

Andras Beda, a Hungarian national studying in Denmark, came to Nelson for three months to be the energy researcher on the project. Beda and Fiona Galbraith of FortisBC both presented the model at the conference.

The biggest take-home message, Beda said, is that 100% renewable is technically achievable, “but we also need to show the public that it is not a technological discussion. It’s an ongoing discussion with politicians and citizens as it’s happening. Working together, with ongoing discussion, we can achieve this.”

Interest from local and other levels of government in the area was apparent with over 60 local government representatives and two area MPs attending the conference on Friday, which was called ‘Stakeholder Day.’

Galbraith said it made clear that the model is not the only way the goal of 100% renewable energy can be achieved. “It’s a scenario – not what will happen necessarily, but it’s one way the transition could happen. We’re focusing on the best knowledge that we have today,” said Galbraith. “It’s a place to start,” Beda added.

The model didn’t look at wind, geothermal, or microhydro because of a lack of quantified data. “If we had the information on geothermal and microhydro, we could have less dependence on solar and have a more diverse portfolio,” Galbraith said. Beda says the area has “huge potential in geothermal, with the hot springs in the region” but not much potential for high-scale wind generation.

Beda and Galbraith acknowledged that the biggest challenge in transitioning to 100% renewable energy is the cost. Beda pointed out that the cost of renewable technology is decreasing rapidly. Galbraith said that from a utility’s perspective, extreme weather events can cost a company millions of dollars, so the fact that is factored in, “it’s quite a different scenario.”

The other argument against renewable energy is that the technology is dependent on the weather. The solution to this, he said, is to diversify the portfolio and have as many different types of renewable energy in the mix as possible.

“When we say 100% renewable energy, we mean net renewable energy, not replacing all fossil fuels with renewable forms of energy,” explained Beda. “So we’d still need fossil fuels in big demand times, but we’d produce surplus energy from renewables, so over a year, we’d produce more energy from renewables than from fossil fuels.”

A panel discussion at the conference highlighted three local initiatives: the Nelson Solar Garden, FortisBC’s home and electric vehicles charging station network.

Carmen Proctor spoke about the Nelson solar garden, which came into operation in June. Nelson Hydro pre-sold panels at $923 each, and will credit the investors’ hydro accounts, similar to a net metering program. Because the project is so new, there is no data available yet on the performance of the system.

Carol Suhan of FortisBC spoke about the company’s renewable natural gas (RNG) program. Fortis is the only utility in North America offering RNG. RNG is methane that has been cleaned up to pipeline quality and is fully interchangeable with conventional natural gas. Suhan said it would cost residential customers about $5 per month more than they pay for conventional natural gas and commercial customers about $30 per month more.

“Then the more people buy it, the greater the business case to look for more supply. We encourage you to support this and sign up,” she said.

FortisBC has four suppliers of RNG and three more in the works. She showed a video featuring three suppliers – a farm in Abbotsford that produces potatoes and potato chips, the Salmon Arm landfill, and a dairy farm in Delta. The video can be viewed at Fortisbc.com/rng.

Trish Dehnel of the Community Complex unveiled the Renewable Energy Model for the West Kootenays unveiled at Castlegar conference September 21, 2017

Reality check on Mosquito reduction effort in the Slocan Valley

I have lived here in the Slocan Valley for more than 20 years and have earned the privilege to voice my concern about the mosquito infestation in the river lowlands of the Slocan Valley. Every year (not every 4 years) the mosquitoes take over the valley for 2-3 months; parents take their children out of the valley to save them from the bites and resultant infections, those that can, relocate their animals out of the valley and those that can’t watch in horror as they are ravaged by hordes of mosquitoes driving them mad, losing their far though incessant scratching and leaving them unable to forage for food as they are so busy trying to avoid getting bitten…

Some people like to pick and choose bits of information from the internet to use at their discretion. Here is some readily available information for your consumption: Mosquitoes cause millions of deaths every year. Mosquitoes are one of the deadliest animals in the world. Their ability to carry and spread disease to humans causes millions of deaths every year. In 2015 malaria alone caused 438 000 deaths. The worldwide incidence of dengue has risen 30-fold in the past 30 years, and more countries are reporting their first outbreaks of the disease. Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever are all transmitted to humans by the Aedes aegypti mosquito. More than half of the world’s population live in areas where this mosquito species is present. Sustained mosquito control efforts are important to prevent outbreaks from these diseases. There are several different types of mosquitoes and some have the ability to carry many different diseases, i.e., West Nile virus, which is already in the Province.

Bti has been used around world as an effective tool to reduce the plague of mosquito borne infectious diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) endorses the use of Bti to control the spread of mosquito-borne infectious diseases and has sponsored many studies that prove that the use of Bti is not harmful to humans, animals, fish, birds or insects. Manual (backpack) spraying of Bti only in and around mosquito breeding grounds, which are typically standing or stagnant water, would concentrate its application in areas that are not typically used for water sources, further reducing any possible concerns. We will never be able to eradicate all of the mosquitoes but if they could be reduced to a tolerable level, like the rest of the Valley, then this would be a vast improvement on our quality of life. Come on people, let’s be reasonable and show a little empathy towards those that are effected by the mosquito epidemic. If you do live between Winlaw Bridge and Perrys Siding and in particular in close proximity to the swampy/flooded areas adjacent to the river then you know what I mean and I urge you support the use of Bti if and when there is a referendum. At the very least listen to the arguments with an open mind.

Jane Leander, Arica Gardens Winlaw
Baddabing, Baddaboom
Donald had one of his tirades; his rants: "Somebody send me a sopchiant! Someone who’ll grovel, give me a rear big smooth." Out with Spiccy; in with the Moosh. You’ll never believe this – so soon, but it’s true Just a couple days later, the Moosh was out, too.
Replaced by Gen. Kelly, a man among men, Who, each morning, exclains, “Ahhh, Napoleon again!”

Kristen Jacks
South Slocan

Wake up, Prime Minister Trudeau
Enough talk on Indigenous rights. We need action. Ten years is far too long to wait; the tenth anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples should be an impossible-to-ignore wake-up call to Prime Minister Trudeau that respecting Indigenous is far too long to wait; the tenth anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Communities as equal partners is a requisite part of reconciliation and a priority for this country.

David Stewart
Kaslo

Back to school on the climate bus
While many of our children boarded the bus this week, some will be concerned about issues bigger than who might be their locker partner. Each morning, we are all climbing on to the ‘climate bus.’ We are really not sure of the route and have given up decision making to the driver. Our collective, ‘whatever’ attitude needs some serious adjustment. As parents and voting adults, we can no longer sit disinterested on the climate bus. We need to work with the driver to establish the best route to our climate destination. As students and youth, we need to ask our parents and teachers why there does not seem to be any real action being taken. We seem to be doing everything as always. We hear or read about storms, floods and smell the smoke from fires at the back door; but that comes from another box called climate change. Well, it’s all the same box and we are all on the same bus. We need to take this journey very seriously and become more involved with those we have chosen to drive the bus.

Ron Robinson
Nelson

Climate action: there’s no time to wait
Those in power must stand up for science. A great example is French President Macron’s ‘Make Our Planet Great Again’ campaign. He has spoken openly in support of climate scientists, and has gone as far as inviting researchers to move to France to help accelerate action and deliver on the Paris agreement. Scientists should forge connections with leaders from policy, business and civil society, helping to facilitate understanding of the dramatic point we’ve reached, and the real solutions available.

In January, the Arctic Bascamp brought scientists into high-level discussions on global risk at the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting. Existing solutions must be scaled up rapidly. With no time to wait, all countries should adopt plans for achieving 100% renewable electricity production, while ensuring that markets can be designed to enable renewable energy.

There will always be those who hide their heads in the sand and ignore the global risks of climate change. But there are many more of us committed to overcoming this inertia. Let us stay optimistic and act boldly together.

Yvonne James
Nakusp

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY
The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers. Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material. Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes. We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous.

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Tom Prior
Nelson

The Valley Voice
Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0
Phone: 250-358-7218 Fax: 250-358-7793 E-Mail: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca Website: www.valleyvoice.ca
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Mosquitoes are a serious problem

The mosquito infestation in parts of the Slocan Valley is a concern for many residents and deserves to be recognized as a serious problem. Mosquitoes are, in fact, the deadliest creature on the planet. We should not ignore their presence.

Mosquitoes cause more human suffering than any other organism—over one million people worldwide die from mosquito-borne diseases every year. Not only can mosquitoes carry diseases that affect humans, they also transmit several diseases and parasites that dogs and horses are very susceptible to. These include dog heartworm. West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE). In addition, mosquito bites can cause severe skin irritation through an allergic reaction to the mosquito’s saliva—this is what causes the red bump and itching. Mosquito-vectored diseases can include: arboviral diseases, i.e. malaria, flarial diseases such as dog heartworm, and viruses such as dengue, encephalitis, and yellow fever.

In 2015, a mosquito that is both invasive and able to carry a number of serious diseases, including La Crosse Encephalitis and West Nile virus, had been found in stagnant water in the Lower Mainland. This was the first sighting of the species Aedes japonicus—native to Asia—in Canada, which, some believe, was brought in from the US as a result of human action. According to a study published in the Journal of Vector Ecology and Epidemiology, “could be a significant threat to the health of humans and domestic animals,” and its population should be monitored carefully. They believe that the mosquito is now established in the Lower Mainland and will likely be found in other parts of BC.

West Nile virus is a disease that is spread from infected corvid birds (crows, ravens, magpies, and jays) to humans through mosquito bites. The first case of a person contracting the West Nile virus from BC mosquitoes was also confirmed in 2009. There have been four confirmed cases since then. The health authority said samples from mosquito ponds from the south Okanagan have tested positive for the virus. Health alerts have been issued throughout the Okanagan.

Interior Health works closely with the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Canadian Blood Services to monitor West Nile virus activity. Surveillance includes screening the blood supply, and reporting human, animal and bird cases. Most of the public can help with surveillance by reporting dead corvid birds using BC CDC’s Dead Bird Report Form (http://westnic.nrcan.gc.ca/).

We all appreciate our pristine, wildlife-filled valley and wish no harm to come to it or to those that reside in it. But let’s not make the mistake of disregarding the mosquitoes as merely a nuisance.

Susan Erickson
Winlaw

Open letter to Ministry of Environment re: Kaslo LWMP

The Village of Kaslo council wants to combine stages 2 and 3 of the Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) and proceed with an expansion of the Specified Sewer Area (SSA) to include all of the properties of Lower Kaslo. I don’t believe there has been adequate public consultation.

Sanitary sewer systems are an expensive proposition and any property owners who will be billed to pay for any expansion of the sewer area should be provided with cost estimates on a per property basis. Despite repeated requests to the Village of Kaslo, they have not provided any cost estimates on this basis, so I published an opinion piece in the June 29, 2016 Valley Voice stating it would cost approximately $600 per year per property using information provided in the February 2016 LWMP by True Consulting for the Village of Kaslo. To date, the Village of Kaslo has neither confirmed nor denied my opinion.

In the early 1990s when the sewer system was built in Kaslo, the property owners in the SSA area were provided with detailed cost estimates and voluntarily signed a petition to pay for the sewer system, which will be paid off in 2023.

Now the Village of Kaslo wishes to combine the LWMP consultation process and the Specified Sewer Area (SSA) with the intent to defray the costs for these property owners in the SSA Area and place a burden on the rest of taxpayers in Kaslo.

This is outlined in a briefing note for the upcoming Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) meeting with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. Bullet three of the briefing note states “...the circumstances around the service area’s initial creation and the ongoing financial costs (of paying for a waste water treatment plant and collection system) among a small number of businesses, for example, is not sustainable. The idea that an entity ‘going it alone’ has been problematic for many years.”

After reading this, I am concerned that the public is receiving mixed messages concerning council’s intentions, as they appear to have a predetermined outcome. In a council meeting of April 11, 2017, the Village of Kaslo passed a motion stating: “That the Village of Kaslo seek funding from UBCGM Tax Strategy Funding to cover 100% of the cost of preliminary sewer collection system that includes City Hall...” Yet in the February 2016 True Consulting recommendation on page 53, section 11.2 states: “Expansion of the Village’s community sewerage system is the recommended option for wastewater management into the future.”

The public has been misled by previous councils about costs concerning the SSA. This was evidenced when the newly built JV Hughes School in Kaslo was forced to hook up to the SS Area despite having just installed a brand new septic system to service the school.

Additionally, in the Village of Kaslo briefing note, bullet four states: “The Village’s rationale to expand the collection system is for reduce environmental impacts on Kootenay Lake from aging existing septic fields (some 100 years or more old); facilitate affordable residential development on the many bare or undevelopable small lots (25-50k 100’) in Kaslo; encourage community economic development generally through incremental sewer service area expansion.”

It should be noted that there are very few undevelopable lots in Lower Kaslo (the area targeted for expansion), yet there are two unfinished townhouses with six units that are currently serviced by the SSA Area with adequate room for expansion of the SS Area to include all of the properties of Lower Kaslo. I don’t believe this is a serious problem.

Susan Erickson
Winlaw

Village of Silverton Notice of Tax Sale

Pursuant to Section 403 of the Local Government Act, the following properties will be offered for sale by public auction to be held Monday, September 25, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at 421 Lake Avenue, Silverton, BC, unless the delinquent taxes plus interest are paid before that time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Number</th>
<th>Tax Year 2017</th>
<th>Street Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95000</td>
<td>008-462-411</td>
<td>Lot 3, Block 99, Plan NEP 574</td>
</tr>
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Any person upon being declared the successful bidder must tender payment for properties purchased at the tax sale in cash or certified cheque within one hour after the conclusion of the auction. The Village of Silverton makes no representation express or implied as to the condition or quality of the properties being offered for sale. Prospective purchasers are urged to inspect the properties and make all inquiries to municipal and other government departments to determine the existence of any bylaws, restrictions, charges or other conditions which may affect the value or suitability of the property.

All sales are subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act and are subject to tax under the Property Transfer Tax Act on the fair market value of the property.

This is the first of two publications of this notice.

Dated Silverton this 5th day of September, 2017.

Darrell Garceau
Chief Administrative Officer, Tax Collector
Planetary scientist looking for video evidence of where recent fireball landed

Phoebe Hildebrand is looking to gather more videos of the meteorites which crashed to earth on Labour Day landed between Riondel and Garland Bay on the east shore of Kootenay Lake.

UCalgary Professor Alan Hildebrand and his two students, Fabio Ciceri and Lincoln Hanton, at the Slocan Library on their recent field trip to the West Kootenay, gathering information on the fireball that lit up the sky on Labour Day.

Hildebrand was shaking, not from the robes of mountainberrys, but from the thefts, but the recent incident at the Mountainberrys Foods in New Denver has shaken the owners and left the community reeling.

Researchers encourage anyone running security or wildlife cameras in the Kootenay Lake area to check their cameras. September 4 fireball start time of approximately 22:11:25 PDT to see if they captured the light and shadows cast by the fireball. With enough video information, a precise trajectory can be calculated and a better prediction made of where meteorites fell.

UCalgary researchers have pieced together an approximate trajectory. The rock hit the atmosphere northeast of Priest Lake, Idaho headed slightly west of due north. Racing across the border, it passed west of Creston, heading up the Kootenay Lake valley to cross the Crawford Bay peninsula.

The fireball ended southeast of Kaslo, after travelling across more than 100 kilometres in approximately eight seconds and penetrating deep into the atmosphere, shaking the Kootenay Valley with thunder-like booms. The largest rocks may have fallen into Kootenay Lake,
Nakusp council, September 11: electric car charging station and tax exemptions

by Claire Paradis

• A presentation on Climate Action, BC Hydro Conservation, and Accelerate Kootenays programs was made by Trish Dehnel, Senior Energy Specialist for the RDCK, and Community Relations Manager and Carbon Neutral Specialist with the Community Energy Association (CEA). Dehnel said the association wants to help communities move toward a low-carbon future by looking at changes that can be made to transportation, buildings, and waste. She took a moment to applaud the efforts Nakusp has taken in this direction with building its microhydro generation plant.

Dehnel also spoke about the BC Hydro Energy Conservation Assistance Program that offers rebates as well as expertise to help homeowners lower energy consumption. Low-income households are eligible for free assessments and sometimes replacement of some inefficient appliances.

The Visitor Centre will have an electric car charging station installed as part of the Accelerate Kootenays program. It will be a Level 2 charger, so anyone using the station will have to spend four to six hours in town while their vehicle is charging. The charge will be free for electric vehicle owners, initially. The Village will pay for the power to charge cars until January 1, 2019, at a rate of 11.99 cents per kilowatt-hour, as well as $1.00 toward the installation costs and a $1.50 annual networking fee, said Public Works Director of Operations Warren Leigh. The station’s cost of $8,000 to install, but fortunately it comes with a $7,000 subsidy.

• Council discussed whether or not to grant the Arrowtarian Society’s request for a tax exemption for the Rotary Villa housing complex. CAO Taylor reported that rent for Phase 1 and 2 units cost $355 per month, and residents paid their own hydro. Phase 3 residents pay $515 plus hydro, and Phase 4 tenants pay $755 plus hydro. Phase 1 and 2 are on one tax roll, and are already receiving a 58% reduction on taxes. Village staff has asked BC Assessment Authority about this reduced tax rate for the facility and has not yet received a reply. Bylaw 668. The new Officer Bylaw that the WFN is using the Fauquier property as a campground for its members. The WFN website has a page describing “WFN’s Starlite Road Fauquier Property.”

Proposed Westbank First Nation Reserve in Fauquier will be discussed at a public meeting

by Jan McMurray

A public meeting will be held at the Fauquier Hall on October 4 at 7 pm to discuss the proposed Westbank First Nation’s proposal to add a Fauquier property as its reserve land.

Area Director Paul Peterson, and staff from the RDCK, Westbank First Nation (WFN), the provincial and federal governments will all attend.

The 4.6-acre parcel is located at 7834 Starlite Road, on the lake side of the highway. The parcel is part of a land swap with the Province in compensation for the WFN’s revenue lands given up to make way for Hwy 97 improvements in the Okanagan. The WFN would own, manage and control reserves in the Okanagan Valley.

In the meantime, it appears that the WFN is using the Fauquier property as a campground for its members. The WFN website has a page describing “WFN’s Starlite Road Fauquier Property.”

Get involved with Arrow Lakes wetlands restoration

by Claire Paradis

A new project to enhance community engagement with wetlands restoration is now underway, says the Columbia Basin Watershed Network. Doug Switzer from Nakusp has been hired to coordinate the project. Coordinator and, as the job title suggests, he will be working with groups and individuals to encourage them to become more involved in issues related to wetland restoration and preservation.

One of the public outreach events will be a wetland tour on October 2 in Nakusp. Based at Selkirk College, there will be displays from local watershed and wetlands groups, and water professionals will be on hand to answer questions. Local wetland tours will be offered at 10 am and 2 pm. Transportation will be provided for the morning tour, so pre-registration is recommended. See the ad in this paper for full details.

Volunteer training and recruitment are also a large part of this initiative. CBWN’s goal is to not only increase awareness of wetlands issues but to also pair professionals with volunteers in order to train community members for wetlands monitoring and restoration in the field.

Community collaboration is another important aspect of the project and to help facilitate that collaboration, the project will invite existing community groups, relevant government agencies, professional scientists, First Nations and individuals to form a steering committee similar to the Slocan Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Project (SWAMP). This group will help to provide both scientific and community-based knowledge and guidance to the project.

For further information, please contact Doug Switzer at dswitzer@nakusp.net or visit the Columbia Basin Watershed Network’s website at cbwn.ca. The project receives support from WWF Canada and Loblaw Companies Limited.
Slocan council, September 11: Removal of cedars at cenotaph approved

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

Two residents spoke about the decision during Public Participation. Dick Kelly, SOS Committee member, thanked council for its decision and said SOS would “do our best to make it the prettiest spot in the Valley.” Denise Duault pointed out that the cenotaph was moved to the Wellness Centre and placed so that the trees could be its backdrop. The decision to remove the trees was “unfortunate,” she said “because they were there first.” Duault asked whether more trees would be removed during the building of the seniors’ housing behind the Wellness Centre. The answer was yes, though the trees at the south end of the housing site are to remain.

In that case, for $1,000 a contribution to a video project of the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce Health Committee. The funds will come from the Village’s Community Development Fund.

The Valley Voice September 21, 2017

SLOCAN VALLEY

Slocan village council recently changed the permitted uses in the M2 mill industrial zone to disallow heavy industry. Mayor Jessica Lunn says council wants to see multi-use development on the site, which has been cleaned up the beach, maintained parks and lawns, prepared the ball park, tennis courts, and has assisted in administration. The Village has also provided extra garbage cans, bags, picnic tables, and the use of a portable stage. Council agreed to provide the same in-kind support. This can be listed in the SVCA’s application for a 2018 Canada Heritage Grant.

Developers interested in the Slocan mill site by Katrine Campbell

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Get to know

Omar Abukar Omar

by Claire Paradis

Sitting in his dining room over tea, Omar Abukar Omar joked that a local friend recently told him he saw a black bear near town.

“I mean, it’s not often you hear your second black person in New Denver,” Omar laughed, ribbing his friend.

There aren’t a lot of people of colour in town, it’s true, and Omar feels he has a duty to leave a good impression of what may be the first Muslim African family to have ever lived here. He would like his kids to feel free to explore, to go where they want, to be who he is and where he came from, so in the spirit of sharing, Omar is giving a presentation on September 23.

Omar will be telling the story not only of his own history that led him to the wilds of BC, but also a bit of the history of Somalia and the oppression of the Bantu, Omar’s people.

“I would like to also mention something about religion,” Omar told me, “because at this time, the world has different and bad ideas about Muslims. And I am maybe the first or second Muslim person in New Denver.”

Full disclosure: I have tutored Omar and a lot of his children in English over the past few months, and the Abukars and I aren’t strangers. So when I joked that he was taking on the role of ambassador, he laughed and said, “Yes, an ambassador of peace.”

“It’s a big responsibility, he admitted, “but it doesn’t worry me a lot.” Omar’s concerns had to do with the fact that he is setting a good example for his children, as well as being determined to put to positive representation of black Muslims the community for the New Denver.

Life in Canada is very different for the Abukars. The family left the big city of Nairobi and left behind friends, family and a thriving, busy community to come to rural Canada, where they

• Camground revenues are $33,000 more than last year. According to CAO Darrell Garceau’s report to council,

• The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society will be receiving a letter of support from the Village of Silverton for its request to designate the mouth of Shannon Creek an “Application-Only Area.” The request comes in response to complaints about usage of the land during the Crossin Music Festival events in 2015 and 2016.

• Victoria Street paving will have to wait because the Village couldn’t get any special price, said Mayor Jason Clarke. A third party will complete an assessment of the Village’s roads and sidewalks, and a five-year paving plan will be developed.

• Mayor Clarke reported that residents who attended the “Victoria Street Slope Meeting” reviewed the two remedies suggested by the engineer, and agreed the best remedy to stabilize the slope was to replace the material that had been removed and pack it down. Public Works cut into the slope below Victoria during the water project, raising concerns about slope stability, as well as concerns about the lack of communication between the Village and BC, which will forward approved applications to the National Disaster Secretariat.

• The Village will be contacting the Red Mountain Residents’ Association to discuss partnering around garbage services.

• There was discussion at the Committee of the Whole about getting a lift to empty the existing dumpster, and updating Silverton’s garbage bylaw. Council members also discussed solutions to yard waste. One idea was to compile a list of residents who would use grass clippings and leaves, and to share this list with Silverton citizens. The other was to contact New Denver council to continue the conversation about a shared yard waste compost area.

• Bill Christian, Miller Christian said that Rec Commission is currently occupied with hiring a secretary.

New Denver council, September 12: Funds approved for Chamber’s tourism videos by Katrine Campbell

• Colin Moss said he is excited to see the Chamber of Commerce ask for $1,000 towards the chamber’s proposed professionally produced Slocan Valley tourism promotional videos. One six- to 10-minute video will be dedicated to attracting doctors and other health professionals to the Slocan Community Health Care Centre. Council agreed to the request.

• Sally Hammond appeared as a delegation to ask for a letter of support for the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society. The society is asking the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to remove ‘Application-only Area’ status on a parcel of Crown land at the mouth of Shannon Creek. The parcel has been used for organized raves and there is no mechanism for public input before the events take place. With ‘application-only’ status the public could comment and the society would be able to register concerns about possible environmental impacts. Council agreed to send a letter.

The Village will be

Cooper Creek Cedar Ltd is posting their planned 2017 Cutting Permit Development for the interested public’s information. As the development progresses for each CP being developed, CCC will post maps showing the general planning of the developed area, a CP map and the planned cutblocks and creek crossings. Spontaneous cutting will be regularly updated as the CPs are developed. The 2017 CP Development can be viewed at:


NO. VLC-S-S-174538

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BETWEEN:

LARISA DANIELE MILUS also known as LARISSA DANIELLE MILUS, by her litigation guardian, the PUBLIC GUARDIAN AND TRUSTEE

PLAINTIFF

AND:

JASON CHRISTOPHER MILUS in his capacity as Executor of the Estate of JUNE MILUS, DECEASED, and in his personal capacity

DEFENDANTS

To:

JASON CHRISTOPHER MILUS in his capacity as Executor of the Estate of JUNE MILUS, DECEASED, and in his personal capacity

TAKE NOTICE that on August 29, 2017 an order was made for service on you of a Notice of Civil Claim issued from the Supreme Court of British Columbia in proceeding number S-174538 by way of this advertisement.

In the proceeding, the Public Guardian and Trustee, as litigation guardian of Larisa Daniele Milus also known as Larissa Danielle Milus, claims the following relief against you: An accounting of and payment of amount due to the Plaintiff as beneficiary of the Estate and damages for breach of trust and fiduciary duty by the Defendant in his capacity as executor of the Estate and in his personal capacity.

You must file a responding pleading/response to petition within the period required under the Supreme Court Civil Rules failing which further proceedings, including judgment, may be taken against you without notice to you.

You may obtain, from the Vancouver Registry, at 800 Smith Street, Vancouver, BC, a copy of the Notice of Civil Claim and the order providing for service by this advertisement.

This advertisement is placed by Public Guardian and Trustee, as litigation guardian of Larisa Daniele Milus also known as Larissa Danielle Milus, whose address for service is McLarty Wolf at 1414 – 808 Nelson Street, PO Box 12156 Nelson Square, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2H2; Facsimile: 604-988-5241

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Follow the link to ‘2017 CP Development’ and each CP will be posted by CP number.

Comments regarding the development of each Cutting Permit & Road Permit can be submitted to: coopercek@porcupinewood.com

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.
Marijuana producers’ co-op awaits direction from Ottawa

by Art Joyce

Ottawa that the co-op business model “is in the best interests of Canadians, and to make sure their upcoming regulations allow it.”

And in fact, the Justin Trudeau government has so far been more encouraging of the small business model than the former Harper government. The November 2016 Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation recommended using licensing and production controls to encourage a diverse, competitive market that also includes outdoor cannabis grown by small- and medium-sized producers.

The co-op’s business model is to produce all-organic, outdoor grown marijuana for recreational use that is not bred for maximum THC and does not use agrochemicals. A secondary marketing stream may include value-added products such as oils, seeds and plant starts for the home market.

“We have been patiently waiting for some word or direction on the upcoming regulations from government and how they will apply to our business plan,” says Veri. “Unfortunately, no information has been forthcoming. Will it be – as we initially feared – that preference is once more going to be given to large corporate weed factories?”

Veri says the co-op – and other non-corporate cannabis producers – will need to focus on convincing Ottawa that the co-op business model is “in the best interests of Canadians, and to make sure their upcoming regulations allow it.”

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FAUQUIER COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday, October 4th, 2017 6:00 pm

Fauquier Community Hall, Spurce St.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and the Westbank First Nation (WFN) invite residents to a community meeting to learn more about WFN and the process of adding reserve lands within the community of Fauquier. Please come and participate in a community discussion with Local Area Director Paul Peterson and staff from the Westbank First Nation, Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), Province of British Columbia and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). Refreshments will be provided.

Paul Peterson

RDCK Electoral Area K Director

Phone: (250) 265-4411

Email: ppeterson@rdck.bc.ca

Web: www.rdck.ca

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COMMUNITY

The Valley Voice September 21, 2017
Hidden Garden Gallery celebrates 17 years

by Art Joyce

It all started as many things do in a small town – with a meeting in someone’s living room. And from there, great things often grow. In anticipation of the closure of the Kildare Street location it has enjoyed for the first 17 years of its existence, the Hidden Garden Gallery hosted a celebration the afternoon of September 17. Rather than mourn the passing of the place that has nurtured so much talent in the community, the HGG board chose to frame it as a new beginning, hence the event’s title, ‘Shift Happens.’

A new location has not yet been found but there are several prospects and there’s no lack of volunteer energy to carry the gallery forward.

The appearance of local duo Freya – Martine denBok and Noel Fudge – in the garden was a fitting tribute to all the musicians, writers and artists that have performed on the garden stage over nearly two decades. From the beginning, music has been an integral part of gala openings and other events. A cake cutting was also held to mark the transition.

This reporter screened a slideshow based on archival research into both HGG photos and his own extensive photographic archives, spanning 13 years of events. This archive was presented in digital form as a gift to board chairperson Katharine Dickerson. Another stalwart HGG supporter and events photographer, Sally Lamare, was unable to be present. The presentation offered an overview of the gallery’s history starting with its original visionary and first gardener, Rosalie Bird. Audience members were asked to volunteer stories, anecdotes and even corrected dates for the slideshow.

Lori Langford recalled Barb Yeomans calling a ‘conception’ meeting, stating, “we needed to make something happen in this community.” Bird, who had spent time living at the famous Findhorn intentional community in Scotland, was said to have remarked that the place had a “garden spirit” waiting to be revealed. Founding member Burgin Jacobs recalled the garden area being a “garbage dump” when volunteers began work on it in March–April 2000. Photos show the original sod-turning with Jacobs, Bird and Michel Sabard. Other volunteers in the early photographs shown to be working hard on the garden transformation are Jana Schellenberg, Stefan Jacob, Morgen Bardati, Eleanor Spangler and Andy Albright.

It took a giant leap of faith to build the gallery at this location, since the owner at the time, Peter van der Harrop, had the building up for sale. Fortunately, it was purchased by Ann Bunka in July 2001. Bunka owned the building and kept the gallery’s rent low for 15 years, running a health food store and Sears outlet next door for several years.

Also noted as “indispensable” to the gallery’s transformation was Gordon Butt, who built the kitchen and helped install the display case by the Kildare Street door. One photo shows Trevor Harrop making the very first donation to the gallery. Harrop had his first dental clinic in the building during the 1950s. The late Barry Lamare built the first countertop, which now resides in DJ Wright’s shop, Garden Graces. Another photo shows Richard Harrop and Paul Gibbons building the garden stage, though the date is unknown.

Conceptual art had a place in the gallery’s early history, starting with the Grass Coat made by Burgin Jacobs, and Jana Schellenberg’s kitchen sink fountain installation; both made their appearance in the garden during the first exhibition season. Prominent exhibitors in 2000 included artist Morgen Bardati and photographer Patricia Menton. Menton booked the first 17 years with the last exhibition at the Kildare Street location on September 4 this year. Others have gone on to successful careers in national or international careers, such as Galen Fedle, Tsumeko ‘Koko’ Kokabo and Jeremy Down, along with many, many others.

The gallery has been unique for its policy of taking no commissions on artists’ sales, asking only modest rental fees.

As if the gallery’s contribution to nurturing talent in the community weren’t enough, in 2010 the HGG board worked tirelessly to offer New Denver an artistic gift – an original sculpture by internationally known sculptor Tora Fujibayashi. Working with then Mayor Gary Wright, who donated Village labour, the board arranged to have the sculpture permanently installed in Greer Park, overlooking Slocan Lake.

On July 18, 2010, a bagpiper led the board and supporters down the main street to the park, where Mayor Wright officially unveiled the sculpture.

Other popular events held over the years at the gallery include garden ices, teddy bear picnics, Lucerne school student art exhibitions, meditation nights, the Summer Lights poetry series, life drawing classes, and the Food for Thought lecture series.

Dickerson says the loss of the gallery’s original location should be seen as the beginning of a new era. “It’s just been too much of a part of the creativity of this community to pass away.”

Food for Thought: Can we change?

submitted

The Hidden Garden Gallery invites you to a Food for Thought presentation by Laura Sacks – Climate Change: Reframing from Despair to Opportunity on September 24. In this presentation, Laura will take the audience through three critical questions: must we change, can we change, and will we change.

She’ll explore not only the sobering reality of the climate crisis, but also the exciting news about solutions to make our world a better place. You’ll leave with ideas about how you can get involved and take action.

Laura Sacks was recently trained by Al Gore as a Climate Reality Leader, and also heads up the local chapter of Citizens’ Climate Lobby. She has worked as a water scientist and local organic farmer, and has degrees in geology and environmental sciences, with more recent coursework in sustainability, climate science and policy, and renewable energy.

The presentation takes place Sunday, September 24 at 7:30 pm at the Knox Hall in New Denver. Admission by donation to benefit the Gallery.

You are invited to Harvest Share’s 10th Anniversary!

Join us for pie and live music

Saturday September 30th
7 pm – 9 pm
Bosun Hall, New Denver (710 Bellevue St.)

We would like to celebrate the bounty of fruit in our community and give thanks to everyone that has participated in the Harvest Share program over the past 10 years.

We will be providing a variety of pies made with local fruit and invite you to make a pie from your backyard fruit to share with the community.

Hope to see you there!
Intimate Landscapes at Studio Connexion Gallery

**submitted**

For the last event of the regular exhibition season, the curator has chosen to do the only photography show. Gail McMartin’s series Intimate Landscapes can be viewed at Studio Connexion Gallery in Nakusp from September 26 to October 7.

Gail is a scientist who worked for the University of Calgary in a medical research laboratory. She loved taking photos of immunofluorescent labelled cells. For personal interest she took photography courses at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and the Alberta College of Art and Design. Working with a digital camera, she likes to shoot in “RAW” so she can do her own editing. She says she doesn’t really have a preference as to what she likes to photograph – nature, landscapes and macrophotography are all very attractive to her.

Gail and her husband retired in Nakusp about seven years ago because they both love the environment and lifestyle of the Kootenays. An active member of the Arrow Lakes Fine Art Guild, last year she produced a beautiful poster for the Mushroom Festival featuring various mushrooms found in the region. Everyone is welcomed to the reception on Friday September 29 from 5 to 8 pm. Refreshments will be served. All photographs will be for sale and patrons will be able to order from the limited edition.

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**Nakusp Fall Fair – September 16, 2017**

The Nakusp Fall Fair was held September 16 at the Old Firehall Collective, both in and outdoors. The apple bobbing brought out the determination in the people of Nakusp!

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**HALIBUT MONTH**

**Tales From The Fisherman’s Market**

**THE LAST OF THE BUFFALO HUNTERS**

Back in my days of halibut fishing, an old halibut fisherman once told me, “We are the last of the buffalo hunters.” Always wondering what meant, his words eventually rang true for me a few years ago on a halibut trip.

It was two full days of travel to reach our fishing grounds off the remote west coast of Queen Charlotte Islands. The ruggedness of that stretch of coastline is epic. We were backing into the towering cliffs, throwing double anchors and setting our long line gear straight out into heavy seas. We worked twenty hour days and rarely even caught sight of another boat or inhabitant on shore.

On day three the wind changed from a steady strong to gale force, so we hauled our last two strings of the day double time and headed for the shelter of a small bay protected from the Pacific’s swell.

Once anchored, we set to work in silence, cleaning and icing our days catch, some fish weighing in over 300 lbs. We were startled by a geyser of water directly off the starboard side of the boat. We ran over to the edge and there in the glow of the deck lights, floating ten feet away, was a huge grey whale as long as the fifty foot boat we were on. He slowly rolled to one side until his eye came out of the water and then stayed perfectly still as he watched us work. He was beautiful. I wondered if he too was seeking shelter from the storm and thought the company would be nice.

Our coastline is magnificent, huge, remote, unforgiving. The men and women who make a living out there catching the fish we all love to eat are the last of the buffalo hunters. With sustainable fishing practices and the right choices at the store we can ensure a healthy ocean for the future.
In times of crisis, it’s more important than ever to stay connected.

When a crisis happens to fellow Canadians, we all feel it. We respond by trying to connect to those affected.

As Canada’s largest rural Internet provider, nobody knows this more than we do. After all, our very reason for being is to keep Canadians connected, however remotely they live.

So when the wildfires began in rural BC, we knew our high-speed network could help you stay connected to loved ones during this difficult time.

That’s why we’re waiving Xplornet equipment installation fees on our Internet and home phone bundles, for all those affected by the BC wildfires.

It’s just our small way of helping you stay connected to what really matters.

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1. Installation requirements go beyond the scope of a basic installation. Additional fees apply. Subject to site check, site check fee may apply. See dealer for details. Monthly service fee includes rental cost of equipment. Taxes apply. Offer valid until September 30, 2017 for new customers in the province of British Columbia and is subject to change at any time. Packages subject to availability. A router is required for multiple users. Internet access plan: Home Phone plan with 300 minutes of North American long-distance. Offer pricing reflects $4/extra per month for the first 6 months on services bundle with download speeds of 3 Mbps and 10 GB of data. Discount ends in month 7. Using Internet service package includes the 10 Canadian provinces. Branded card. Xplornet 911 service operates differently than traditional 911. For Rates, Management Policies and 911 Terms and Conditions of Liability, see xplornet.com/legal. Xplornet® is a trademark of Xplornet Communications Inc. © 2017 Xplornet Communications Inc.
Hills Garlic Festival celebrates 25th year in style

by Art Joyce

After a much-needed rain, the skies cleared beautifully for the 25th annual Hills Garlic Festival September 10 and everyone must see the mood was light. Although attendance was slightly down again for the second year at 4,400, by any measure the festival was a success.

“Part of the reason for the lower attendance is the smoky skies leading up to the garlic festival,” says festival organizer Ellen Kinsell. “We had a number of people email to ask about it and some vendors said they couldn’t come because of respiratory issues.”

With BC suffering through a wildfire season that broke all records, even three or four weeks before the festival, Kinsell had emails asking if the event would be cancelled. Fortunately, there were no fires in the immediate vicinity, the only reason organizers would have shut down. The festival has a formal emergency evacuation plan thanks in part to local paramedic Sara Rainford, who helped keep First Avenue clear for that purpose.

Kinsell says every year she’s asked by festival visitors if the festival’s evacuation plan would help keep First Avenue clear for the second year at the garlic festival, but in fact it has stayed the same for several years now at around 160 vendors. Of those, there were 30 new vendors due to cancellations. Food vendors were sold out by day’s end.

More than 4,000 people can create a lot of waste but Katrina Sumrall’s Green Team had it under control, with three recycling and composting stations staffed by volunteers. Festival coordinator Sumrall reports that only two garbage bags of waste will be sent to the landfill, everything else was either recycled or composted. “There’s about 1,700 pounds of food and paper waste that will be composted, and about $50 in returnable bottles,” she said.

“In the past, we’ve met with some resistance [to the Green Team’s stations] but now it seems like people are really embracing it and saying this is a really cool thing,” says Kinsell. “When I was out walking on the grounds, because we had our staff T-shirts, people would ask us, where do I take my plates, where’s the recycling?”

The sudden influx of several thousand vehicles to a village that usually only harbours 500 or so can make for serious parking issues. But once again, this was well handled by volunteer traffic directors. Lightening the load were buses bringing in seniors from Vernon, the bus from WE Graham Community Services in Slocan and John Matthews’ Idaho Peak van.

“One of our new initiatives was encouraging car pooling,” says Kinsell. “We gave free passes if you brought a vehicle of six or eight; the first three paid and the rest got in free. There were 18 people that got in free that way.”

As ever, entertainment was diverse and of high quality. To celebrate the 25th anniversary, organizers invited four bands to perform: bluegrass outfit Mountain Station, popular Cuban band Briosas del Palmar, and two local duos – Motes and Oats, and Freya. Bubbles the Clown was kept busy all day making balloon animals while the face painting tent was as popular as ever with kids. Flydini aka Dale Morris invited the kids into his tent for his dazzling magic tricks.

With so many tickets sold at the gates, it’s not hard to imagine the funds raised for local causes. Although the accounting isn’t done yet, Kinsell estimates $30,000 will be distributed to local organizations. Among them are Hills Doukhobor Society, Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club, Hills Emergency Services Society, The Outlet Youth Centre, Lucerne School, and Slocan Lake Early Learning Society (Nursery School), most of whom provide volunteers for the festival. A donation will be made to the Summit Lake Ski Hill for the use of their snow fencing. The parent organization for the festival, the Hills Recreation Society, will also donate to programs supporting youth recreation in the community. In the past this has included fees for soccer, skiing, snowboarding, swimming lessons, avalanche training, parking, etc.

Many services must be hired to make the festival run smoothly, adding to local employment. This includes traffic control, portable toilet rentals, tent rentals, advertising and graphic design services, shuttle services, washroom maintenance and cleaning contractors, shredder services, the Village of New Denver, RHC Insurance, Tyler Paynton and crew, Kevin McLeod, and the Friday Market Society. In addition, the festival was supported by the efforts of about 150 volunteers.

If you saw a vendor and are curious about purchasing a product from them, the Garlic Festival website has them all listed with links to their businesses and Facebook pages. If you’d like one of the special souvenirs for the 25th anniversary – aprons, mugs and tote bags – they can be ordered through the website.
Sharon Noble releases investigative report on smart meter fires

by Art Joyce

Sharon Noble, director of the Stop Smart Meters BC coalition, has released a 160-page investigative report on fires caused by faulty smart meters.

Noble is asserting that the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) has failed in their duty to protect British Columbians from a known electrical fire hazard caused by flaws in the device’s design. The report is a thoroughly documented rebuttal to provincial authorities and BC Hydro, who continue to claim the meters are not a potential fire hazard. Noble presents documents obtained through Freedom of Information (FOI), sworn testimony, eyewitness accounts, expert evidence, and photos to support her contention that the meters aren’t safe.

“The BCUC put the onus on me to prove that there are problems with ITRON smart meters that put life and property at risk,” writes Noble in her executive summary. “I will meet that challenge and by so doing, expect that BCUC will do its job, which is to protect the citizens of British Columbia. It must demand that the ITRON smart meters be removed from the walls of our homes and replaced by safe, reliable analog meters.”

The BCUC’s response to Noble’s previous submission in March 2016 was that it was “not persuasive.” partly due to relying on testimony from untrained electrical engineering experts and only eight incidents of fires. “One would think that even one example should have alerted BCUC to enlist the aid of an independent forensic engineer to ferret out the truth of my allegation,” writes Noble. “And if numbers were really an issue, then the BCUC would have requested more, which it didn’t.”

Her new report documents 47 fires that can be linked to the meters. “It should be noted here that while the number 47 above is firm, the reporting system is in such a mess... that the actual number of smart meter fires will never be known.”

She also rebuts a report by Surrey Fire Chief Len Garis (the basis of BCUC’s contention) that there isn’t enough evidence linking smart meters to fires. Her data sources have been incident reports obtained from the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, BC Safety Authority, BC Hydro, fire departments, and from victims and witnesses. By contrast to Noble’s exhaustive researched report, Garis relied on a single Statistical Report from the OFC for a single year. The Garis report lacks academic rigour in its methodology, she says, failing to consult raw data, which would have led him, as it did me, to recognize that the reporting and tracking system is dysfunctional, and that, in fact, there have been many meter failures and fires.” Noble asserts that the BCUC itself has become dysfunctional by accepting such a nonstandard report, and in fact,”is neglecting its duty, under the Utilities Commission Act, to protect the public.”

Perhaps most contentious is the fact that smart meters are routinely removed from the scene of a fire by BC Hydro and FortisBC. Yet, according to the BC Fire Safety Standards Act, nothing is to be removed from the scene of a fire prior to the completion of an inspection by a fire inspector. In the case of an electrical fire, this inspection is supposed to be done by the BC Safety Authority or electrical inspectors.

Despite assurances to the contrary by BC Hydro and the BCUC, writes Noble, “this Act is being violated with impunity, making it impossible in many instances for the cause of the fire to be determined and reported.” And despite BC Hydro’s claim that the meters are being sent to a lab for inspection, Powertech – the utility’s lab – stated that it has never inspected a smart meter.

A brief online summary and the full downloadable report is available at http://www.stopsmartmetersbc.com/2/2017-09-12-bcuc-smart-meter-fires/

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The BCUC’s response to Noble’s previous submission in March 2016 was that it was “not persuasive.” partly due to relying on testimony from untrained electrical engineering experts and only eight incidents of fires. “One would think that even one example should have alerted BCUC to enlist the aid of an independent forensic engineer to ferret out the truth of my allegation,” writes Noble. “And if numbers were really an issue, then the BCUC would have requested more, which it didn’t.”

Her new report documents 47 fires that can be linked to the meters. “It should be noted here that while the number 47 above is firm, the reporting system is in such a mess... that the actual number of smart meter fires will never be known.”

She also rebuts a report by Surrey Fire Chief Len Garis (the basis of BCUC’s contention) that there isn’t enough evidence linking smart meters to fires. Her data sources have been incident reports obtained from the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, BC Safety Authority, BC Hydro, fire departments, and from victims and witnesses. By contrast to Noble’s exhaustive researched report, Garis relied on a single Statistical Report from the OFC for a single year. The Garis report lacks academic rigour in its methodology, she says, failing to consult raw data, which would have led him, as it did me, to recognize that the reporting and tracking system is dysfunctional, and that, in fact, there have been many meter failures and fires.” Noble asserts that the BCUC itself has become dysfunctional by accepting such a nonstandard report, and in fact,”is neglecting its duty, under the Utilities Commission Act, to protect the public.”

Perhaps most contentious is the fact that smart meters are routinely removed from the scene of a fire by BC Hydro and FortisBC. Yet, according to the BC Fire Safety Standards Act, nothing is to be removed from the scene of a fire prior to the completion of an inspection by a fire inspector. In the case of an electrical fire, this inspection is supposed to be done by the BC Safety Authority or electrical inspectors.

Despite assurances to the contrary by BC Hydro and the BCUC, writes Noble, “this Act is being violated with impunity, making it impossible in many instances for the cause of the fire to be determined and reported.” And despite BC Hydro’s claim that the meters are being sent to a lab for inspection, Powertech – the utility’s lab – stated that it has never inspected a smart meter.

A brief online summary and the full downloadable report is available at http://www.stopsmartmetersbc.com/2/2017-09-12-bcuc-smart-meter-fires/
There were people having very impressive and encouraging things happening amongst everyone the participants were,” said Fournier-Beck. “What stood out was the lack of bylaw compliance for things such as ‘rogue’ camping, beach fires and parking; ways to lower the impact on residents of parking lots and access to waterfront trails; and municipal campground layout.

Another open house is planned for later this fall, but public consultation is ongoing throughout the project. Any questions, comments or concerns may be directed to Fournier-Beck (marie_anne_beck@ yahoo.com or 250-353-1335) or Brian Arquilla (info@mtn-pac.com or 250-540-4623) or the Village of Kaslo, Box 576, Kaslo V0G 1M0. The consultants are reaching out to the public through various print and online channels.

### Wildfire season winds down; evacuation alert rescinded for Poplar Creek

By Jan McMurray

The wildfire-driven provincial state of emergency was rescinded September 15, although there are still local states of emergency in parts of BC. This year’s fire season saw the most hectares burned in BC’s history, but fortunately the Slocan, Arrow Lakes, and North Kootenay Lake Valleys were not hard hit.

The evacuation alert for residents of the Poplar Creek area was rescinded on Monday, September 18 at noon. The RDCK issued a media release stating that the threat posed by the Rapid Creek fire had diminished enough to rescind the evacuation alert. It was issued July 30 at 8 p.m. The fire was 1,400 hectares on Monday.

As of Monday, September 18, the only evacuation alert still in effect was the importance of this dynamic field for many years, was a dedicated Kootenay portrait photographer. Fred Rosenberg has photographed in a variety of contexts in Nelson since 1982, including as a studio/portrait photographer. Fred was a dedicated Kootenay Co-op Radio volunteer and board member for many years, and continues to document the activities of this dynamic community resource.

### Wildfire workshop at the Langham

Terry Brennan and Zoe Crichton in the early days of Kootenay Co-op Radio

Fournier-Beck says they heard “fairly loud and clear from a few people that we need to consider how the businesses in the Village make money – through visiting tourists – and therefore we should consider what is most appealing and supportive of their use of the spaces.

Some of the other comments were about the lack of bylaw compliance for things such as ‘rogue’ camping, beach fires and parking; ways to lower the impact on residents of parking lots and access to waterfront trails; and municipal campground layout.

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Kaslo council, September 5: Street patio policy to be reviewed

by Jan McMurray

• Council agreed to revisit the Temporary LOC program in October, a pilot project which allows businesses to have outdoor patios in parking spaces on Front Street. Existing agreements are in place for one more season (2018). Two concerns that have been raised are the loss of parking spaces and the desire by some businesses to have long-term reserved parking in public parking spaces in the downtown core.

• A briefing note for the Union of BC Municipalities convention regarding the RCMPC was approved. The note contains five requests that the Kaslo detachment’s response area be reviewed or additional staff be provided; that the RCMPC work with the Province on improving the restorative justice program; that

the Kootenay Boundary Regional Detachment engage in a discussion with rural areas and Interior Health regarding a rural Police and Crisis Team program in communities like Kaslo, where traffic noise laws be enforced reasonably in residential areas immediately adjacent to provincial highways; that the Kootenay Boundary Regional Detachment meet with Kaslo’s CAO and council to discuss matters that could increase bylaw enforcement collaboration, especially in the summer.

• Staff was asked to invite some specific stakeholders to attend a meeting about improving planning, logistics and coordination of major events in Kaslo, likely in October.

2017: the 75th anniversary of Japanese-Canadian internment submitted

Takien: Japanese Canadians since 1877 and Memories From Home, is a travelling exhibit being held at the Langham from now until October 29.

A large number of special events will be held at the Langham from October 5 to 8, concluding with a church service Sunday morning at St. Andrew’s United Church. A weekend pass for all workshops and evening Gala events is available until September 18 at 250-352-2661 or langham@netidea.com.

Tickets at the door, if available; all other events by donation.

Significant moments in St. Andrew’s history

In 1942, thousands of Japanese- Canadians were removed from the coast and interned in the Kootenays. It was a very traumatic time for these people, as they left thriving careers, good jobs and fine homes; families were separated and all were experiencing uncertainty and fear about their future in the face of the many restrictions imposed on them. Many of these internees were settled in Kaslo, and amongst them was the Rev. Kosaburo Shimizu, who had left a thriving United Church congregation in Vancouver, and found himself and family in this small interior mining town.

Rev. Shimizu approached Rev. H. Armitage, who was the minister of St. Andrew’s United at that time, and was invited to use the church for his services with members of his Vancouver congregation who were interned here. This was the beginning of a very rich sharing and mentoring relationship between the two congregations that developed and continued while Rev. Shimizu and his congregation were here.

Some of these Japanese- Canadians remained in the area, and have been valuable contributing citizens. Kaslo was blessed with the leadership of Rev. Aya Higashi, both at St. Andrew’s and as a school teacher. When a fire destroyed the church hall, Mr. Tomiyama, Rev. Shimizu’s son, was the supervising contractor. Kaslo was blessed by these and other Japanese- Canadians who remained in this area, worked and made their homes here.

In 2009, a service of celebration and dedication of a heritage plaque was held with Rev. Shelley Sticket- Miles conducting the service, and guest Dr. Sus Tabata and Aya Higashi unveiling the plaque. This brass plaque which is affixed at the door of St. Andrew’s recognizes the church as being a sanctuary for the interned Japanese-Canadians from 1942-48.

Over the past several years, during the Saddlebag Church Services, St. Andrew’s congregation has been fortunate to have as one of their guest ministers Pastor George Takashima from Lethbridge. As a child, George would come to St. Andrew’s with his father’s services, and he has fond memories of that time.

Over these past years, St. Andrew’s has not forgotten the blessings that came with these Japanese-Canadian internments, and they hold a significant place in this church’s history. They left us with their legacy of facing challenges and moving forward, which is what sustained them. St. Andrew’s has adopted that same philosophy.

Kaslo Legion trapped and robbed

by Katrine Campbell

RCMP are looking for two men and a suspect vehicle, a late ‘90s white GMC pickup or Suburban, in connection with a break- in to the Kaslo Legion between Monday, September 4 and Wednesday, September 6.

Constable Leo Turko said the break-in was discovered at 8:30 am. A large amount of cash and liquor was stolen.

The thieves cut the phone lines and disabled the alarm before breaking a window and climbing in. Once in, they removed the safe and broke into the keno machine, and kicked in the wall to gain access to the storeroom where the liquor was.

“They smashed a window, smashed a wall, took all the full containers of alcohol, opened all the doors from the store and damaged the locks, trashed the security system panel,” says branch president Mary Linn.

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“ ‘It seems they were there for a very long time’ Turko said the detachment is looking for public assistance, and asks that anyone with information call CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-8477, or the Kaslo detachment at 250-352-2225 or on Facebook.

75th anniversary of Japanese Canadian internment commemorated October 5-8 at the Langham

Join us in commemorating, reflecting and celebrating the achievements of Japanese Canadians October 5-8 at the Langham in Kaslo. This is the gala weekend of the Canadian WWII internment.

A variety of programs are offered all evenings, with a film, a play, a concert and reception ($20). Tickets available at Sunnyside Naturals, Willow Home Boutique. All other activities are by donation. Dome arigato! Details: www.thelangham.ca www.facebook.com/thelangham/

Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund Request for Proposals

The Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) and Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) are seeking proposals for projects that will benefit conservation in the rural areas around Kootenay Lake, specifically electoral areas A, D and E within the Kootenay Boundary Regional District.

The purpose of the Fund is to provide local financial support for important projects that will contribute to the conservation of our valuable natural areas. Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF) funding is available for conservation projects that result in the reduction to a known threat to biodiversity. The themes for the Fund are water conservation, wildlife and habitat conservation, and open space conservation.

Projects that are technically sound and effective, and provide value for money through partnerships with other funders will be given priority. Proposants must be a registered not-for-profit organization. First Nations band or local government. Unqualified groups or organizations may partner with a qualified organization. A Technical Review Committee will review project proposals and make recommendations to the RDCK for final funding approval.

For application forms, visit www.kootenayconservation.ca, and click on the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund tab. Review the Terms of Reference, paying particular attention to Section 8 – Fund Design and then apply using the application form provided.

The closing date for project submissions is 4:30 pm PDT November 1, 2017. Project proposals must be delivered by email to info@kootenayconservation.ca.
CLASSIFIED ADS

THANK YOU & THANKS for your business! To learn more call 265-3674 ext.

INTER GENERATIONAL COOKING is BACK! All ages cook and eat together. Work with local guest experts to create delicious feasts!! The program runs every other Wednesday, 5-7 pm at WEG Community Service Society in Nakusp. To register & for more info, call WEGCSS at 256-355-2484. Co-sponsored by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy.

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Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

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Raven’s Nest CLOTHING, BOOKS & GIFTS
Open Monday - Saturday 10:30 am - 4:30 pm
Closed Sunday
Main Street, New Denver
250-358-2178

Your ad could be here for only $19.50 + GST

SLOCAN MASONIC LODGE meets at Knox Hall in New Denver every third Friday of the month. We meet with Kootenay Masonic Lodge at 8 pm on the fourth Friday of the month. We meet with the Slocan Masonic Lodge at 8 pm on the fourth Friday of the month.

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KASLO WELCOMES the Gorts’ Empowerment Movement Program (GEMP). For self-identified girls ages 10-13, Art, yoga, games, and fun activities over six Saturdays: October 14-November 18, 11 am to 2 pm. Contact Gorts at 250-358-7796 or email info@ronidesign.com.

STONE CARVING WORKSHOP

New Denver. Open to all levels. Come and share mindfulness and the exultation of inner flow.

HELP WANTED

KOKANEE PEAKS INTERIORS is looking for experienced drywallers and finishers for upcoming job in Nakusp. September-November, possibly longer. Send in resumes to tom_p@kokaneepeaksinteriors.com or call 250-725-5110.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION

Available for managing the home support and community living programs in Arrow and Slocan Lakes area looking to expand in Kootenays. Must be experienced in coordinating programs, working as a team leader and have some marketing skills in developing new programs and extending existing ones. Please send resumes to Shirley Kosiancic at skosiancic@eol.net or call/text for more info 250-265-8406.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Seeking volunteers for Kootenay Seniors Fair on October 2 in Nelson. Support seniors in

The Valley Voice September 21, 2017 body by reducing stress, building strength, flexibility and balance. Upper story of the fire hall in Silverton. Only 5 minutes from New Denver. Open to all levels. Come and share mindfulness and the exultation of inner flow.
Community farm hosts gardening workshops

Chuckleberry Community Farm, known as a micro-green and basil producer for the West Kootenay, is now offering workshops on better gardening, growing great garlic and year-round micro-green production.

“I’m inspired to share our discoveries about how to live more sustainably by growing our own food all year round, and it’s really not that hard,” says Chuckleberry founder Jon Scott.

This fall Chuckleberry will host two workshops with a focus on more sustainable living through high yield food production. Scott has been facilitating relational-based personal growth workshops and individual counselling for 25 years here in the Kootenays.

The workshops take place at Chuckleberry Community Farm, nestled on a south-facing mountainside in sunny and picturesque Nelson. The farm operation is compact, and has many outdoor insulated raised beds topped with poly greenhouses. The main building is a 2,000 square ft. zero-net energy solar community centre which houses the community kitchen, dining and meeting rooms as well as the indoor high-tech micro-green production room.

Each workshop is from 10 am to 3:30 pm and will include a delicious organic buffet lunch prepared on site with many ingredients picked freshly from the gardens by Chuckleberry chef Maxi. Maxi also entertains with live music during lunch.

Four Season Gardening & Growing Workshop: October 7, $51 + tax (plus value for $65 (subsidized by Columbia Basin Trust).

Learn how to create your own high-yield 4-season intensive gardens; build insulated raised-bed hoop houses; create nutrient-rich micro-greens and micro-greens; and grow great garlic. Home-based Micro-green Production Workshop: October 29; $120 value for $65 (subsidized by CFRC).
Contractor chosen for Winlaw area mosquito control feasibility study

by Jan McMurray

The RDCK will award the contract for the feasibility study on mosquito control in the Winlaw area to Morrow Bioscience Ltd, likely by the end of this week.

Uli Wolf, General Manager of Environmental Services at the RDCK, said the Regional District has a good working relationship with the company, which has been managing mosquito control programs in the Meadow Creek and Pineridge areas of Area D (North Kootenay Lake).

Wolf said the study will determine the candidate areas for treatment, the cost, and identify a benefitting area from a potential program. Based on that benefitting area the area of taxation for a service will be established.

Once the study has been completed, Wolf said it would be presented to the public at a meeting.

“There is no reason for us to rush this,” Wolf said. “The very earliest this program could be in place is 2019.”

Because the mosquito control program would involve taxation, electoral assent must be obtained, either through a referendum or an alternative approval process. “I’m quite certain that an issue as controversial as this one would go to referendum,” Wolf said.

The most cost-effective way to hold a referendum is in conjunction with an election. Local government elections are scheduled for October 20, 2018.

Back in 2003, a referendum on mosquito control in Winlaw was defeated by a clear majority. More recently, however, a petition calling for a mosquito control program was submitted to the RDCK with 200 signatures. So at its August board meeting, the RDCK decided to commission the feasibility study.

There are signs that the issue will once again divide the community. A petition opposing mosquito control came out to counter the petition in favour.

Timber sale in Glacier Creek drainage to be awarded in October

by Jan McMurray

New road building, and improvements to Glacier Creek and Duncan River Forest Service Road are expected to be finished by the end of September, making way for a timber sale that will be advertised soon and awarded in October.

A Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations spokesperson says the timber sale will include four cutblocks, and the successful bidder will have three years to finish the harvesting. Block sizes are 18 hectares; 22.1 hectares; 31.9 hectares; and 6.8 hectares.

The method of harvesting prescribed is conventional ground skidding for approximately 40% of the block area, while 60% of the harvest area is prescribed for cable yarding. The blocks will be clearcut, with reserve timber retained in each to provide protection for other forest values such as wildlife features, terrain stability, water, and visual quality objectives.

The road work necessary for access to the timber sale has been underway since fall 2016. The ministry reports that a new 4.5-kilometre-long road is almost complete. Improvements to the existing road work necessary for access to the timber sale has been underway since fall 2016. The ministry reports that a new 4.5-kilometre-long road is almost complete. Improvements to the existing road will include four cutblocks, and the successful bidder will have three years to finish the harvesting. Block sizes are 18 hectares; 22.1 hectares; 31.9 hectares; and 6.8 hectares.

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Kaslo youth present climate change petition to MPs

Recently, LV Rogers grads Alyssa Taburiaux and Linn Murray know climate change is affecting them now and will impact their futures. With that in mind, secondary has a grade-9 class of 29. “We hope that this petition from our youth perspective will give them pause to reflect that this is an urgent issue that directly impacts our generation,” said Taburiaux. 18. “Our actions or inactions today will be felt for generations.”

Stetski was extremely receptive to the presenting youth. “There is no doubt that our young people are going to face many challenges due to the effects of climate change,” said Stetski. “Having youth as part of this conversation is incredibly important and I look forward to presenting this petition and bringing their calls for real action from the government to the floor of Parliament.”

The petition had already been presented once in Parliament by South Okanagan-West Kootenay MP Richard Cannings. As more signatures are gathered, he offered to present it again. The petition calls on the House of Commons to fulfill Canada’s obligations under the Paris Agreement. It states that youth are concerned that current actions of the Federal government are failing to meet these commitments, leaving them with an uncertain future in which they can grow, survive, and thrive. The young petitioners stress that “Youth want jobs that are sustainable – not for short-term gain at the expense of future generations.”

Taburiaux and Murray both heading to Selkirk College this fall, have been very active members of the local chapter of Citizens’ Climate Lobby (CCL). Their travel expenses to Ottawa were crowd-funded by many donations from the community.

Taburiaux enjoys her work as a climate activist because she says CCL is different “in the way it pushes for change by creating mutual understanding and finding common ground. It is about treating all people and opinions with respect, and empowering citizens to speak up and use their political and personal powers.”

“From my experience, the youth at CCL are highly informed, passionate, and skilled, and feel strongly that collaboration across party lines is the best way to tackle climate change,” said Murray.

The federal government is officially required to respond to the requests in a Parliamentary Petition. Formatting and wording are extremely particular; Taburiaux and Murray say they are grateful for guidance from Cannings’ office, as well as other members of the local CCL chapter.

With this summer’s epic smoke, wildfires, hurricanes in Alaska, people are waking up to the true risks of climate change. For more information on the petition, please contact Laura Sacks at ccl.westkootenay@gmail.com.
SEPT.27-OCT.3
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