Langham commemorates 75th anniversary of internment

by Art Joyce

Over a three-day event October 5-7 that included drama, music, dance, taiko drumming, poetry and panel discussions, the Langham Cultural Society hosted a 75th anniversary commemoration of Japanese-Canadian internment. Titled ‘Memory and Reflection,’ it was both a solemn reminder of social injustice and a joyful celebration of Japanese-Canadian culture.

Events kicked off with the ‘Haiku in the Mountains’ workshop held by this writer on Thursday afternoon, October 5. Ten students were given a beginner’s course in writing haiku, a Japanese verse form that emerged in the 17th century and was brought to the west in the late 19th century. A walk along the Kaslo River Trail for inspiration yielded many fine haiku that were read later to guests at the evening reception.

Dignitaries at the reception included Kaslo Mayor Suzan Hewat, New Denver Mayor Ann Bunka, former Langham director Dr. Bernadette Lynch, Dr. George Takashima and Kootenay-Columbia MP Wayne Stetski. MLA for Nelson-Creston Michelle Mungall was unable to attend due to pressing duties as the new Minister of Mines, Energy and Petroleum but sent along her comments acknowledging the contributions of Japanese-Canadian Mayor Bunka noted, “We need to keep reminding people that social injustice does not work.”

Dr. Takashima was an internee in New Denver. He worked in Canadian schools for 34 years and in retirement conducts regular bus tours to both the Nikkei Internment Museum and the Langham’s internment museum. He thanked Kaslo and New Denver for keeping the history of the internment alive. “I’m an internee but there’s just a few of us left,” he said. “These are very important places to people of Japanese-Canadian descent – it’s where we have live history.”

Stetski outlined significant dates in the history of the internment, noting how the Japanese Canadians’ diligence and willingness to work soon won over the local population. Among their wartime achievements was the publishing in Kaslo of the newspaper The New Canadian starting in November 1942, the only Japanese Canadian newspaper allowed to publish during the war. Wartime MP WK Esling reported that racial relations in Kaslo were “excellent,” and that “tense racial relations crumble under neighbourliness.”

Stetski acknowledged Dr. Lynch’s early role through her efforts to preserve internment stories during the Langham’s ‘Kootenay Voices’ project of the late 1980s. Stetski also noted that Kaslo was the first municipality in Canada to apologize for internment.

The highlight of the Thursday evening program was the screening of Sleeping Tigers: the Asahi Baseball Story. The baseball team was established in 1914 and had been highly successful before the internment years brought it to an abrupt halt. Beginning in 1937, the Asahi had won the Pacific Northwest Championship five years in a row. Among its star players was New Denver’s own ‘Nobby’ Hayashi, now deceased, who is interviewed in the film. As camp overseers in Lytton and the Slocan Valley realized they had star baseball players in their camps, they allowed teams to form and practice, trucking them from camp to camp for local tournaments. This had the effect of de-segregating the communities where these baseball games were held, considerably easing local tensions. In an unintended comic moment, the film’s concluding few minutes were cut off by a Microsoft update.

Friday’s gala evening event featured two sets of performances. The first set opened with a condensed version of the play The Japanese Problem by Vancouver-based Universal Ltd. Theatre Collective. The play uses the setting of the initial roundup of Japanese-Canadians at Hastings Park exhibition grounds, where internees were forced to cram their families into seeking cattle stalls while awaiting deportation to the BC interior. John Endo Greenaway, a hapa-sensei author (third generation, half-English descendant) read from his newly released book, Departures: The Expulsion of the Japanese Canadians from the West Coast, 1942-1949. It uses excerpts from memoirs and diaries to explore the terrible irony of “being confined in the country of my birth,” in the words of one former internee.

The first set closed with a performance by New Denver-based duo Freya, including the songs Kyoto and Rosebery (another internment site), plus a specially commissioned suite of music titled Memory and Reflection. Its sheer range and breathtaking dynamics should establish Noel Fudge as a major contemporary composer.

The second set Friday night featured the reprise of a solo dance performance by Tsuneko ‘Koko’ Kokubo titled Falling From the Sky. Although born in Steveston, Kokubo was a four-year-old visiting family in Japan when war broke out; she remained there until war’s end. Her dance depicted the startling contrast of a child’s blissful playfulness suddenly shattered by the dropping of bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This writer then presented ‘Haiku in the Mountains,’ a brief overview of the craft of haiku featuring a reading of the late Chie Kamegaya’s book of haiku, Seasons in New Denver.

The Tasai Artist Collective of Vancouver followed with three short skits featuring Soramaru Takayama, including Wind from the Valley of Slocan. Takayama is a gifted performer – even while performing Japanese tongue twisters he held the audience spellbound.

Minoru Kofu Yamamoto, a master of the shakuhachi flute, next performed a haunting solo piece. The evening was concluded with a thundering performance of Kelowna-based Yamabiko Taiko (‘yamabiko’ means ‘mountain echo’) drumming troupe.

Saturday’s program featured an afternoon panel discussion with Dr. Bernadette Lynch, Dr. George Takashima, Michael Abe, and John Greenaway, moderated by John Kingswill, exploring the lingering legacy of internment on Japanese Canadians today. The evening featured a short dance solo by Kokubo titled A Child’s Dream of Peace, followed by a concert with Certified Mango. The band includes two local Nikkei – Aiko Jackson and Kokubo.
Fortis appeals BCUC ruling on net metering program

by Art Joyce

FortisBC has applied to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) to change the rules governing its net metering program, leading some customers to question the changes. Two local FortisBC clients, Andy Shadrack and Donald Scarlett, have registered as intervenors on the application. While Fortis claims that its application of April 15, 2016 is merely designed to “more clearly reflect the original intent of the Commission,” intervenors see it as an attempt to renegotiate on its commitment to pay retail rates for client power generated in excess of their consumption.

FortisBC proposed using a “kilowatt-hour bank,” to save up customers’ excess energy for later use, paying it back “at a rate more reflective of the company’s avoided cost for purchased power,” i.e. wholesale rather than retail rates. The BCUC’s decision of December 29, 2016 – with only one panel member dissenting – was to not grant these changes. In response, FortisBC this year hired a legal firm to bring an appeal of this decision to BCUC, leading to the current round of hearings slated for completion in November.

The 2016 FortisBC application emphasizes that its net metering program “is a means of offsetting personal consumption rather than a revenue generating opportunity.” At the time of the application, the company had 96 customers in the program; this has since risen to 220 according to FortisBC Communications Advisor Nicole Bogdanovic.

She claims that part of the intent of the change is to simplify billing by calculating an annual credit rather than monthly as in the past. The proposed “avoided cost” is the wholesale rate at which it would have had to purchase energy if the client had not generated it. Bogdanovic told the Valley Voice that last year FortisBC paid out $34,402 to its 100 or so net metering clients. Arguably this is far less than what the company will spend on legal fees for the appeal.

“This change would only impact a small number of customers in the program; most use more than they generate,” says Bogdanovic. “If they’re looking to earn a profit, that’s not the intent of it. We have to do this in a way that’s cost effective, to be fair to all of our customers.”

Intervenor Donald Scarlett isn’t convinced. He’s not opposed to the kilowatt-hour (kWh) bank, since either way it’s an annual payout. However, Bogdanovic is concerned that in its earlier hearing, FortisBC wanted to restrict clients to only generating the amount of power they use, and only pay their wholesale rate of 4.6 cents per kWh for excess energy generated. BC Hydro purchases excess electricity from its net metering clients at 9.99 cents per kWh.

“There’s nothing in the tariff for the net metering program that says that people could not produce more power than they were using,” says Scarlett. “In fact, it says if there is an excess power it would be paid back, usually sometime in March the following year. The only limit was 50 kilowatts, which is an awful lot of power, so I didn’t see there was any problem with my setup, which produces 21.”

“We are trying to reserve the right to enforce the eligibility criteria should this be required in future,” says Bogdanovic. “It’s important to note we haven’t removed anyone from the program to date.”

“One of the things that Fortis has never attempted to do is have a dialogue with the company’s net metering program,” says Scarlett. “Instead they go straight to the Commission and spend tens of thousands to do so. This of course gets peoples’ backs up and so it ends up a fight. They never communicated with any of us about this.”

Utilities are required by BCUC to file regular reports on their net metering programs. In its April 2016 report, BC Hydro stated that its “net metering customers and stakeholders tell us they are satisfied with the program and it meets their needs. We are not currently considering modifications to the net metering program…” There are 464 users.

Bogdanovic says the company also has a proposal before BCUC to build a Community Solar Pilot Project in Kelowna for those who don’t wish to install solar systems on their own homes. The maximum annual electricity a client may generate at 100 kilowatts, twice that of FortisBC.

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FortisBC will be granted their final argument before the BCUC on October 12, with intervenors having their final say October 26.

The company will spend on legal fees for the appeal. “The BCUC is required to respond to each intervenor. The Commission will present its reply to these final arguments on November 9.”

Columbia Basin trust

We gratefully acknowledge the support of WWF Canada and Loblaw Companies Limited, and the Columbia Basin Trust.

Columbia Basin Watershed Network
Arrow Lakes Environment Stewardship Society
Slocan Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Project

Arrow Wetlands and Lunch
Burton Hall, Burton – Sunday Oct 22

Noon Lunch and introductions
1 – 4pm Guided walking tours of wetlands where restoration is planned

For more info: cbwn.ca/wetlands-lunch
To register, email dszwitzer@nakusp.net

88 Broadway St., Nakusp 250-265-2228

Daily prescription delivery service to New Denver — for the last 14 years! — Full service pharmacy open 6 days per week —

FOR THE INFORMED CONSUMER

Thank you SSLS Volunteers!

It was another splendid summer season of educational nature programs for the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society. These included the new Wildlife Tree model (created by sculptor Peter Vogelsang, assisted by Lesley Mayfield), the interactive Watershed Model for kids and the information table at the New Denver Friday Market, ToadFest and the Galactic Festival. We particularly appreciate the five new volunteers: Deborah Sword, Tammy Strauss, Jim Moon, Celesttina Hart and Wendy King. We thank seasoned volunteers: Decker Butzner, Randy Cofer, Hank Hastings, Ellen Kinsel, Sally Hammond, Margaret Hartley, George Meier, Ann Meldinger, Richard Johnson and Therese DesCamp.

The educational nature ‘factettes’, written by Sally Hammond and Anne Champagne, continue in the Valley Voice.

Three intriguing and very successful Wild Days nature walks were organized by Ellen Kinsel and led by biologist/educator Marcy Mahr, with communication assistance from Theresa Tremaine. We’re grateful for the expertise contributed by locals: Wayne McCrory (bear biologist), Richard Johnson (geology & wetlands). We thank seasoned volunteers: Decker Butzner, Randy Cofer, Hank Hastings, Ellen Kinsel, Sally Hammond, Margaret Hartley, George Meier, Ann Meldinger, Richard Johnson and Therese DesCamp.

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Westbank First Nation comes to Fauquier to make a presentation

by Jan McMurray

Westbank First Nation (WFN) members came to Fauquier Hall on October 4 to make a presentation about their community and the land exchange process underway to create a reserve on their 4.6-acre property at 7834 Starlite Road in Fauquier.

About 120 people filed into the hall for the meeting, among them representatives of two other First Nations groups who also lay claim to the Arrow Lakes region: the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Sinixt people living at Vallican.

Raf De Guervara, WFN Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs and Title & Rights, gave a comprehensive presentation about the WFN community, including its mission statement and values, governance, laws and land use plans, and the land exchange process.

Since 1983, WFN has been negotiating land exchanges to facilitate improvements along the Hwy 97 Okanagan Valley corridor. When WFN gave up reserve lands for the 2011 development of the Westside Road Interchange, the Fauquier property was one of six parcels in the land exchange deal.

The WFN has created a 10-site campground on the Fauquier property, for the use of WFN members only. The other five parcels in the land exchange are located in the City of Kelowna and the Regional District of Central Okanagan, and those local governments have been supportive of the land exchange and addition to the WFN reserve. When the federal government asked the RDCK to provide a letter of support for the Fauquier property to be added to WFN reserve lands, the RDCK asked for a public meeting on the subject in Fauquier.

As stipulated in the WFN Self-Government Agreement with Canada, when WFN gives up reserve lands, the First Nation receives lands of greater or equivalent size or value, and Canada allows the exchange lands to become reserve lands. WFN is one of a handful of First Nations in Canada with a Self-Government Agreement.

RDCK Area K (Arrow Lakes) Director Paul Peterson said he has nothing personal against the WFN, but he is concerned about the Fauquier property becoming reserve land. “If it remained fee simple, I would welcome them to come and join the community, but to be a separate community in what I think is someone else’s territory – that puts Fauquier right into the middle of it.”

Peterson pointed out that the reserve lands would not be subject to local government regulations. He said his problem was with the provincial and federal governments, not the First Nations. He received applause from the crowd when he said, “The Province should have been here a long time ago… Consult the locals beforehand, not after the fact.”

Peterson’s concern about putting Arrow Lakes communities “in the middle” of land claim disputes was underlined when representatives of the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Sinixt met in Vallican.

Dr. Mike Marchand, chair of the Colville Confederated Tribes based in Colville, Washington, said the CCT believes they should have been consulted about the WFN land exchange in Fauquier, and that the CCT doesn’t support other First Nations reserves being created in Sinixt territory. The Sinixt (Arrow Lakes people) are one of the 12 tribes in the Colville Confederated Tribes.

“The Westbank First Nation doesn’t have the authority to unilaterally create a reserve in our territory,” said Marchand.

However, Marchand expressed hope that the two communities could work it out. He said the CCT is honoured to be part of the Okanagan Nation Alliance, which is made up of eight member communities, including WFN. “We have a long relationship with the Okanagan – thousands of years,” he said. “We don’t always agree with everything but… I hope we can figure out how to make this work.”

Marilyn James, Sinixt elder living at Vallican, also took the mic to say she has occupied the Vallican site for over 30 years, since a group of Sinixt people arrived to repatriate their ancestors’ remains. “We’ve occupied that land all this time because we are declared extinct by the federal government,” she said. “… The government has to stop settling land claims and recognize Sinixt people. We don’t want to be under Westbank First Nation or Colville Confederated Tribes or the Ktunaxa. We want to be Sinixt in our own territory and that’s how it is.”

De Guervara told Peterson that WFN was invited to Fauquier to share information about the WFN community and the Fauquier property, not to conduct consultation, which is the responsibility of the provincial and federal governments. “I am here to show you we are a good neighbour. I’m not going to get into some kind of match. Don’t put us in that position. That’s not fair.”

De Guervara said WFN has been a part of Fauquier and this traditional territory since long before settlement. Unfortunately, land claims weren’t settled sooner… this is part of our traditional territory. That part of it is real. We will leave that to the provincial and federal governments to work with you on that.”

Another WFN man added, “We aren’t going to solve the hundreds of years old challenge presented by the Sinixt, and this is not the forum to solve that.”

Chris Derickson, WFN councillor, said that the establishment of a WFN reserve in Fauquier doesn’t take away from any claim that the Sinixt might have. Currently, WFN members use the Fauquier land to recreate, and they come to the Arrow Lakes area to hunt and fish. That wouldn’t change, he said. “Nothing changes.”

Derickson also quipped, “Paul, I’m glad you’re upset with the government and consultation. Join the club.”

De Guervara explained that WFN enters into service agreements and memoranda of understanding with its neighbouring local governments, and meet with the local governments once a year to review these agreements. “WFN is open to working collaboratively with the RDCK on the development of an MOU as a step towards creating a cohesive and open relationship,” he said.

One Fauquier resident pointed out that with reserve status, WFN wouldn’t pay taxes for the community hall or fire service. De Guervara responded that these considerations could be part of the MOU. He confirmed that WFN is currently paying the annual $3,400 taxes on the property because it is still fee simple.

Some Fauquier residents expressed concern when they found out that WFN members can have fires for ceremonial purposes when fire bans are in effect. De Guervara said they inform the local government and fire department when this is the case.

WFN Chief Roxanne Lindley was the last to speak. “What I would like each and every one of you to consider is the value that we bring, not as Westbank but as indigenous people… If there is a way we could enhance the Arrow Lakes, I would be the first one to do that. We have a responsibility in protecting the land – that’s all of our responsibility. We are not coming here to build casinos and hotels. We’re bringing our children, youth and elders and connecting to the land… On behalf of us all, thank you for inviting us. This is part of reconciliation.”
All in the family

Neither Trumpenstein nor his Trumpenkinder

Has ever let ethics or nepotism hinder

Them from plugging their product, enhancing their brand.

Even Frau Drakula looks quite grand.

Kristen Jacks
South Slocan

Insurance alert

I was shocked this summer to learn that I did not have the fire insurance coverage I thought I did.

Did you know that if your home is destroyed in a forest fire, you must rebuild on the same site in order to collect? This works fine on lots in cities and towns, but if you live in a forested or recreational area, who wants to rebuild on a burnt out blackened wasteland? Not only is your property now practically worthless, your insurance only pays out if you rebuild on the same site. Regardless of the cause of loss, some people may not wish to rebuild.

There is an inexpensive rider to cover a full payout instead. In my case, the rider was only $30/year.

I feel the insurance company should have mentioned this important detail, especially in an area like ours. They say it’s all covered in the fine print.

Policy changes were not allowed all summer long because of the forest fire situation. All those who are concerned are now able to contact their insurance agent for immediate clarification and/or action.

Bruce Freeman
Kaslo

Cody Caves
Provincial Park

Earlier this year, it was brought to the attention of the Friends of West Kootenay Parks that a local logging company, Cooper Creek Cedar was in the process of applying for a cutting permit in a sensitive area just outside the boundaries of Cody Caves Provincial Park. Logging in one section of the proposed cutblock could have been a disaster for the caves. After prolonged discussions between BC Parks, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), and Cooper Creek Cedar, an agreement was reached which saw an alteration of the Goal 2 Boundaries for the Cody Caves Provincial Park that will protect the headwaters of the caves.

The Friends of West Kootenay Parks would like to acknowledge the efforts of Bill Bryce, Kaslo, Bill Kestell of Cooper Creek Cedar and the staff of the Lands Branch of the local office of FLNRO for their work in bringing about this conclusion. We would also like to thank Friends member John Pollack and Park Operator Lee Hollis for their support and input into the negotiations.

While the redrawing of the Goal 2 Boundaries provides temporary relief for the critical 14 hectares outside the park, it is important in the long run that this area be brought into the park proper. We will continue to work to have this Goal 2 area added to Cody Caves Provincial Park.

Bill Bryce
President, Friends of West Kootenay Parks Society

Native campfires

On October 5, a meeting was held with members of the Westbank First Nation at the Fauquier Community Hall for the purpose of introducing their plan and intention to take over 4.5 acres on Starlight Road near Fauquier in exchange for land they gave up at Westbank for the construction of the highway there. In the process of relating their successful accommodations and cooperation with their surrounding community at Westbank, supported by a well designed brochure handout, they also informed the audience how a people who claim to revere nature, earth, forest, water and air are under a campfire ban. That statement raised objections from some attendees, which in my mind could not be quashed by the verbal assurance of the native speaker that they would take great care with open fires. The native people seem to feel that their traditional ceremonial campfires must be allowed even while the surrounding public lands are under a campfire ban.

It is my opinion that even the greatest care cannot prevent the odd spark to land on tinder dry forest ground and the highest degree of foresight cannot prevent a sudden wind from causing a spark to grow into a flaring wildfire.

Frankly, I don’t understand how a people who claim to revere nature, earth, forest, water and air would be willing to take the risk of endangering all of the above for a tradition that has its place and value, but not in a tinder dry forest. To me, a forest is more sacred than a tradition, that could be moved to a later date, as for example to Thanksgiving, when we can celebrate in this valley without having to cope with devastating wildfires.

Richard Eisenauer
Fauquier

Looking forward...

Hats off to the NDP minority government for introducing legislation on electoral reform.

BC will hold a mail-in referendum by November 2018 following public consultation. The threshold will be 50% plus 1 vote and both the NDP and the Greens will campaign in favour of proportional representation. The first step has been taken and it shows commitment from the government. Not quite champagne yet, but definitely a celebratory glass of wine. Cheers!

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PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

The professor of history is a fossil who is gasping his last breath. The fossil does not necessarily show the condition of the author.

OPINION

The Valley Voice • October 19, 2017

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The Valley Voice 10

Name: OPINION
Harvest Dinner offers feast, film, and food waste feedback

Submitted

This year, for the Healthy Community Society’s sixth annual Harvest Potluck Dinner, guests will feed themselves with the usual feast of local fall dishes and turkeys, and then can sit back and watch Feeding Ourselves, the movie.

The Harvest Potluck Dinner begins at 5 pm sharp; the film will follow at 7 pm. The event takes place at Silverton Memorial Hall, Saturday, November 4.

This festive dinner helped launch the HCS Food Program in 2012 and has been bog up by popular demand ever since. It’s a chance to join friends and neighbours for a friendly fall feast. The society provides the turkey and beverages, the hall and the live music, and a slideshow of the society’s activities. Everyone is encouraged to invite neighbours who might not get out often and help with transportation.

This year, the society partnered with Lisa Safurik of Slocan, producer of Feeding Ourselves, for a local screening of this highly acclaimed documentary. The film features Kootenay food producers, and their thoughts on issues related to agriculture, land stewardship, and right livelihood. Folks of all ages from throughout the region are invited.

A project the Healthy Community Society has recently embarked upon is studying the possibility of a community composting program. Public feedback and suggestions are critical to this process. A survey will be available at your table, asking questions about your composting habits, needs, and desires. The society has been in conversation with the Villages of New Denver and Silverton, the school, local farmers, Wildsafe BC and the RDCK on this issue and wants more community input. A public meeting on the subject will be held on October 30 at 7 pm at Lucerne School with special guest horticulturalist, Mario Lanthier.

MARIO has much experience with municipal composting systems and knows what is needed to make a healthy and high quality final compost product. Come down to the school for a short presentation and then a discussion on this topic.

RDCK gets grant for major disaster mitigation plan by Katrine Campbell

The Regional District of Central Kootenay has been selected to receive a $500,000 grant to complete a risk assessment of flood and geohazards, says Sangita Sudan, General Manager of Development Services. The amount was co-funded by Parks Safety Canada and the provincial government. The Regional District’s contribution to the project is staff time.

“It’s been a long process,” says Sudan. “We were competing with the rest of Canada for funding.” BGC Engineering from Vancouver has been selected to do the district-wide risk assessment. The contract is expected to be signed at the RDCK board meeting October 19.

The National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) provides four funding streams. The first is risk assessment, followed by flood mapping, mitigation planning and finally, mitigation projects. The risk assessment will identify flood hazards, potential impacts, community and infrastructure vulnerabilities, and the overall flood risk profile for the area. The flood mapping stream provides funding for the development and/or modernization of flood maps which identify the location and extent of a potential flood event. The maps can be used to help identify the specific impacts of a flood event on structures, people and assets. The maps and information would be shared with other agencies such as BC Hydro and FortisBC, Sudan says.

A comprehensive mitigation plan allows applicants to develop realistic and sustainable mitigation solutions by outlining the plan’s objectives, key activities, expected outcomes, timelines, and roles and responsibilities.

Eligible mitigation projects would include actions such as replacing storm culverts, or projects that improve flood resilience by proactively preventing or mitigating damages and losses.
New Denver council, October 10: Chamber asks for support for MRDT application

by Katrine Campbell

• Two delegations appeared before council. Jan McMurray spoke on behalf of the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce, asking council to support a Bill 23 tax off to the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program (MRDT), or the 2% hotel tax. The Chamber notes that the Arrow Lakes and Slocan Valleys are about the only areas in the West Kootenay that don’t charge the tax. The money raised, estimated at $80,000 in the first year, would go to a Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) formed by both the Slocan and Nakusp Chambers. The DMO would administer the money “resulting in a focused and sustained tourism marketing effort for our area.” The two Chambers plan to hire a consultant to prepare the application documents for the MRDT program. The same request for a letter of support and a $650 grant has been made to Nakusp, Silverton and Slocan. Area H and K directors are being asked for $2,500 each, and Columbia Basin Trust is asking for $5,800. ‘*All council members will each provide $500 and in-kind contributions.*

• Acting on a recommendation from staff, council decided to deal with the request at the October 24 meeting, to allow more time for research. The Chamber’s representatives told council that the number of bear encounters in the village had dropped from 92 in 2016 to 12 this year. There is still fruit on trees, and bears were seen eating apples in the Public Works yard. It was suggested they could harvest plums after the first frost.” Lillies consulted with 22 homeowners on installing electric fencing, and 10 fences were installed; New Denver will get two new bear proof recycling bins; she worked with the Garlic Fest organizers to provide “bear aware” signs and education for vendors. Next year, WildSafe BC will continue to assist the Village on wildlife avoidance tactics.

• As and Harsh Share celebrates its 50th anniversary, everyone who came to its volunteers have picked 26,600 pounds of fruit over the decade, “equivalent to 89 average-sized busses.”

• Staff were authorized to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Community Energy Association to pursue an Electric Vehicle Strategy. The project aims to install 13 DC Fast Charging stations and 40 Level 2 charging stations in 40 communities across the Kootenays. One Level 2 station is planned for New Denver, near the recycling bins at Slocan Ave and Kootenay St.

New Denver author Norbert Ruebsaat launches new memoir

New Denver author Norbert Ruebsaat has launched his memoir published by local author Sue Imrie. It is a collection of stories and essays about his life and his experience. The memoir is titled "The Adventure of a Lifetime." It is a story of his life in the Kootenay region and his journey as an artist and writer. He also teaches writing workshops and is a member of the local writers' group. The launch event was held at the Village of New Denver Public Library, where guests enjoyed refreshments and a reading of excerpts from the book. The event was well-attended, with many local residents and friends of the author in attendance. The event was a celebration of the author's accomplishments and his love for writing. The book is available for purchase at local bookstores and online retailers.
Nakusp council, October 10: Downtown Revitalization Plan presented

by Andrew Myhal

Long-time Nakusp resident and museum director, Sharon Montgomery, can now add ‘author’ to the list of her many titles and achievements.

Upon her retirement from the Nakusp and District Museum last winter, Sharon went back to a project she had started before she even came back to Nakusp—a novel about her grandfather’s trek to the Klondike, just around the time Nakusp was officially established. The trek to the Klondike, just around the time of the Klondike Gold Rush, was a huge thing for her. It’s huge for all our Nakusp history.

He told my Uncle Gord and my father what happened. I waited until the last of my uncles went before I could get it out. And last spring, when Uncle Ernie passed away, that was the last of his [Robert's] children,” Sharon said.

At the Nakusp launch, the audience of about 30 people filled the room at the library, one of them Sharon’s daughter, Phaedra. She was beaming with pride and happiness for her mom.

“I know how much this means to my great-grandfather’s story. It was passed down through granddad [Sharon’s father], to be here today, is a huge thing for her. It’s huge for our family,” Phaedra said.

Sharon resident Andreea Myhal (this writer) began working with Sharon on the book last summer, and took on the editor role. They secured a CKCA grant and took the book from manuscript to print.

Sharon was away from the Arrow Lakes for most of her adult life. She has had two daughters and three husbands, and worked in the Cariboo as a newspaper editor, fashion store manager, and as part of the agenda package for the October 10 council meeting.

A rough estimate of the total cost of plan implementation is $1,943,000, or $323,500 per city block. The report was the first of what will be part of future budget discussions.

• The Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce request for a contribution of $650 for Phase 2 of the ‘Sustainable Funding for Tourism Project’ was granted by council. The money will be used with other funds raised to prepare an application for the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program (MRDT), otherwise known as the 2% hotel tax. The tax would be mandatory for accommodations with four or more units. The application package for the MRDT program includes a five-year marketing strategy, which will be presented at open houses in Nakusp and Silverton as part of the project. A non-profit Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) will be established and will be the applicant for the MRDT program. The Nakusp and District Chamber is partnering with the Slocan District Chamber on this project.

The planners were impressed by the level of participation from residents, which they reported as showing strong consensus about key elements of the plan. The principles needed to guide the plan were listed as: ensuring the use of high-quality materials, maintaining social vibrancy with an eye to long-term prosperity, and multi-functional infrastructure that will last.

Public mini-parks along Broadway Street are part of the diagrammatic plan in the report. The final concept design includes coloured concrete and pavers accents, parallel parking on both sides of the street, and extensive landscaping.

To get to the final concept design, the report recommends strategic phases of development, a public art and mural initiative, developing signs and lighting gateway elements, and parking and parking signage. The report also recommends exploring the addition of another public washroom downtown and amending and enforcing the sign bylaw.

A copy of the report and the presentation can be found at nakusp.com.

Nakusp historian Sharon Montgomery launches new book

Sharon (Baird) Montgomery with her daughter Phaedra Montgomery-Stuart at the launch of Sharon’s book, The Trek, at the Nakusp Public Library.
Slocan council, October 10: Mayor reports on Peter Degroot incident

by Sandra Smith

Mayor Jessica Lunn

Slocan council, October 10: Mayor reports on Peter Degroot incident

reported that she was able to get some information about the Peter Degroot incident at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) conference at the end of September. She met with Attorney General David Eby to discuss the incident’s impact on the community as well as the length of time the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) is taking to investigate the police shooting of Degroot. Eby told Lunn that a new Chief Civilian Director, Ron McDonald, has been hired to lead the IIO and the Coroner’s Office has received new resources to deal with the case.

Lunn also met with the IIO Director of Accountability, Martin Youseff. Youseff explained that due to limited civilian witnesses or video documentation of the RCMP shooting of Degroot, the case will rely on scientific reconstruction of the scene, adding a great deal of complexity to the case. Youseff agreed the timeline has been too long.

attributing this to the IIO’s heavy caseload and limited resources.

Youseff said if wrongdoing is found, the case will go to Crown Council for consideration of charges; if no wrongdoing is found, a full report will be released. Without providing a specific date, Youseff told Lunn the report will be out as soon as possible.

• Mayor Lunn congratulated WEGCSS on receiving a $15,000 FortisBC Community Giving Award. The funds will go toward new equipment, hardware, and software at the Learning Lab. Lunn received the grant funds along with Councillors Perriere and Van Byvens at the UBCM conference. In her mayor’s report, she said, “It was exciting to see the project highlighted [at the UBCM conference].”

• WEGCSS approached council to request the Village’s support for expanding the Food Bank Garden by providing a licence to occupy adjacent lots 6 and 7. Frances Frobb, Food Bank Garden Manager, said the organization would like to expand to include community boxes for residents, build a second greenhouse, potentially produce a cash crop, and secure composting.

With yields increasing annually over the past four years, Frobb said “they have fulfilled their mandate to provide the Food Bank with more nutritious fresh food.”

This is your opportunity to give feedback to your local Arts Council, and to have your say in our vibrant arts community.

Please come and renew your membership.

New Board Members welcome!

SILVERTON MEMORIAL HALL

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5TH 2017

12 NOON

YOU ARE INVITED

TO OUR COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH

THE SLOCAN LAKE GALLERY SOCIETY AGM

COME AND BREAK BREAD WITH US

SUMP TIOUS SOUPS & SEASONAL TREATS

INCLUSIVE VEGETARIAN & GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS

Come to the AGM of The Slocan Lake Gallery Society and enjoy a complimentary lunch. All are welcome.

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New Board Members welcome!
Silverton council, October 11: Forestry company engages with council

by Claire Paradis

• Councillor Bill Christian will be taking part in a field tour of proposed cutblocks in the Silverton watershed on October 19, hosted by Forestry Supervisor Brad Sindlinger of Splatsin Development Council. The Village of Silverton will be meeting with Sindlinger on October 18.

“I think it’s important because it’s obviously our back-up watershed that they’re going to be logging in,” said Christian. “We’ll get some eyes up there and see what’s going on with their plans.”

Mayor Clarke and Councillor Main agreed that it was “great” that these conversations are taking place.

Main added that “logging in consumptive watersheds is a big and growing issue... so it’s really important that we work with the logging companies.” She noted that some companies are better than others in terms of public engagement and that it was “up to us to be ever vigilant.”

• Slocan District Chamber of Commerce President Jan McMurray attended the meeting to ask for a letter of support and $650 for the ‘Sustainable Funding for Tourism (Phase 2)’ project. The project is being done in partnership with the Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce.

The result of the project will be an online video that will show the need for a Municipal and Regional District Tax Program (MRDT), otherwise known as the 2% hotel tax. The tax would be mandatory for accommodations with four or more accommodation units.

The study resulting from phase one of the project by Suzanne Denbak of Cadence Strategies reports that 38% of area accommodations with four or more rooms signed the petition in favour of the MRDT.

Eight more accommodations are supportive but want to see more details before they sign on.

The Chambers are asking the Villages of Nakusp, Silverton, New Denver, and Slocan, as well as RDCK Areas H and K, and Columbia Basin Trust for funding for the phase 2 project. The total project cost is $17,000.

McMurray explained that they would hire Suzanne Denbak to prepare the application, which includes a five-year marketing strategy, a year one tactical plan, and a budget. Also, a non-profit Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) would be set up and would be the applicant for the MRDT.

No planned power outage this fall submitted

The fall outage the BC Hydro planned for this season won’t happen, says spokesperson Jennifer Walker-Larsen.

“I am pleased to provide an update on the project we have underway to improve the transmission line servicing the Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton areas. Crews completed enough work during the last planned program. In phase 2, Denbak would also hold open houses in Nakusp and Silverton, where she would present the application package and gather feedback.

Mayor Jason Clarke asked if there was a plan to try to gain revenue from Airbnb. McMurray replied that accommodators with fewer than four units can voluntarily collect the MRDT. Strategies for “leveling the playing field” between accommodators with four units or more and those with less than four units would be discussed during phase 2, she said.

Councillor Leah Main said she was somewhat uncomfortable with contributing funds because she felt this was getting “dangerously close” to assistance to business.

Council agreed to write a letter in support of the project, and deferred the decision on the request for funds to the next meeting.

• Silverton has been putting away $500 each year to subsidize residents’ purchases of new, efficient wood stoves. Anyone who would like to buy a qualified stove can apply for the $1000 subsidy. Councillor Main requested that there be more education about this program, suggesting that posters and online information be used to raise awareness.

• Red Mountain Internet Society requested a letter of support to accompany an application for funds from RDCK Area H. RMIS wants to improve its infrastructure to supply service to the Hills area.

• Valhalla Fine Arts Society would like to buy $7,236 worth of stage tools for the community stage housed at Silverton Memorial Hall. The organization has received a $3,000 grant for the purchase, and is approaching the organizations that make use of the stage for contributions to make up the remaining $4,236. Councillor Main suggested that they apply for Silverton Community Initiatives Program funds, made available through CBT.

• The quarterly report from the Slocan RCMP detachment showed there were eight incidents of auto collisions were down from 17 to 12, and incidents involving alcohol or drugs were down from 31 to 14, while there was an increase from one to five cases of breaking and entering.

• BC Youth Parliament is working on a doctor recruitment film, with Health Committee Chair Colin Moss and New Denver Mayor Ann Bunka taking the lead on that project.

• Councillor Yofonoff reported from the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce meeting that traffic to the West Koot Route website was up this year.

• The Rain Barrel Program was an unmitigated success with all 50 barrels finding homes with Silverton residents, reported CAO Darrell Garceau.
Farewell interview with Jeff Jones, Superintendent of School District 8 Kootenay Lake

by Jan McMurray
Superintendent of School District 8 since August 1, 2010, Jeff Jones retires on October 31 this year.

“It has been an honour and a privilege to serve in this capacity,” Jones said in an interview. “I am hopeful for the District and our community. I wish our new Superintendent, Dr. Christine Perkins, all the very best in her journey!”

Here’s the rest of our interview.

What do you feel was your greatest accomplishment at SD8?
I have always believed that our structure and procedures, as well as our staff, are the key to our success. By focusing on these areas, we have been able to achieve excellent results.

What do you see as the greatest strength of SD8?
It’s people. I never cease to be amazed by the calibre of our students, their parents and other community members. We are very creative, very passionate and dedicated. Our parents and caregivers, and our extended community members, have invested in our school district and in making sure we are educating our students well and that they have optimal chances for life, work and further learning once they emerge as adults.

What are your retirement plans?
Overall, I plan to contribute in different ways. I have been involved in volunteer work and in different capacities for more than 10 years, and I will have framed my retirement as a chance to “open the doors to the universe” and let the journey come to me. Alex and I plan to stay in the area, with a bit of travel and a new adventure.

School District 10 Arrow Lakes working on strategic plan

By Jan McMurray
School District 10 Arrow Lakes board of education is working on its 2017-2022 strategic plan. Consultation meetings took place October 3-5 with students, staff and the public in New Denver, Nakusp, and Edgewood.

At the public meetings, SD 10 Board of Education Chair Lora Lee Brekke and Superintendent Terry Taylor gave brief presentations, followed by small group brainstorming sessions on five topics.

The five questions that each small group answered in a “World Café” style process were: What programs and structures are place that strengthen the learning environment and/or district operations? What programs or structures could the district consider to move the district from good to great? Are there any gaps or weaknesses that need to be addressed to support the learning environment and/or educational procedures? What’s happening in the district that best represents what you value most in your school district and are there any others to add?

By the end of the New Denver public meeting, the School District 10 Arrow Lakes board of education is working on its 2017-2022 strategic plan. Consultation meetings took place October 3-5 with students, staff, and the public in New Denver, Nakusp, and Edgewood.

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**COMMUNITY**

**SD 8 hosts follow-up meeting on facilities plan**

A follow-up Facilities Plan meeting for the Slocan Valley family of schools is taking place at the Appledale Hall on October 30, 6-8 pm.

Since August 2014, School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) has engaged its staff and communities in a long range facilities planning process. In order to ensure financial stability and educational success, the board embarked on a process of review of existing facilities and the ability of those facilities to meet increasing educational demands in the future.

Public consultation meetings were held in 2016 in all SD 8 ‘family of schools’ communities and the final facilities plan was approved by the board of education.

Since the spring of 2017, staff have been holding follow-up meetings, which highlight the decisions the board has made.

“We encourage citizens to come out and learn about your family of school’s community long range facility plan,” the SD 8 board says.

For more information, go to www.sd8.bc.ca/?p=3507.

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**Whole School creates Enchanted Forest Walk**

This year the Whole School is adding another fun fall fundraising event to the roster. In addition to the annual Blue Moon Coffee House event happening December 9, students’ families are organizing an Enchanted Hallowe’en Forest Walk for October 31 from 5 to 8 pm. Bowls of chili, a baked goods concession, and hot apple cider (fresh pressed from Press Fest) made from the students’ most recent food adventure – apple picking – will be served outside.

This Hallowe’en event is the culmination of a bountiful fall for Whole School students. The school’s curriculum focus this year is food—the planting, the growing, the gathering and, of course, the eating! The students collaborated with Kootenay Food’s Dayna Fidler to glean apples in a day. They harvested root veggies for their gardens, learned about cover crops in soil renewal while they harvested root veggies for their borscht and then, in their own garden, collected their prolific harvest of winter squash.

The Whole School permaculture garden still awaits the establishment of a water catchment system; however, even without the rainwater catchment system, their spring planting into the Hugel style garden produced more than 99 squashes. They grated and froze, baked and roasted, and cooked up the best squash soup ever in preparation for Harvest Lunch.

“The garden was surprisingly bountiful even without water with this garden bed system,” said school garden coordinator Ciaron Ward. “It was fun for all of us to experiment and see what would grow without water over the summer in the Hugel style garden.”

The environment and sustainability were significant themes for the students throughout last year. Students are still involved with the Bee Awareness observation ‘hives in schools’ pilot program, building their Whole School permaculture garden, studying bird habitat and migration, and picking up garbage as stewards of the Slocan Rail Trail. During this year’s food focused study, students will be visiting more farms and deciding what will be planted into their garden for birds, bees and other creatures as well as food for their own fall harvest.

The Whole School Enchanted Forest Walk will feature the students’ pumpkin lanterns. Families who are interested in participating can contact Kristan at 226-6747. This event is recommended for ages two to seven and the cost is $5 per child. Please reserve to ensure every child receives a goodie bag of treats. Come and join the Whole School on this special night!

For more information contact the school at wholeschool@gmail.com or call (250) 226-7373.
Six candidates vie for electoral support in Kaslo By-Election

By Peter Becker

Six candidates vie for electoral support in Kaslo By-Election

Molly Leathwood
What’s your background?
My parents moved to Kaslo when I was 2 for my dad to work in the Bluebell Mine. Growing up in Kaslo taught me several things, but most important was a sense of community and that communities survive and flourish because of people who give back. My parents volunteered much of their time, though we had a big family. My mom was the school trustee for more than 20 years and my dad spent several years on council as well. I have tried to follow in their paths by doing both. At 32, I went back to school to get my Bachelor of Education. I am currently completing my Master’s in Distance Education, something I feel is important for rural students. I moved away from Kaslo for a time, but moved back when I had children, knowing this was THE only place to raise them. I have been employed by School District 8 for 22 years as both a teacher and administrator. I spent 12 years as councillor for the Village of Kaslo – a big learning curve that only fortified my belief in the strength of community we have.

Why are you running?
I am running for three reasons. One, I love Kaslo. I have a vested interest in making sure that businesses thrive and are all treated the same, that the people are represented by a council that makes good informed decisions as a group and that everyone’s voices are heard and considered. Two, in both my professional and political life, there are two things I have learned. One is that good communication is key. Without good communication, assumptions are made and people are disheartened. As a previous councillor, I made it my mission to communicate effectively with the public. I instigated a Twitter page that was published both electronically and in print for people to read what was happening on council. The second thing I learned was that people have a right and need to be heard. Though there are intelligent, committed people on council, we don’t have all the answers and we need to hear what the community thinks or wants. Good, informed decisions are made by listening to all sides and considering people’s opinions. I know, as a previous councillor, that some decisions have to made quickly and that is when we put our faith in the people sitting at the table to make a good decision for us, with correct information. The third and last reason I am running is that council needs to be representative of all the voices in our community, from senior citizens to youth, and I feel I can be that person.

Henry Van Mill
What’s your background?
I have been married for 34 years and have three children, three grandchildren, and two grand-dogs. I’ve been a permanent resident of Kaslo for 10 years. I am currently on the board of directors and am actively involved with Kaslo Search and Rescue. I have served on the board of the Abbey Manor, Kaslo Curling Club, and the Water Street Committee. Before I moved to Kaslo, I served as a Chamber of Commerce president and a Kinsmen Club president. I have held positions on economic development, travel and tourism committees, and initiated a local junior football program. I am an entrepreneur at heart and past owner of several successful businesses.

Why are you running?
I am committed to Kaslo. Our community is a unique destination point where we need to evolve, mature and nurture what we have and keep an open dialogue amongst all to expand forward. I will put in all my effort to embrace the challenges that our community faces and will be part of the process to find resolutions.

Michael Halliday
What’s your background?
My love of ancient and medieval history prompted me to study history and political science at Capilano College, where I also served for two terms as elected Ombudsman. I sat on the John Howard (criminal justice) Society board of directors and studied stock brokering, real estate, mutual funds and insurance. I’ve run interest related retail and online businesses and traded at fairs and conventions in the US and Europe with my family. From our certified organic farm in England, we sold produce, eggs and many local and imported organic foods. In BC, we ran a successful natural landscape gardening business. My wife and I love being Mr. & Mrs. Claus and await another magical season! I’m offering a spring lecture through Selkirk College Community Education in Kaslo and Nakusp on goal setting. We have lived in and travelled many countries. After an awesome visit to the region five years ago and a lot of research, we decided Kaslo was the community our family wanted to be part of.

Why are you running?
I’m running to help protect the Kaslo way, where we are all neighbours. I’m very concerned about losing our freedoms and sense of community to ill thought bylaws. Council is implementing bylaws that negatively affect all of us, our way of life, small businesses and tourism operators. I believe we need more transparency – there are issues people aren’t aware of, some serious enough to potentially threaten our lifestyle. I want the community to be a lot more informed of the issues and have a lot more say on them. We need to address social issues, such as affordable housing and food security. I know solutions that I think would be easy to implement, that would ease up the housing problem, create more employment and many more effectively support small businesses, without changing the Kaslo way of life. And I would like to see a ban on pesticides.

John Rasmussen
What’s your background?
At the end of October, Kaslo will have been my home for over four years. Prior to that, Toronto was what I called home and it had been since the day I was born, except for my time at the University of Waterloo where I received a Bachelor of Economics.

While in Toronto, I worked for various organizations, such as Geneva Centre for Autism (children’s respite and social skills programs), Teranet a company working on the provincial property registration system), and for a brief period with the Toronto PWA (People with AIDS) Foundation.

Since coming to Kaslo, and finally fulfilling the dream of leaving city life behind, I have worked at a couple of establishments on Front Street – the Bluebelle Bistro and the Kaslo Hotel. Both of these experiences, as well as the people I’ve met who took the time to talk to me have taught me a lot about the Kootenays. I can’t wait to listen and learn more as I know I’ve only scratched the surface.

Why are you running?
My first few months in Kaslo were filled with their share of ups and downs but through it all, it was a sense of community as I had never experienced before that gave me strength. And now, I want to give back to the community that gave me so much.

I am dedicated to the future of Kaslo. This is where I hope to stay. Working on Front Street has given me the opportunity to witness the impacts of our community’s issues and to understand the urgency with which they must be dealt.

Although I have no political background, I realize by listening to the people I come in contact with is that all they really want is to be listened to and heard. Being able to listen to the people you represent needs to be the primary role of any councillor and takes no political experience. That only comes with opportunity. And what better opportunity than a by-election with a one-year term?

Dustin East
What’s your background?
I have over five years experience working as a municipal special projects clerk (Administration and Finance) where I gained high level knowledge about city operations and the process of creating change. Recently in Kaslo, I have worked on numerous community and economic development projects including: Farm Food Fork 2016 - Growing Entrepreneurs; ‘Kickstart Kaslo’ (Business Retention and Expansion Project); Project Comeback (bringing back our youth); and Kaslo Jazz Fest. I am currently the vice president of the Kaslo Rail Trail. I believe I would bring considerable political experience and knowledge to the council table.

Why are you running?
Kaslo faces many important challenges. My current interests are: addressing affordable housing; identifying and fostering sustainable economic and job creating business opportunities; and ensuring our Village has an appropriate Community Wildfire Protection Plan. While these are my interests, I would like to be advised of the thoughts and ideas Kaslo voters would like to share with me. I have a website where you can share comments https://greglay.wixsite.com/graylay or email me at GregLayCouncil@gmail.com.

Greg Lay
What’s your background?
Kaslo has been my home for the past five years – living, working and being. My involvement in municipal politics has created for me a strong sense of place in our community. Several citizens approached me to run in the by-election. After thoughtful reflective consideration, I accepted their nomination. If elected, I believe I would bring considerable political experience and knowledge to the council table.

Why are you running?
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Vallican Whole raring to go

submitted

Now that fall is here, the Vallican Whole Community Centre is shifting into gear and proceeding full speed ahead. The first exciting news is the Kootenays’ finest dance floor has been totally refinished, and sparkles like new. “Knotty Roots, the floor refinishers, were so inspired by the Whole’s beautiful new doors that I think they took it on as a bit of a challenge to do an impeccable refinishing job. What wonderful local craftspeople we have in our community!” says Tamara Smith, Whole administrator.

In celebration, the Whole will present Caswion’s ‘Wild Organic Humans’ on November 11. Two board members saw this band in action and became instant fans. “They are so danceable, you just couldn’t stay seated. They have a wildly eclectic mix of music, and I swear sometimes the young woman lead singer seems to be channeling Janis Joplin!” Tickets are $12 in advance at www.VallicanWhole.com.

Whole Perspectives, a three-part series of information sessions tackling important issues of our times, is co-hosting a workshop based partly on Joanna Macy’s ‘Work That Reconnects’ on November 17 and 18. Facilitated by Marya B, K. Linda Kivi and Gabriel Keczan, this is about building hope so that we can create the future we want.

In the spring, Kori Doty will present an evening on gender issues, what it all means and why it matters. The third offering will address the renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty, what is on the table and what it will mean to us here. The events committee is lining up some pretty powerful speakers for this one, so stay tuned.

Of course on January 27 the Winter Locavores’ Feast will bring people out from their festivus cabins with home-grown food in hand. This year marks the return of the silent auction. If anyone wants to donate (services, artwork and crafts, sporting goods, gift certificates to local businesses etc.), please email info@vallicanwhole.com.

Then comes the pièce de résistance, the ‘Up Close and Intimate’ series. This three-part spring extravaganza of exceptional entertainment will feature Cabaret Intime with Eva Tree and Friends as the opening performance, followed by two more outstanding presentations. The Whole is excited to welcome twice Juno-nominated Maria Dunn, a noted Alberta musician with a strong labour sensibility, at the end of April. Somewhere in the midst of all this will be an extraordinary theatre/performance piece, still in negotiation. Series tickets will be on sale online at the end of October. A great Christmas present that lasts till the end of spring!

Then of course there are all those events put on by the Whole, like the African Dinner with the Grassroots Grammars on October 21, the Full Moon All Hallows’ Eve on October 28, and the Seasonal Singalong with the Vallican Whole Community Choir on December 17. Of course, all these events require lots of volunteer energy, so to get involved with this lively bunch, contact info@vallicanwhole.com.

KASLO & NEW DENVER Community Pharmacies

November is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Pink Sale: all month long
30% off all primarily pink products!

Help raise funds for the Breast Cancer Society of Canada’s Pledge Your Support for TEAM IDA – Kaslo & New Denver Pharmacies

Come into the store and sign the pledge form or pledge your support online at dressforthecause.ca

It’s a book that moves deftly among a range of voices — voices at different ages, and in different languages and cultures. In Other Words is, above all, about an adventure in language, about how we are changed and shaped by moving into a realm of other words.”

— author Stan Persky

BOOK LAUNCH

Join us for the launch of In Other Words

A memoir by Norbert Ruesba

featuring special guest Rika Ruesba

duo folkloric & singer

Thursday, November 9th, 7 pm

Knox Hall, New Denver

SUSTAINABILITY MONTH

Tales From The Fisherman’s Market

WE KNOW WHERE OUR FISH COMES FROM

I truly believe the salvation of our oceans is one of the most important global topics we are facing in our generation. Having worked so closely all my life with the ideals of a cleaner, more sustainable ocean, and having witnessed firsthand the changes in commercial fishing and environmental consciousness on the West Coast I can honestly say it is within our grasp to alter the way things are done.

By supporting the idea of buying seafood that is harvested in the wild using proper fishing techniques, we are on the right path. The West Coast is an absolute treasure; a final bastion of what our oceans have to offer the world.

Next time you buy something at Fisherman’s market feel free to ask these important questions, “How was it caught?”, “Where is it from?”, and “Is this the right product for my family and my ideals”. It is the knowledge of this industry passed from fishmonger to the consumer that will make the difference.

I know that farmed fish has gotten a bad reputation over the years, and justly so. We never sell farmed salmon. There are just too many questions remaining and the ones that have been answered already have had a negative impact on our coastline. So many companies have tried to make a quick buck feeding the masses without asking themselves the effect they will have on the environment or the products that they sell. At the Fisherman’s Market we are proud members of the Ocean Wise program and we are doing our best to make properly farmed fish known and accepted as a healthy and responsible choice. With a wealth of local and wild products still at your disposal, farmed fish may not make your dinner plate quite yet, but find comfort in the fact that we at Fisherman’s Market supply healthy and environmentally healthy options for all of your seafood needs.

This month is sustainability month at the Fisherman’s Market. Come on down and see what the future has in store.

WWW.THEFISHERMANSMARKET.CA
Co-op’s Fuel Good Day raises $570K across Western Canada

submitted by Federated Co-operatives Ltd.

A lot can happen when you work together. This fall, Co-op teamed up with thousands of Western Canadians to raise more than $570,000 for registered charities and non-profits — all in a single day.

We called it Fuel Good Day. “With the support of Co-op members and customers, Fuel Good Day is assisting dozens of local organizations and causes, creating a wave of positive activity that spans Western Canada,” said Cal Fischer, Vice-President Energy with Federated Co-operatives Limited, which is owned by more than 190 independent retail co-operatives across Western Canada.

“This is something that we can all feel good about. As a Co-op member, you’re an owner in a local business that delivers important services, shares profits and makes investments that enrich your community and your neighbours.”

Local actions, big results

On September 19, more than 380 Co-op Gas Bars throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and northwest Ontario participated in Fuel Good Day. As part of the event, a minimum of five cents from every litre of fuel sold at these locations was donated to registered charities and non-profit organizations in their region. The $570,000 raised on Fuel Good Day will be shared by more than 160 local organizations and causes throughout Western Canada. The Slocan Valley Co-op participated, and the Community Harvest Food Bank and WEC Graham Community Service Society’s Slocan Valley Food Cupboard were the beneficiaries. A complete list of local retail co-operatives and charities that participated in Co-op’s Fuel Good Day is available at coopfuel.ca.

Celebrate Co-op Week

From October 15 to 21, Co-op is joining other co-operatives, as well as credit unions, in recognizing Co-op Week.

The week-long celebration acknowledges the contributions of all co-operatives across Canada to meeting the economic and social needs of their members and communities. Together, these community-based businesses and organizations support more than 600,000 jobs and contribute over $50 billion to the economy, according to the Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network. More information about Co-op Week, as well as the values and principles of co-operatives, is available at canaco.ca.

About Federated Co-operatives Limited and the Co-operative Retailing System

Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL), based in Saskatchewan, is the 60th largest company in Canada and the largest non-financial co-operative in Canada. FCL is a unique multi-billion dollar wholesaling, manufacturing, marketing and administrative co-operative owned by more than 190 autonomous retail co-operatives across Western Canada. Together FCL and those local retail co-operatives form the Co-operative Retailing System (CRS). The CRS serves our members and communities with products and services that help build, feed and fuel individuals and communities from Vancouver Island to western Ontario. Our total workforce of 24,500 employees serves 1.8 million active member individuals and many more non-member customers at 2,500 retail locations in almost 600 communities.

We are a different kind of business — we are locally invested, community-minded and offer lifetime membership benefits including mileage refunds, quality products, quality service and fair prices. More information is available at www.fcl.ca.

Canadian Co-operative Investment Fund in the works

submitted

Canadian co-operatives and their one member one vote structure. Launching with an initial $25 million, the fund is open to investment by accredited investors across Canada. CCIF anticipates funding its first investment in early 2018. For more information on investing in the CCIF or for details on how co-operatives can qualify for financing from the fund, contact Community Forward Assistance Fund.

What types of Co-operatives are there? Reprinted from learningcentre.coop

The co-operative model is as flexible as any organizational structure and may be applied to the social services sector, used to create shared infrastructure, as well as to pursue business ventures. Common types of co-operatives include:

• Retail Co-operatives, whose members are, more often than not, the very patrons of their establishment, buying a share in the co-op as a prerequisite to shopping. These co-operatives tend to be governed by a board of directors elected by the membership annually or bi-annually.

• Credit Unions, whose members similarly invest in a share in the organization as a prerequisite of participation, and generally elect a board of directors.

• Service Provider Co-operatives, whose members generally share in the costs of renting or purchasing the space, and/or materials necessary for their work as a co-operative. In these instances, direct democracy is usually the prevalent method of decision-making.

• Housing Co-operatives often spring up in areas where residential costs are high and offer a method for increasing living standards, one’s sense of community, and safety. These co-ops work similarly to Service Provider Co-ops in that they are usually directed by first-person democratic exchange; often they work on the consensus model.

There are many more types of common co-operatives,

Co-op’s Fuel Good Day raises $570K across Western Canada

The Valley Voice October 19, 2017

SIFCo
Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative
...working with you to foster community and ecological health

Box 189, Winlaw, BC, V0G 2J0
www.sifco.ca
email: office@sifco.ca • phone: 250-226-7012

Co-operative
Slocan Valley
Celebrating Co-op Week is celebrating your Co-op!
Traditions that started decades ago remain the cornerstone of who we are today. A promise to stay local, a commitment to community and a business model that shares profits with anyone who chooses to become a member. It’s the way Co-operatives help to make a difference right where you live.
If you’re a member, you’re an owner and we thank you for your business. If you’re not already a member, we invite you to become one.

- Locally Invested - Community Minded - Lifetime Membership Benefits

Box 10 • 3024 Hwy 6 • Slocan Park, BC • V0G 2E0
Phone: 250-226-7433 Fax: 250-226-7916
Website: www.slocanvalleycoop.ca

CO-OP
Slocan Valley
Co-operative Association

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The co-operative grocery story has never been more important

submitted by the Kootenay Co-op

The food landscape is always changing, but co-operative grocery’s role has never been more important.
The first food buying co-operative in Canada was founded after World War II, and the next wave of grocery co-operatives emerged in the 1970s in response to a growing desire for healthy foods. While processed and frozen foods flooded the supermarkets, a counter-cultural force emerged demanding brown rice and whole grains, unprocessed foods like beans and lentils, and fresh vegetables.

Locally, advocates for health and ecology founded the Kootenay County Store Cooperative in 1972. In the 1980s and 1990s, traditional businesses and well-resourced grocery stores caught on to consumer demands for whole and healthy foods. New stores emerged to compete with co-operatives, and traditional stores expanded their selection of “natural” foods. Like many grocery co-operatives, the Kootenay Co-op struggled to find its niche. Members and customers made it clear, however, that the Kootenay Co-op’s main advantage lay at the core of its business-model: community ownership.

Over the last 42 years, community members and citizens have increasingly come to appreciate food that is good for their community as well as for people and for planet, and that’s where the Kootenay Co-op stands out. Our new store on Baker Street is owned by our 12,000+ members, governed by an elected board of directors, and operated by a professional staff dedicated to our mission, vision, and values. We run our store for community benefit, not for profit.

Since we run our store for community, we pay our workers above-average wages with above-average benefits, totaling over $4.2 million last year. We dedicate a part-time position to help producers within 100 miles of our store, and last year, we purchased $3.5 million worth of local goods. More importantly, every dollar we earn above our costs stays in our community, through donations, member discounts, member dividends, and re-investment in the future of our co-operative.

The Kootenay Co-op’s new store in downtown Nelson is the linchpin to the co-op’s future sustainability.

Co-op Week - another reason to celebrate

submitted by Zoe Creighton, UCCC

Co-op Week is a national celebration of the impact co-ops and credit unions have on our local communities and around the world. The annual event is anchored around International Credit Union Day, which this year falls on Thursday, October 19.

The Upper Columbia Co-op Council (UCCC) is a regional association of co-ops and credit unions, with members from throughout the West and East Kootenay. In addition to helping to develop successful new co-ops, and supporting our members in collaborations and organizational development, the UCCC holds events each Co-op Week to convene co-operators from around the region. This year, the organization hosted a presentation by author John Restakis on ‘Co-operation, Feminism, and Environmentalism in Northern Syria’ – a look into inspiring developments into a unique direct democracy in a Kurdish enclave in the north of that country.

Closer to home, exciting developments in the co-op sector abound. The largest community investment co-operative in BC was incorporated this spring in Creston, allowing Creston Valley residents to redirect RRSP and other investments into local projects. Revelstoke is seeing a surge in co-operative activity, centered around Co-Lab, a new co-operative working space; Kootenay Boundary Food Producers’ Co-op is working with its growing membership of producers from Nakusp, Winlaw, Salmo, Creston, Argenta and all points in between to build a secure regional food economy; and local credit unions are in discussions about how to ramp up their collaborations to better serve their members.

Our part of the province has traditionally, and out of necessity, lent itself to interdependence among neighbours and neighbouring communities. This cultural, values-based, and economic predisposition has resulted in a vibrant co-op sector that is unique in Canada – and people are watching. We hear reports of clusters of intense co-operation in places like Emilia Romagna in Italy, Mondragon in the Basque region of Spain, and among the organoponicos in Cuba. The West Kootenay is developing a reputation as a part of this country that has the potential to parallel these co-operative economies – and this is indeed, something to celebrate - during Co-op Week, and throughout the entire year!

The UCCC is eager to hear from groups interested in exploring a co-operative enterprise. When used to its fullest capacity, the co-op model is infinitely adaptable, and can be applied to employment-generating projects, succession of retiring businesses, non-profit endeavours, as well as the growing sectors of community investment and clean energy.

This Co-op Week, we encourage people to learn a little bit more about our local co-ops and credit unions – do some research, talk to some people – and grow your understanding of how these values-based businesses and associations have helped to build our celebration-worthy communities.

More on the UCCC at www.uccc.coop.

Our upcoming greenspace will add much needed public seating and greenery to the downtown, while our café and teaching kitchen host an array of community events, from artist openings to cooking classes to lectures. Progressive advocates of healthy food and a healthy planet founded our co-operative 42 years ago, and we plan to continue to innovate in order to reflect the values and priorities of our community.

Our board of directors recently updated our vision statement, declaring, “We envision thriving communities with resilient food systems, where all people have access to affordable food that is healthy for our bodies, our communities, and the earth.” If you share our vision, we invite you to join us as a member, as a food citizen, and as a participant in the life of our community.

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Petition calls on local governments to adopt renewable energy plan

by Katrine Campbell

The West Kootenay EcoSociety wants local governments in the region to adopt a target of using 100% renewable energy by 2050 for all transportation, and bringing green jobs to the region.

The petition requires one-third of residents’ signatures; about 50 people have signed so far, Fyke says. Dean Spankie, Janice Found and Kamal Aksouy also stepped forward to help canvass.

Reaction has been almost totally positive so far, Fyke says; the only doubt came from a few residents who drive back and forth to Alberta, wondering if they could, in good conscience, sign the petition. Getting enough signatures is useful for two reasons, he says.

“It provides evidence that there is support within the community for the adoption of this target, and it is a vehicle through which we can start conversations with residents about sustainable energy. It also allows us to listen to their ideas, hear their concerns, and gather feedback.”

“With one-third of New Denver residents supporting the change, we hope to build enough groundswell support to give the Village of New Denver the social license to adopt this target. The transition to 100% renewables is extremely complex and will require a lot of planning and consultation.”

“Through this petition we are asking the Village of New Denver to not only adopt this target but to develop a detailed transition plan on how we will reach 100% renewables by 2050. We are asking them to focus on four main areas: power generation, building, transportation, and bringing green jobs to the region.”

Fyke says the EcoSociety is building a network of committed volunteers, community leaders, community organizations, business and local experts to support the Village of New Denver to develop this plan. The plan should consider all options available, he says, recommend projects with the lowest cost/ highest return first, and plan for larger, more expensive projects in the future. It should include input and meaningful consultation from the community, local business and stakeholders.

“The target is ambitious,” says Fyke, “but we need to aim high to reduce the effects of climate change in the most effective way possible. It’s also in line with where science says we need to be in order to avoid the worst of the climate crisis that is already upon us.

“If we don’t want to leave our children and grandchildren to fix the problems we’ve created. There’s hope for a brighter and sustainable future if we act now.”

Small Business Week is a national celebration of Canadian entrepreneurs and their contribution to Canada’s economy. John Horgan, Premier, and Katrine Conroy, MLA for Kootenay West, are proud to support all small business owners and workers.

Katrine Conroy, MLA
Kootenay West
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Slocan Valley receives funding for economic development

by Jan McMurray

The BC government has announced the recipients of the latest round of Rural Dividend grants, and the Slocan Valley Regional Economic Development Implementation Plan Project is on the list. The project has been approved for $159,600.

“The target is ambitious,” says Fyke, “but we need to aim high to reduce the effects of climate change in the most effective way possible. It’s also in line with where science says we need to be in order to avoid the worst of the climate crisis that is already upon us.

“If we don’t want to leave our children and grandchildren to fix the problems we’ve created. There’s hope for a brighter and sustainable future if we act now.”

The three Slocan Valley Villages (New Denver, Silverton and Slocan) and RDCK Area H are partners on the project, which will develop an implementation plan based on the recommendations of the Regional Economic Development Strategy. The strategy was completed in April this year by EDCD Consulting. The strategy report is available on the Village of Slocan website (slocancity.com) under The Village, Slocan News.

Rural Dividend grants totaling $10.1 million were announced in this round. In the Kootenays, other grants are going to Community Futures Central Kootenay ($100,000); Kootenay Association for Science & Technology ($100,000); Kootenay Employment Services Society ($99,840); Merry Creek Trail System near Castlegar ($50,000); Morning Mountain to Nelson (via Cottonwood Lake) Trans Canada Trail Project ($88,155); East Shore Enhanced Tourism Education Program ($100,000).
The Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce has been focusing on two main tourism projects this year, which will continue in the year to come.

The Nakusp Visitor Centre employed two adults and two students this summer. Visitors and locals alike gave the staff rave reviews. Visitors were down overall this year compared to last year, although May and June (before the fire season) were higher. The largest number of our visitors come from BC, followed by Alberta.

The Nakusp Visitor Centre successfully connects travellers and residents with local businesses. All our visitors are potential future residents who could enhance our business community.

The West Koot Route is a main tourism project this year, which is focusing on an initiative between the Nakusp & District, Slocan District, and Kaslo & Area Chambers. Check out the website (westkootroute.ca) and the West Koot Route visitor guide, “Take the Road Less Travelled,” which has been well received by our visitors.

The Nakusp Visitor Centre and Slocan District Chambers are now partnering on a project to prepare an application to the provincial government for the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT), also known as the hotel tax. This fee is paid by the travelling public and is processed through the provincial government’s PST collection system, so it does not place any added burden on local businesses or taxpayers. The funds collected through the tax are returned to the communities for the purpose of tourism marketing.

The MRDT is collected by accommodations offering four or more rooms. Fifty-four communities in BC already collect MRDT with great success. This generates $28 million that is used to promote those communities. This marketing fund is usually managed by a local Destination Marketing Organization, a non-profit set up specifically for this purpose.

A professional consultant was hired this spring to help with the exploratory phase one – to explain the MRDT to local accommodators, and collect the signatures of those who are committed to participating.

We are currently securing funding to move forward on phase 2, which will include confirming accommodators’ participation, holding open houses, and filing the provincial application for MRDT.

If you are interested in furthering either of these projects, please get in touch with us: nakusp@telus.net or 250-265-4234. We’re always happy to have energetic people join the Nakusp & District Chamber board of directors.

**Nakusp People’s Pharmacy changes to Nakusp PharmaChoice**

by Katrine Campbell

Since the first pharmacy opened in Nakusp there have been lots of changes in name and ownership, but Troy Clark hopes the latest change will bring great benefits to his customers.

People’s Pharmacy is no more; Clark has switched to PharmaChoice in order to tap into the buying power of a much larger operation. The store is now owned by large corporations.

Clark has switched to PharmaChoice for his customers.

The other reasons he switched was supply problems and that “Our wholesaler unilaterally stopped selling cosmetics. We have 16 feet of [shelving for] cosmetics!”

Nakusp PharmaChoice has two pharmacists, Shannon Hayber and Clark, and seven other staff members to serve their customers. The store is almost 13 years to New Denver and the Slocan Valley, delivering prescriptions in partnership with couriers in the area.

Nakusp & District and Slocan Valley, delivering prescriptions in partnership with couriers in the area.

**Supporting and Celebrating Small Business in Nakusp and Area**

Join us at our AGM on Wed Nov 8/17
For details go to www.nadb.ca
Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission

Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission working to improve local economy

submitted
Slocan Valley Economic What …? … well might you ask.

Who are we? What do we do?

Why? Are we making a difference?

Well, we are 10 of your business folks in similar stages of the 21st Century economy;

• Sponsoring a series of ‘Lunch & Learns’ on various business topics, engaging other business related service providers to come and talk to small groups of local businesspeople over lunch;

• Sponsoring a half-day Succession Planning workshop (with lunch!) as an opportunity to learn the options, and to network with other business folks in similar stages of their business development; and …

• Presenting this coming weekend two-half day workshops on Succession Planning and on Social Enterprise as an organizational option.

We will also continue to work with the Villages and the Regional District on developing a comprehensive regional economic development plan, and are awaiting the determination of our joint application for funding for this through the Rural Dividend Program.

We are always looking for opportunities to partner with other organizations and initiatives that will improve the economic development infrastructure of our region, by creating new partnerships and collaborations.

Slocan Valley EDC meets several times a year - our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 8 at 6 pm in Slocan at the Village Office. The public is always welcome to attend.

If you have any questions, or want to provide feedback, please feel free to contact us at slocanvalleyedc@gmail.com

at supporting economic growth in general, and business people’s skills in particular.

Yes, the Commission is called a Commission; we discuss, debate, consult, brainstorm and make decisions on actions that we believe can benefit the Slocan Valley economy in some way.

The coming year. Those activities include:

• Maintaining the www.slocanvalley.com website, which showcases the valley, communities, businesses and organizations, recreation, cultural opportunities and events, as well as being a place where the EDC itself can post information we have to share;

• Partnering with the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce and the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute on two Business Retention & Expansion surveys – one, for bricks & mortar businesses going on four years ago, and one this year focusing on home-based businesses. Each of those surveys has provided us with good information about the economic life – strengths and weaknesses – of our valley and all its communities. This information helps us develop programming aimed through the Rural Dividend Program.

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The Valley Voice celebrates a quarter-century

by Katrine Campbell

On December 11, 1992, something magical happened in New Denver: the first local newspaper in 84 years was published.

The first edition of the Valley Voice came together with editor Katrine Campbell and publisher Bonnie Greensword using the latest in technology—a one-Mb Mac Plus. Yes, that’s megabytes, not gigabytes. Thanks be for external hard drives….

The first Valley Voice was delivered to every mailbox in the Slocan Valley. Expansion to Nakusp and the Arrow to every mailbox in the Slocan Valley.

Bonnie Greensword, Katrine Campbell and publisher Dan Nicholson and editor Jan McMurray since 2003, the 20- to 24-page newspaper is sent electronically to the same printer in Vernon and returned by truck. Circulation has grown since then, as has the size of the paper. It remained a four-page for all of three months, then doubled to eight.

By the end of 1993, it was a 12-pager, then grew to 16 in late 1994. Now, 20 or 24 pages is the norm although larger editions appear at Christmas and Graduation. Total circulation is now 7,600 copies.

The Valley Voice was created when veteran reporter Katrine saw the need for a newspaper and talked to businesswoman Bonnie. They clicked, and the plans grew. The first paper appeared, and things haven’t been the same since.

Not being corporately owned, the Valley Voice has a mellow way of running, although it’s often like a duck gliding over a pond—what you don’t see is the frantic activity below the surface. When we contacted Bonnie to get her comments on the anniversary, her first reaction was dead silence, then, “What? WHAT? It can’t be that long… Oh, I feel old.” “It was very exciting, and I’m really glad you [Katrine] were there,” says Bonnie. “I would have been lost without you.”

The one thing that stands out in Bonnie’s memory is that support for the paper from the communities was excellent. “Through all the ups and downs of the economy they never failed to support us,” she said. “I’d walk in to a business to sell an ad, and I’d say ‘I want to spend $25 of your money in the next issue.’ They’d say okay, and I’d say ‘don’t you want to know what it’s for?’” For the first 10 years of the Valley Voice, Bonnie says she “go to go to all sorts of neat things. I was exposed to wonderful things and people and I never would have had the opportunity if not for the paper. It was a great experience but a tough job. I have to give Dan and Jan credit.”

In return, Jan says “Thanks to Bonnie and Katrine for starting the paper. There obviously was a need in the area, and it’s been such a pleasure to cover the news of these awesome communities.”

Dan is also thankful: “It’s been a lot of fun for the last 15 years. I often say take me out of a newspaper and suddenly I don’t have a lot of employable skills. There are very few jobs I am suited for, and publisher of a community newspaper is definitely one of them.”

To celebrate closer to the anniversary, the Valley Voice invites everyone to drop in to the office December 15 for cake and coffee. The office is open from 10 am to 5 pm. (Or thereabouts. Remember, we’re on valley time.)

New signage for New Denver at highway pullout

by Jan McMurray

The Village of New Denver has replaced the signage at the pullout on Hwy 6 just south of Carpenter Creek.

The four new signs, installed August 26, include a ‘Welcome to New Denver’ sign with photos and places of interest on a map; a ‘Shop Local’ sign with a business directory; a sign highlighting the Silvery Lakes, to Kaslo and north Kootenay Lake, was still in the future. The four-page paper was laid out using paper strips printed on a daisy wheel, glued to flats, overnighted to Vernon, and returned the next day on the bus.

Now under the leadership of new editor Jan McMurray, Speedpro in Nelson printed the signs, and the Public Works crew built the supporting structures and installed the signage.

The structure for the NIMC sign is different from the other three structures, which are made of pressure treated wood. The NIMC sign structure is made in Japanese style with raw, round timber, which the Mori Trail improvement project.

The Village has also installed timber frame signs at the east end of Slocan Avenue (recycling area) and at the foot of the main street as part of the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre.

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The Village has also installed timber frame signs at the east end of Slocan Avenue (recycling area) and at the foot of the main street as part of the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre.
Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce supports Small Business Month

The Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce its collaboration with the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce and the BC Rural Centre to initiate a First Impressions Program. The First Impressions Program uses volunteers from two neighbouring communities (Kaslo and New Denver/Silverton) who agree to do unannounced visits and then report on their findings. Working with the support of BC Rural Centre, participants become ‘secret shoppers’ for the day to discover what they can about their neighbouring communities. Once volunteer teams have conducted their visits and assessments, the communities meet to share feedback that highlights the strengths of the community while identifying areas that could benefit from some attention. The Slocan District Chamber team will present its findings about Kaslo on November 16 at 7 pm at the Langham. All are invited!

The Kaslo and Area Chamber welcomed a wide range of dynamic businesses and organizations to the Chamber this summer. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission

The nominate from delegations at each of our monthly meetings covering the following topics: affordable housing, renewable energy and the results of the Kaslo/D Silverton Energy Scan, agriculture innovation program hosted by Larder Valley Opportunity Society, and Central Kootenay Community Futures reviewing the Kaslo/D Business Expansion and Retention results. Our upcoming October meeting will have delegations from KIN to discuss the current state of broadband installations and the Commonplace committee.

As we near the end of our updates and social media posts all contributed to the Chamber’s membership success!

Contact John Addison, president of the Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce, at johnadd@gmail.com.

Secret shoppers come to Kaslo and New Denver-Silverton

This program, called First Impressions, is an initiative of the BC Rural Centre. Randy Morse, Kaslo resident and BC Rural Centre communications coordinator, approached the Kaslo & Area Chamber and the Slocan District Chamber to make the program happen in the ‘sister communities’ of Kaslo and New Denver-Silverton.

“We thought that these two communities were perfect for the program,” he said. “They are similar in many ways, and both have active community members that we thought would really enjoy participating. We’re hoping that each community is inspired to take action on something after getting feedback from their sister community, and we’d be really pleased if the two communities decided to work on something together.”

Members of both ‘secret shopper’ teams noted the strengths and weaknesses of each other’s community, and will present their findings at public meetings in Kaslo and Silverton. The New Denver-Silverton team will present its findings at a meeting in Kaslo on November 16 at 7 pm at the Langham. The Kaslo team will present its findings at the Silverton Memorial Hall, date and time to be announced.
Nakusp Taxi back in business and expanding operations

by Katrine Campbell

A wrong number – followed by many other wrong numbers – has led a Nakusp couple into a new business venture.

The moribund Nakusp Taxi company has been bought and revitalized by Michael and Andreea Myhal. They have added a shuttle van to the existing fleet (of one van) and plan a third vehicle to serve the Tri-Cities (Burton, Fauquier and Edgewood.)

Andrea explains the odd but seemingly inevitable sequence of events that led to their decision.

“When we moved to Nakusp two years ago and got a local landline, we kept getting random calls asking if we were Dave’s Taxi. A handful of calls in, we asked ourselves why we were getting these calls, so we asked the next caller. They had Googled for a taxi and this number had come up. It used to be the number for Dave’s Taxi.”

Then, one day the phone rang and Andrea told the caller to call Nakusp Taxi. He already had, and there was no answer. The caller was stuck in a ditch and in need of help, so Andrea sent Michael out to pick him up and bring him to town. That was followed by several more emergency pickups, and then someone asked why they didn’t start an obviously needed taxi business. Since Michael is a teacher (currently on maternity leave) and Andrea was also working, they didn’t follow up on the idea.

Until an early-morning call from a distraught elderly man in Abbotsford. His son’s car had broken down outside Nakusp, and his cellphone had packed it in. Once again, Good Samaritan Michael headed out to check on him and his dogs, taking a box of breakfast food with him.

“That’s the day I said ‘If nobody else does it, I think we will’”, Andrea says. The couple contacted Dennis O’Brien, the owner of Nakusp Taxi, and arranged to buy the business as a turnkey operation as “Dennis had things well set up.”

They hired back Lee Rooks, the company’s long-time driver, as well as taking shifts themselves. Rooks “is really knowledgeable and he’s good with people. He’s a lovely person and we are really happy to have him.”

Andrea put some business proposals to local organizations offering to provide transportation services, and got support. Today, the new red van is dedicated to a shuttle service to Halcyon Hot Springs, which she notes is “a little far for guests and staff to get to.”

Although Nakusp Taxi’s licence goes all the way to Cherryville, northeast to Trout Lake and south to Ainsworth, current plans for expansion are limited to Burton, Fauquier and Edgewood. Then, the next step is airport shuttle services to Kelowna, Castlegar and Trail.

In town, the drivers are kept busy doing pickups and deliveries, taking people to medical appointments, and getting bar patrons safely home. “So many seniors don’t have cars,” Andrea says. “When the taxi disappeared it left a gap in services; there isn’t enough public transit and so many people don’t drive.”

Both Myhals have a military background, which included defensive driving training and “tons of night driving.” Waiting in the wings to help out are several retired commercial drivers.

“It’s a very cool team. I’m very, very excited!”

Nakusp Taxi, 250-265-8222.

Free workshops for businesses

by Jan McMurray

Two free workshops for businesses will be held this Saturday, October 21 at Slocan Park Hall.

Succession Planning is the morning workshop (9:30 am-12:30 pm) and Social Enterprise (a not-for-profit business model) is the afternoon workshop (1:30 pm-4:30 pm). In between the two workshops, a light lunch will be provided for registrants.

The Succession Planning workshop is back by popular demand after a very successful session last fall at Lemon Creek Lodge. The best time to start thinking about selling your business is before you need to, so now is the time to take this workshop.

The Social Enterprise business model is becoming more and more popular. “Whether operated by a non-profit organization or by a for-profit company, a social enterprise has two goals: to achieve social, cultural, community economic and/or environmental outcomes; and, to earn revenue,” states the BC Centre for Social Enterprise website.

The workshops are hosted by the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission in partnership with the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce and the Basin Business Advisors. More information can be found at www.slocanvalley.com.
Heart Creek project to open up more fish habitat

Area author launches The Goddess Lives in Nelson and Nakusp

Area author Agnes Toews-Andrews is launching her ninth book. In 2015, the construction of an 18-metre long, clear-span bridge at Heart Creek near Fauquier successfully allowed fish to access approximately 250 metres of spawning and rearing habitat. Now, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), has set its sights on a bigger goal: opening a further 1.2 kilometres of prime upstream fish habitat.

Phase I of the project, with the construction of the bridge in 2015, that replaced a hanging culvert that was a major fish barrier, resulted in kokanee spawning in a section of stream where they had not been observed for 35 years.

Phase II of the project will involve replacing a hanging culvert – again a major fish barrier – underneath Applegrove Road upstream of the new bridge. To help achieve this goal, MOTI, with funding from the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program once again, has laid the groundwork for the design of the fish passage improvement at Applegrove Road. In 2017, it hired Sea to Sky Drilling to determine the soils at the crossing site, as well as Northwest Hydraulic Consultants for a hydrotechnological assessment of replacement options.

These options included reconstruction of the channel up to the existing culvert to make it fish passable; construction of a new multi-plate culvert; a new bridge; or the construction of a bottomless arch culvert.

The preferred option chosen, after a cost/benefit was undertaken, was to construct another clear-span bridge. The plan is to reduce the width of the road above to a single lane which will reduce the costs of building a 40-metre clear-span bridge. It will have a life expectancy of approximately 75 years.

MOTI is now entering the design phase for such an installation, and construction work is expected to occur in 2018.

Kate Tupper, local sculptor, has donated her 2008 steel sculpture ‘Modern Wingback’ to the Village of Nakusp. The sculpture has been installed along the waterfront walkway so people can enjoy the view while sitting on the piece of art. Mayor Hamling is pictured with Kate Tupper accepting the donation on behalf of the Village. Mayor Hamling says she’s thrilled to receive a piece of art from Kate Tupper. “I have admired her work for years and it is a beautiful gift to our community and waterfront,” she said.

Many polio victims couldn’t breathe on their own because of paralysis in their chest muscles. The iron lung — a simple, air-tight chamber that regulates air pressure — kept patients breathing until the paralysis passed. At the peak of the epidemic, rows of iron lung ventilators filled hospital rooms.

In 1952 alone, nearly 60,000 cases were reported in the US. As the weather warmed up each year, panic intensified. Late summer brought new cases with a virus, was one of the most feared diseases in the US and Canada. The fear was well grounded. By 1979, the virus had been completely eliminated worldwide. The virus had been completely eliminated from the world. The virus was one of the most feared diseases in the US and Canada.

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World Polio Day: October 24

Please drop by at the Rotary table in front of the Nakusp Overwaitea on October 24 to find out more about participating in the ‘Dollars for Polio’ campaign.

In 1955, the US began widespread vaccinations. By 1979, the virus had been completely eliminated across the country.

Now polio is on the verge of being eliminated from the world. The virus remains endemic in only two parts of the globe: northern Nigeria and the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.
Kaslo council, September 19: New boat slips for Kaslo Bay approved

by Jan McMurray

• Council approved the Development Permit application by the Marina Ridge Boating Society for the installation of 30 new boat slips in front of the blue-roofed condonominiums in Kaslo Bay. The slips will be for the private use of condo owners.
• The owners recently formed the Marina Ridge Boating Society. The society has secured a tenure from the Province for the foreshore fronting the condominium property, and has met all provincial requirements.

A letter to council from the chair of the Marina Ridge Boating Society, Jane Toppozini, states that the new docks will be constructed of aluminum frames, PVC-encapsulated steam-injected floats and composite decking. “This is a very sustainable docking system and will last for years...” she says. Toppozini adds that there will be “no alterations to the land, as existing access to the waterfront will be utilized.”

The CAO’s staff report to council says that the exclusive use of the docks for condo owners “does arguably conflict with some of the policy guidelines of Section 5 of the OCP as the loss of the

Kaslo Bay Marina being cleaned up

by Jan McMurray

The boathouses, open docks, and other structures in the marina on the north side of Kaslo Bay are being cleaned up, reports the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

This past winter, one boathouse sank, and the Province removed the open docks and the bait/tackle shop, which were deemed unsafe.

The southernmost boathouse, known as Boathouse A, has been dealt with through a Land Act tenure issued to the upland owner. Boathouse B has very recently been removed by the Crown, and the Marina Ridge strata condominium owners have been granted a licence to construct new open docks there.

Two boathouses, a dock, and the gas pump were recently sold to individuals through the BC infrastructure initiatives.

Volunteers time to get organized and raise funds. A letter of thanks will go to Kootenay Robusters.
• Staff will draft a water conservation policy based on the RDCK’s. Last summer, McDonald Creek water users were subject to RDCK policy, which is moderately different from the Village’s. McDonald Creek residents live within RDCK boundaries but are supplied with Village water. The CAO recommended harmonization of the two policies to avoid unnecessary confusion.
CLASSIFIED ADS

GARDENING & GROWING GREAT GARLIC, offers workshops in Four Season
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ongoing business training and coaching. And if
you’re simply are feeling stuck or uninspired.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SLOCAN MASONIC LODGE meets at
Knoll Hall in New Denver October, and
November – fourth Friday. We meet with
the Nakusp Lodge, December 9.

PARKS

DEATH
Death Café is a facilitated conversation about
dying, and living fully – a conversation that
starts with your questions. Please join us
on a journey of exploration and discovery
through the territory where tenderness, heart
break, love, fear and gratitude live side by
side. Refreshments provided. Limited space
(20); please register by emailing sales@ netlife.ca. Sponsored by New Denver Hospice and WIDE SPOT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

SANDOWN HISTORIC SOCIETY LECTURE
Sunday, October 29, 2 pm, at the Outlet Youth
Centre on New Denver’s main street.
SLOCAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY presents one Authors Reading this fall featuring two writers, Barbara Curry Mulcahy of Slocan and Emily Nilsen of Nelson. Enjoy
poems and stories in a comfortable setting.
Sunday, October 29, 1 pm.

HALLOWE’EN DANCE
Saturday, October 28 starting at 9 pm. Legion Hall
501 Harland St, Slocan. Doors open 8:30 pm.
ROCKS. Tickets $12 ea. at Mountain Valley
502 Harold St., Slocan. Music by RUCKUS
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
October 19, 2017

**INVITING ALL KOOTENAY CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS or people wishing to start one,** to the First Annual Clubs Day in Kaslo, October 27, 1-5 pm at the St Andrew’s Heritage Hall. Deep in anytime to chat with representatives of various clubs and organizations, learn about their contributions to Kootenay society, and maybe start a new hobby! For anyone wishing to present or start their own club or group, please contact me for free display space. Miriam at miroth@skynet.ca.

**A $$ in Kaslo**

**HELP WANTED**

**The Langham Cultural Society, Kaslo, seeks a dynamic, energetic, and innovative Curator for a part-time position to begin January 2018. The Curator reports to the Executive Director and is responsible for researching, curating and installing exhibits in the Langham’s two galleries. The Langham is a 43-year-old non-profit for charitable arts and heritage community organization which is housed in a 121-year-old heritage building. The Langham is committed to offering a wide variety of stimulating and educational arts, culture, and heritage programs for all ages and talents. Applications will be accepted by electronic transmission only until 8 pm PDT on Monday November 13, 2017. Please no phone calls, or inquiries of Langham staff or board members. Contact only langham@netidea.com for a detailed job description and where to send applications or visit website www.thelangham.ca.

**PART-TIME, RELIABLE, CARING PERSON** for caregiving, housekeeping and respite for my brother with cerebral palsy. For any questions, please contact Marie-Ange Fournier-Beck, 250-231-2174.

**Nakusp PharmaChoice** is looking to hire a person that can handle delivery medications to the residents of New Denver, Nakusp and area. Confidentiality required. Criminal record check required. Please send resume to nakusppharmachoice@gmail.com

**Nakusp Advance Tickets**

**Non-Commissioned Agent** for local travel agency. Full commission for all bookings. Please contact Marie-Ange Fournier-Beck, 250-231-2174.

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**Saturday, November 4, Slocan Legion Hall, 2 pm.**

**FLIGHT OF THE WHALE CELEBRATE WITH US!**

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society Annual General Meeting is taking place Sunday, November 19, 2-2 pm, at Knox Hall. Celebrate projects carried out in the past year, including Science Forum, Wild Days and Wildlife Tree model. Follow up to provide the public with outcomes and next steps. $30 Buy-in. Advance tickets at Mountain View Gifts, 250-356-4311 (ph) 250-358-7091 (fx). Tickets available from: Tim Reilly, Suite 3, 622 Front St Nelson, BC V1L 4G7 • C: (206)951-6994 • E: timreilly@tng.com. Licorice Residential Builder & General Contractor Design • Project Management • Building Services www.treeworks.com

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304-1730 Hwy 3, New Denver, 250-358-7265. For AL-ANON (family) meetings can help. For information on AA: in New Denver, 358-7185; Nakusp, 240-4176; Kaslo, 353-9617; Heart of the Slocan, 551-4104; Playmor Highway, 559-7350. For NA: New Denver, 358-7245. For AL-ANON (family) New Denver, 358-7904. Please, if you can, get through, try another number.

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**www.carpentercreeklastwishesociety.com**

provides information on preplanning for death and advice for alternative funeral arrangements. 250-358-2253

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**Nakusp Advance Tickets**

**Non-commissioned agent** for local travel agency. Full commission for all bookings. Please contact Marie-Ange Fournier-Beck, 250-231-2174.
From the Hill: Cannings on the need for universal pharmacare

universal health care system about 50 years ago, the cost of prescription drugs was $11 billion a year. Much of those savings come from relieving pressure on our health care system due to skipped prescriptions. About 10 per cent of that is because people can’t afford to buy the drugs. About 10 per cent of Canadians can’t afford to pay for their prescribed medication. Many Canadians have their prescription drugs paid for by extended health benefits through their employer. The costs of these premiums are borne by businesses across the country, and can be a significant part of the compensation packages businesses pay their employees.

Recently the House of Commons debated an NDP motion asking for talks between the federal and provincial governments to begin the process of bringing universal pharmacare to Canada. The Liberals said that “the time was not right” for such a motion, claiming that we needed to know details such as which drugs would be covered and how the costs would be shared. But these are precisely the details that would be discussed at the meeting.

The time has come for action on this issue. We’ve spent 50 years losing billions of dollars a year on an inefficient system when we could have been healthier and wealthier through universal pharmacare.

Richard Cannings is the MP for South Okanagan-West Kootenay.
Deconstructing Dinner Film Festival expands for 2017

submitted

The Deconstructing Dinner Film Festival featuring documentary films on food and drink is celebrating its fifth year and will be hosted in Nelson, Kaslo and Rossland. The schedule for 2017 is spread out between November 1 and 12. The popular event was founded in 2012 by food journalist Jon Steinman of Deconstructing Dinner.

Launching the Fest on November 1, the Civic Co-op Craft Beer Fundraiser is Milk – a Canadian production and selection at HotDocs 2016 that brings a universal focus on the politics, commercialization and controversies surrounding birth and infant feeding. A panel discussion will follow.

On November 3, Food Co-op takes a rare look into the Park Slope Food Co-op, a NYC grocery institution that predates the Kootenay Slope Food Co-op, a NYC grocery institution that predates the Kootenay Community Living (https://taclkootenays.com/).

November 4 features two events including a matinee screening of Migrant Dreams at Expressions Theatre with two speakers discussing the film for the evening is An Acquired Taste including a matinee screening at the Civic Theatre as part of the Deconstructing Dinner Film Fest.

On November 9, treat your taste-buds to insects at a double-bill evening at the Capitol Theatre. Bugs follows a team from Denmark’s Nordic Food Lab as they travel the world learning about the use of insects to many food cultures. Ticketholders will receive an insect snack pack from Entomio Farms and a baked treat that uses cricket powder.

The double-bill evening also features a Sundance 2017 selection Water & Power: A California Heist, a shocking National Geographic investigation into the private interests seeking to control California’s scarce water resources.

November 10 will be hosted at Expressions Theatre with two screenings of Migrant Dreams – a 2016 HotDocs selection and recipient of the 2017 Canadian Hillman Prize for Journalism. The film follows a group of migrant women farm workers who dare to resist the systemic oppression and exploitation from their brokers, employers and the Canadian government.

The final day of the Nelson events welcomes the return of a festival favourite featuring chocolate. Two films will be screened including The Chocolate Case and El Cacao; Camino’s Tori Hanlon-Wilde will be in attendance to serve up fair-trade bananas and a chocolate fountain. Local chocolate makers will offer samples including Slocan businesses Bellicious and Raw Magic.

Tickets are available to each individual event but this year’s Full Fest pass is only $45 (value $72) and will give people access to all Nelson events except the November 11 event that requires a separate ticket. Full Fest passholders will be entered into a draw to win one of a number of gift baskets from festival sponsors.

Local restaurants will also be participating in this year’s festival with cabin cooking offering up a 10% discount to ticket holders between November 1 and 11. Yum Son will feature an insect-inspired appetizer between November 3 and 11. Cabin (Kootenay Bay) will feature an insect dinner on November 5.

Single events will also be hosted this year in Rossland on November 9 and Kaslo on November 12. Check out the Festival Guide for trailers, venues and advance tickets at filmfest.deconstructingdinner.com.

COMMUNITY

André (Andy) Moris Desaunoy

December 9, 1932 – October 3, 2017

It is with deep sadness that our family announces the passing of our beloved Dad and Grandfather at the age of 84 years in Nakusp, BC. Dad passed away peacefully with loving family by his side.

Dad provided his children and grandchildren with so many tools to live life by his example. If we use them all, we will possess a great sense of morals and integrity. His passing was preceded by Eva, his loving wife of 40 years, Jack’s mom Lorrain, his parents, his brother Henry, and his step-daughter Valerie.

He leaves to live by his example his daughter Jacki and her children Bradley (Rosaleen) and Brett; step-children Lisa (Dave) and their children Claudia (Leigh) and Olivia; Dennis (Sharon) and their children Camen (Cam) and Susan; Benny (Wendy) and their son Cory (Heather); his son-in-law Norman and his children Nina (Mark) and Jason; and great-grandchildren Ryan, Lucas, Charlie, Ethan, William, Jaden, Dylan, Ethan, Hope, Reed and Layton.

The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses in Nakusp, Vernon and Kelowna for their kindness and compassion. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday November 4, 2017 from 3:00 - 6:00 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion in Nakusp.

If friends so desire, memorial donations may be directed to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #20 Nakusp BC BCV 1G0 1R0.

Tyler Scott Connolly

It is with deep sorrow we announce the sudden passing of Tyler Scott Connolly on September 29, 2017 at the age of 38.

He was born in Dryden Valley, Alberta but had finally found true happiness living in the Slocan Valley.

Tyler is survived by his Mother Claire Chilton (Doug), his father Gary Connolly (Jane), brother Adam Connolly (Flower), and sister Megan Connolly (Ryall) (and partner Matti), partner Dagmar Koutsky (boys Anatoli and Nikolai), step-brothers/sisters, and many Aunts, Uncles, and cousins.

Tyler was a good natured, very generous, and soft hearted man who was a natural with children and took great care with the ones he loved, looking after their needs and being available to them. He was selfless and kind and had a great sense of humor.

His most beautiful qualities were his natural honesty, his ability to live in the moment and his capacity to love deeply. He was always true to his integrity, loyal to those close to him and his empathy knew no bounds. Tyler was generous with his time and would gladly lend a hand whenever needed.

A true outdoorsman, his passions were the mountains, lakes and scenic beauty. He spent his time hiking, shooting, boating, camping and backcountry backpacking. When he wasn’t out on an adventure, he’d be in the backyard, enjoying a fire and being with his friends and family. Tyler loved to connect with people in his soft, gentle way, but he also enjoyed time alone, where he could just appreciate all the beauty that surrounded him.

He had a love for all things technology, had an exceptional eye for taking wonderful photographs, was curious to learn new things, and challenged himself to solve any puzzle. His patience was one of his many virtues, he never judged, and always saw the good in people. He was hard working and did the best of his ability on every task.

The true measure of the success of one’s life is not our accomplishments, the wealth we have accumulated or the status that we have achieved. It is measured by the positive impact that we have had on other people. Tyler will forever be remembered as a very successful man, for he had a positive impact on so many lives and was loved deeply.
Are you interested in looking at photographs that depict the history of the Arrow Lakes area? The Arrow Lakes Historical Society now has more than 11,500 photographs on its website, www.alhs-archives.com, thanks to a grant from Library and Archives Canada.

Copies, either digital or paper, can be ordered online now, as can all of the society’s publications and both slideshow DVDs.

Archive technician Kyle Kusch presented a short slideshow of photographs at the Nakusp Museum AGM this month. At 7 pm on October 20, another slide show by Kyle will illustrate author Eileen Delehanty Pearkes’ discussion of her book about the Columbia River Treaty. This event, sponsored by the Nakusp Library, will be held in the archives office, in the Centennial Building behind the museum and library.

The next ALHS publication, about the SS Minto, is in the editing stage and will be published next year. In the meantime, look for the society’s eye-catching new brochure and the new heritage walking tour pamphlet. Printing of these new brochures was made possible by Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives funding.

Join the conversation at a peer-facilitated Advance Care Planning Public Session

Where: Silverton Memorial Hall
When: Thursday, October 19
10 am - 2 pm

New Denver Hospice Society
Advance Care Planning (ACP)
by New Denver Hospice Society with a BC Centre for Palliative Care Seed Grant

Think
Talk
Plan

Let’s get talking about what matters...

Join the conversation at a peer-facilitated Advance Care Planning Public Session

Where: Silverton Memorial Hall
When: Thursday, October 19
10 am - 2 pm

Next May, the society will host the BC Historical Federation annual conference and expects at least 100 delegates from around the province. The convention committee has been working hard arranging tours and lectures for these visitors. Community members are welcome to attend the opening ceremonies for the conference, and to register to attend other conference events. More information will be forthcoming in the new year.

The archives are open from 10 am to 3 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you haven’t yet seen the six model sternwheelers, drop by sometime to take a look.