Reduced ER hours on the horizon for Slocan Community Health Centre

by Jan McMurray

Reduced emergency department hours may be coming to the Slocan Community Health Centre (SCHC) in New Denver this spring, as they already have in Kaslo and many other communities in the province that are struggling to recruit and retain physicians.

SCHC has had only one physician, with support from locums, since September. There have been no applicants for the two physician vacancies.

When Interior Health announced on January 17 that ER hours at SCHC would be cut to Monday to Friday, 9-5 as of February 1, the community response was fast and furious. It started with a flurry of emails from concerned residents to MLA Katrine Conroy and Health Minister Adrian Dix.

Late the next day (January 18), another IH announcement came through, delaying any changes to ER hours until spring.

A public meeting was quickly organized for January 18 at the Lucerne School Gym by community members Danika Hammond and Katrina Sunnulf. Members of the local physician recruitment committee – Mayor Ann Bunka, Fire Chief Len Casley, and Slocan District Chamber of Commerce Health Committee Chair Colin Moss – were there to speak and to answer questions. About 200 people showed up, on very short notice.

Mayor Bunka thanked everyone for their attendance, and Retention Program, focusing on ensuring that potential physicians and their families are warmly welcomed to the area. A retired Human Resources professional, Leisa Haddleton, has recently moved to New Denver and has volunteered to help the committee recruit physicians and other health professionals. IH has provided her with office space at the health centre.

The local committee has also asked IH for the house on the health centre property. The committee would like to renovate the house and make it available to a physician.

The mayor reported that she has written to Minister Dix, asking for the management of the health centre to be returned to the community. “I have asked for the process to do this. Obviously, the system out there isn’t working, so I’m asking what is the process for us to get it back?”

Len Casley added that the committee isn’t restricting their efforts to physician recruitment. “We’ve told them we need to improve all services – ambulance, lab and x-ray, and there is a shortage of Licensed Practical Nurses.”

Casley says the Kasup, New Denver, Winlaw and sometimes Kaslo ambulances cover each other. Because New Denver is located in the centre of this cluster of communities, he wants to see extra ambulance cars in New Denver that can be sent north, south or east as needed. As it is, Nuskap and Kaslo each have two cars, and New Denver and Winlaw each have one car.

Currently, there are five ambulance attendants in New Denver.

In an interview with Joe Puskarcik, West Kootenay District Manager for BC Emergency Health Services, Puskarcik said New Denver won’t see extra ambulance resources when and if ER hours are cut. “Our dispatchers monitor our resources very well, and move them around as necessary. So we will monitor the resources we have in place, and we’ll move them into the area when needed. The New Denver ambulance may have to go help out elsewhere, but we always make sure communities are covered,” he said.

Moss said the local committee has looked into the RN First Call program, where an RN is trained to work in an after-hours emergency room with support from a physician on call or by videoconference. But, he said, “IH has turned this down flat; they want a local doctor.”

Karenn Bloemink of IH said in an interview that the requirement for a local doctor comes from the BC framework for Nurse First Call, which is guidance from the Province to the health authorities around that service.

One suggestion at the meeting was to provide financial incentives for doctors to come to New Denver. Casley said he phoned other small health centres with ERs and has learned it’s not all about money to the new doctors – it’s about lifestyle. “Funding is not an issue with the doctors we talk to; it’s more about having time with their families and recreation opportunities,” he said.

However, Bloemink says that with the loss of 24/7 ER also comes the loss of MOCAP funding (Medical On-Call Availability Program), so IH is looking at alternative payment options for doctors who come to the community.

“Tha’s happening behind the scenes right now,” she said.

Casley worried that the community will end up with a different health care delivery model than we’re all used to, and asked people to think about what they’d like that new model to look like in the New Denver area.

“We have a shortage of doctors in BC and in Canada. If 500 new doctors came to BC, we would still have to fill all the vacant positions,” Casley said.

Trina Larsen Soles, president of Doctors of BC, said in an interview that UBC graduates 288 doctors per year, and 400-450 are retiring every year. She added that the average age of a doctor in BC is 55.
$2.1 million announced for ER renovations at Arrow Lakes Hospital

by Jan McMurray

Renovations to the Arrow Lakes Hospital Emergency Department will go ahead in 2018/19.

The announcement was made by MLA Katrine Conroy and representatives from West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District board, Interior Health, Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation, and Arrow Lakes Health Care Auxiliary.

Mayor Karen Hamling welcomed everyone present to this “momentous occasion for Nakusp.”

“The $2.1 million in improvements will include a new dedicated triage area, two new trauma bays, renovated patient exam bays, new utility rooms, and an enclosed multi-purpose room near the ER, which will serve as a private waiting space for families.”

“We recognize that there are a number of challenges with the current emergency department...” MLA Katrine Conroy said. “These include a layout that doesn’t fully meet the needs of patients or the health professionals and staff who care for them. So that’s what we’re here today and I am proud to announce that the provincial government along with IH and WKBRHD are supporting the redevelopment of the ER.”

Conroy recognized the persistence and tireless advocacy of the mayor and council in Nakusp to ensure this project would go ahead.

Pat Dooley, IH board member, said Mayor Hamling was one of the first people to call her to tell her how important the renovations were. “Mayor Hamling and the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District board have been incredible advocates,” she said. “This is a happy day for Nakusp and the Slocan Valley and I’m ecstatic to be part of it.”

Aimee Watson, chair of the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District board, explained that the hospital district covers over 80,000 people from Grand Forks to Nakusp. “There was unanimous support from across that region for the ER renovations in Nakusp, and for ER upgrades in Trail, she said. “Despite the obstacles we face, we come together for the things that are really important and we get the job done.”

Dr. Norm Lea, chief of staff at Arrow Lakes Hospital, said he’s been in Nakusp for 30 years and there have been no substantial renovations to the ER in all that time. “I’m extremely pleased. It’s time to modernize,” he said, although he acknowledged that the construction phase will be disruptive.

This funding announcement was especially welcome, because IH told the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District (WKBRHD) board at its October 25 meeting that the Arrow Lakes ER renovation was not on the list of projects for 2018/19. IH suggested that the WKBRHD board should fund the entire renovation project if they wanted the project to go ahead. The board was shocked, as this has been its priority project since 2014. Last year, the WKBRHD board covered 100% of the cost of original plan for the renovations, and assumed the project would be on the 2018/19 list. Board members, particularly Mayor Hamling, let IH know that this was not acceptable and took the issue to the IH board and MLA Katrine Conroy.

The project will go ahead in 2018/19, with 60% funding from IH and 40% funding from WKBRHD. The 60-40 split is the traditional funding model for this hospital district.

Unity Music Festival takes a break submitted

Unity Festival organizers have announced that “the ever popular and three-day Unity Music Festival will not be taking place on the shores of Slocan Lake this summer.”

Festival organizers said they will be doing small events here and there over the summer.

Festival organizers have been looking for an opportunity to get involved.

Unity has been held in the valley for the past seven years, providing an affordable cultural event for families and high quality fun dancing times for children, youth and people of all ages. It will be missed by many.

Stayed tuned for an opportunity to get involved.

KRIVSKY, Jerry

Jerry Krivsky passed on January 14, 2018 at Nakusp, BC.

He will be sorely missed by all of his family, his extended family and those he adopted as his family.

He is survived by his partner Nancy, his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and his former wife Rose. His parents and siblings predeceased him.

Born in Blairmore, AB of Czechoslovakian parents 81 years ago, Jerry moved to BC in the 1950’s. He spent his teen years in Nelson, after which, he attended vocational college in Vancouver. After several moves throughout BC and the Yukon, he eventually made his way back to Nelson for a few years before finding his paradise in Brouse in the early 1960’s. Since then he has enjoyed many years of farming, hunting and especially fishing in the Kootenays and beyond. In his later years he became accomplished in sausage making and smoking meats, trying to replicate his father’s secret recipes of old. He was a jack of all trades and had many stories to tell of his life’s experiences. He was blessed with many good friends who may very well repeat one of those stories for you.

The family really appreciates the care given to Jerry by the wonderful staff at the Arrow Lakes Hospital. Special thanks to Dr. Pond and the very caring nurses.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation.

A celebration of life is planned for July, 2018.

You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence by visiting the family’s online register at www.valleyfh.ca

These dignitaries attended the funding announcement for ER renovations at Arrow Lakes Hospital.

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Shortage of doctors needs to be addressed

by Jan McMurray

The number of doctors per person in Canada lags far behind other developed countries, and if current trends continue, Canada likely won’t close the gap in the coming years, states a press release from the Fraser Institute about a new study it released January 18.

The study, “The Supply of Physicians in Canada: Projections and Assessment,” finds that in 2015, Canada had just 2.7 doctors per 1,000 people, well below the 3.4 per 1,000 person average for the other developed countries in the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), a group of developed high-income countries like Canada.

Projecting the number of doctors in Canada into future years – assuming current medical school enrolment and foreign-trained doctor trends continue – Canada will have 2.07 doctors per 1,000 people by 2030, still well below the 2015 OECD average.

Unless current trends are reversed, our relative scarcity of doctors looms large in Canada’s future,” said Steven Globerman, national business professor at Western Washington University, Fraser Institute senior fellow, and co-author of the report. “Policy makers should think now about how relatively few doctors will affect Canadian patients and the healthcare system more broadly.”

Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute applies for $500,000 Rural Dividend grant

by Jan McMurray

The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI) wants to shift its focus to serving the research needs of local governments of the region.

To test this new shift in focus over the next two years, the RDI is applying for $500,000 from the BC Rural Dividend Fund and $150,000 from local government partners. Local government partners are the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary, and East Kootenay.

Established in July 2011 through an agreement between Columbia Basin Trust and Selkirk College, the RDI is a research institute that has had a broad regional mandate since its inception.

Two things have prompted the new direction for the RDI: First, CBT funding dries up in 2019, when the partnership agreement ends. Second, an external evaluation of the RDI last year showed that a narrowing of focus could improve the institute’s impact.

“The new approach would include targeted, responsive and increased levels of direct support to help local government make informed decisions, test innovative approaches through pilot projects, and build region’s capacity to tackle complex issues in a coordinated way,” states a proposal brief by Dr. Terri MacDonald, who heads up the RDI.

The RDI plans to apply for $20,000 per year for the next two years to the project, subject to the approval of the Rural Dividend funding and $40,000 commitments from the Regional Districts of Kootenay Boundary and East Kootenay.

Karen Bloemink of Interior Health (Executive Director, Hospitals and Communities Integrated Services, IH East) says the health authority’s challenges recruiting and retaining qualified personnel has been a driving factor behind service changes like reduced emergency department hours that have been made in the region.

“We have challenges recruiting not just physicians but also other health professionals across Interior Health, so that creates challenges for the services we need to provide, and in most cases we’re forced to consider alternatives,” she said.

Bloemink says RHIs’s long-term plan is to focus on Kaslo and other communities where service changes have been made shows that a change to the service model has increased recruitment success.

“Once we reduce the commitment to the emergency department, it becomes a more attractive model for doctors. Doctors are in their clinics eight hours a day, so 16 hours on top to keep the emergency going is quite daunting,” she said.

In the case of the recent discussion about reducing ER hours in New Denver, Bloemink says IH sees the opportunity and feels strongly, based on experience, that a service change may increase recruitment success. “Once we recruit doctors, we can have a dialogue with them about the emergency department,” Bloemink said.

Bloeink also wanted to comment on the perception that the emergency department improvements in Nakusp are possible now that New Denver’s ER is going to be cut. “Funding has not been a consideration for the service change we have on the table in New Denver,” she said. “What’s really driving the change is the lack of availability of physicians to support the current model we have in place. The Arrow Lakes Hospital ER upgrades have been in the works for a number of years. These are two distinct things. One is not funding the other.”

The Valley Voice contacted Trina Larsen Soles, president of Doctors of BC, to find out how we have ended up with such a shortage of doctors.

“We don’t train enough doctors in BC and we don’t have enough residency spots for our own people let alone for foreign doctors,” she said, adding that about 8% of doctors look after the 18-20% of the population that lives rurally, so the ratio is much lower in rural areas.

Larsen Soles said the doctor shortage in the country is often attributed to the Barer-Stoddart Report, a 1991 discussion paper for the Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health. The report recommended, among other things, reducing medical school enrolment by 10% as a way to save money. Governments went ahead with this recommendation.

“It takes four years to educate a medical student and two to six years for that student to complete training, so it wasn’t until five to ten years later that we noticed the medical supply hadn’t kept up with the demand,” Larsen Soles said.

For as long as Larsen Soles can remember, BC has relied on recruiting doctors from other provinces or overseas. But now, she says overseas recruiting has “dried up.”

Larsen Soles explained that doctors trained in certain countries, such as the US, South Africa, and the UK, used to be able to come to Canada and get a licence to practice medicine here based on the training they had in their home country. Then at some point there was a legal decision that made it so the College of Physicians and Surgeons could not show preference to any one country over another. Now, all foreign doctors have to do a residency or practice assessment to practice in Canada. “This has created a big bottleneck,” Larsen Sole said.
And I quote...

Get up off your knees, you SOBs.

And the NFL can go to hell.

Donald, you do have a way with words.

As a baby, your brain was shaken, not stirred.

Donald, I have just one question for you:

What, exactly, is your IQ?

Kristen Jacks
South Slocan

Vaughn Palmer, the premier’s trade mission and LNG

In his January 18 column in the Vancouver Sun, Vaughn Palmer reported Premier Horgan has every intention of exploring support for LNG in BC without a detailed third party analysis that demonstrates the government will deliver its GHG reduction commitment. The premier and his ministers have often committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 2007 levels by 2030.

In spite of the previous government’s Climate Leadership Plan and the current government’s Clean Growth Climate Action plan, we are not on track. Emissions are not dropping significantly. We cannot allow further LNG development in BC without a detailed third party analysis that demonstrates the government will deliver its GHG reduction commitment. The premier and his ministers have often committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 2007 levels by 2030.

This year, in New Zealand, the newly elected young Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, has just announced she is pregnant. The phrase, ‘You’ve come a long way baby’ takes on a whole new meaning, that is, to be born to a sitting female prime minister.

Pro rep is the next milestone

This week marks a historic milestone in BC politics and maybe, just maybe, we’re on the cusp of another historic milestone.

January 24, exactly 100 years ago, Mary Ellen Smith became the first woman elected to the BC legislature. She went on to have a long career in politics, effecting positive change for women and children.

Mike Geisler
Bonnington

2018 – Thoughts from an old guy

As I approach the end of my 70th year on the planet, I continue to question the efficacy of the global model of capitalism, imperialism and the continuing rise of corporate power. The imbalance of power and wealth is well documented. Looking from the outside, it seems that often those in power create and maintain conflict for their own self-interest. It seems that those with huge wealth are prepared to manipulate economies and political systems in order to increase their wealth and power – not unlike a video game where ‘winner take all’ is the goal.

As a global social system, this model is unsustainable. If it takes a whole village to raise a child, the converse would be that a ‘corporate child’ can raze a village – that is, bring it to the ground. As individuals, it seems, we do our best work. When we become part of a larger non-personal identity, we are somehow able to subscribe to ideals that are the antithesis of what society needs for a continuing and nourishing survival. We will do things, create policies and systems with the goal of more wealth and power. This seeming duality of persona makes it difficult to sustain a nourishing social system. Strangely, our future will depend on the type of person we want to be as we move toward that future.

Ron Robinson

No business case for Site C

No business case for Site C. Looking at the photo of George Heyman, Minister of the Environment and the Climate Change Strategy, Michelle Mungall, Minister of the Petroleum Resource, and our Premier, John Horgan, it was obvious that this was not a happy occasion. This was taken at the news conference where the decision to continue with Site C was announced.

It was an odd decision, especially in light of the fact that the reasons given didn’t make sense.

To say that the project was ‘past the point of no return’ was untrue – $2.1 billion dollars have been spent, but almost half a billion was on the fancy camp ($450 million), and the rest of it was mostly in the form of roads, a bridge, and several large holes in the ground. No footings; no bedrock to put them on.

And remediation costs of $1.8 billion are also far fetched; the chief of the Mohyer 1st Nation said just leave it and let nature take her course. The biggest lie of all was the scare tactic: the note will be due and payable at once. BC is a big province with lots of cash flow: we can afford to absorb $2.1 billion without it affecting anything. And the remediation, whatever it actually costs, can be paid over 30 years.

The Globe and Mail ran an article on the Site C decision, and called it pragmatism rather than ideology. We might have judged it a pragmatic decision if only we had the facts, but the decision-making process was not transparent. Astronomers often find invisible objects due to the perturbations they cause visible objects; in this case, what made the NDP (the visible object) go against their core values, as well as simple common sense? Why would they approve continuing a project like this? Is it common knowledge that these mega projects almost always go way over budget, almost never deliver the benefits they promise, and are a magnet for corruption?

Why would a political party that calls itself progressive make a decision like this? I suspect the invisible bodies that perturbed the NDP/ Green minority government were the incredibly powerful oil/gas/ big construction lobbyists. Why does the government still subsidize them? Why does climate change mean nothing? Why do indigenous rights mean nothing? Why are they unable to see the truth of this project? There’s no business case for this dam, Muskrat Falls, here we come.

Harvey Armstrong
Johnson’s Landing

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

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

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.
January 25, 2018 The Valley Voice

Mines from the air

Open letter to Hon. Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources

Happy New Year 2018! It’s time to resolve to use new technologies utilizing BC’s natural resources and God-given assets: geothermal, tidal and ocean wind power, co-generation burning wood waste and garbage! All of these have been proven effective in Iceland, Scandinavia, China, Germany, the Netherlands, etc.

Why are we continuing with antiquated, unnecessary technologies, and as you stated yourself, Michelle, “1950s dams, like Site C!”, especially considering our past experience with dams and their inevitable draining of land from, flooding in the West Kootenay, and destroying fisheries, farms, indigenous rights?! Why are we still defending and transporting fossil fuel industries and infrastructure: Kinder Morgan pipeline, Bambury oil tank terminal, LNG (with fracking earthquakes, migration, groundwater, ground waste, toxicity, illegal water usage and dams), oil, and the mines, etc., that we know are killing us with carbon, toxic chemicals, and water and air pollution!

You have the power to change that, and the NDP Green coalition is abandoning promises to those who have no voice and apply principles of ‘common sense’ to decisions! Instead, it’s still only “5 and cents,” (Economy vs. environment doesn’t work in the 21st century) catering to corporate and union pressure, and going with the status quo we know.

We need to be an innovative leader, and plan for modern solutions with the climate change realities we have already experienced: wildfires, flooding then water shortages, and wild storms. Global warming and drought requires preserving and planning for increased global agriculture, land, and water needs.

It’s not ‘selling out’ to THEIR ‘free trade’ deals of US corporations (Caution: water and irrigation rights on a renegotiated Columbia River Treaty?), or Nestle ... like a potentially bankrupt Site C dam and privatized BC Hydro would jeopardize!

Wind and solar are very land intensive. If we don’t have the water when we need the power, the most, lose energy in transmission lines, and require mining of toxic chemicals and oil to produce and transport. Solar is better adapted locally and individually as roof panels and tiles, solar roads and paths ... all producing local jobs.

I come now to another BC Hydro related issue that concerns me directly. The so-called Legacy Fee! The $32.40 (plus tax) per month penalty I’m forced to pay for not wanting a ‘smart’ meter. You told me, in person, that you and your party agreed the fee was unfair and in need of review. Remember? Well, your party has been in office for more than half a year now and I’m still paying. My conclusion? It was just another lie. The bullish Hydro wins again. Should I be surprised?

My final conclusions? 1) The NDP is out of touch with the demands of the people. 2) I will not waste my next vote on you or your party. 3) Your party will suffer an ignominy that will last until the next election. 4) The NDP has gone and blown it yet again.

Laurence Charles-Lundahl

Faunier

Entitled to be wild forever

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, George Heyman, said the people of BC need to have confidence that qualified professionals are acting first and foremost to protect the public interests. (Valley Voice 14-12-17).

And BC Forests Minister Doug Donaldson said communities have made it clear that killing grizzly bears can not be allowed with the exception of First Nations Treaty rights and protection agreements.

Way back in the misty past when Oberto Orbeti’s Pheidius Development Corp was first unveiling plans for the Jumbo Glacier Resort, countless qualified professional bear biologists, either under contract with the government of the time, or just personally interested in keeping the Jumbo area undeveloped, found healthy numbers of grizzly bears, all ages and both sexes, in the greater Jumbo area – quite probably because wild Jumbo abuts the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy (PWC) where all wildlife know they are safe.

During the interim years between then and now, the illegally sanctioned grizzly bear counts have occurred throughout the province, as well as Jumbo Valley area, again, again, and again.

An October 2017 report on the status of BC grizzly bears by BC Auditor General Carol Bellringer found that hunting was not the biggest threat to BC grizzly bears. The feeling is that resource extraction and human settlement are the biggest threats, you are absolutely correct. In addition to people moving into the bears’ neck-of-the-woods, resulting in homeless bears, the audit found that from 2006-2015, 389 grizzly bears were drowned as a result of human/bear conflict.

How the Universities of Alberta and Minnesota wildlife biologists got it wrong. (Vaidya, 2013) It’s hard to say, but recently each gave the BC government a passing grade for managing its grizzly bear hunt. But they made strong recommendations for improving habitat protection.

Wrapping up all of the above, we can only conclude that in order to have a perpetually robust grizzly population in BC, we need to protect the bears’ home turf. And corporate use of recognized vital habitat by way of planning a resort city (near the size of Nelson) while footprinting thousands of hectares with tow towers, lines and tea houses is a form of extracting that natural wild resource and negatively modifying the irreplaceable habitat.

Now, another heads up for George Heyman. As Minister of Climate Change Strategy hat on. Please remember that the thousands of hectares of wild forests of the wild Jumbo area are perpetually breathing in and breathing out, and thus moderating our climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide and oxygenating our planet.

continued on page 6
feeling of worry and fear. Fear that the people I surround myself with will no longer have access to emergency care after the hours of 0900-1700 Monday through Friday, the children, the elderly, the disabled. The reality of an emergency striking within the constituted business hours is unlikely; this proves a necessary cause for concern for not only the residents of the Slocan Valley but also the industries, tourists and enthusiast who also occupy this region. Without providing sufficient timely access to emergency services, the risk for unnecessary harm and even death is amplified. As a longstanding member of this community, I am disheartened to lose such a vital component of what keeps New Denver’s emergency services together. I chose to live in this community and to one day raise a family here; I should be able to continue to do so without the fear for the safety of my family. As a volunteer firefighter, and the Medical Captain of the local fire department, I worry about the burden this will place on myself as well as the medical needs of the community, resulting in both excess emotional and mental strain. It is no secret that the British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) is struggling to maintain staffing challenges in rural stations. Unfortunately, I have seen this firsthand as a firefighter caring for unstable, extremely injured patients while waiting for an ambulance to arrive for upwards of 40 minutes. This wait time is unacceptable as it is, let alone pairing it with an additional transport time of potentially greater than 45 minutes. Furthermore, in the rural areas we are provided with only 2 BCAS Basic Life Support crews, who, depending on the training of each individual paramedic, may or may not be capable of providing the specific lifesaving interventions/medications. If the ER is reduced in coverage, the BC Emergency Health Services must be prepared to handle this influx adequately, while being accountable for their actions and service. Yet, my worst fears stem not from the concern of system function, but rather from the fear of being a firefighter who has the possibility of caring for a patient without having the proper resources to support their medical needs. The thought of being stuck on a roadside while caring for a patient who is rapidly deteriorating and will likely expire before an ambulance arrives, if care is offered is unacceptable.

As a Registered Nurse, this decision impacts me most directly; affecting the care I provide, the career I have chosen, and the morals I uphold. Ethically, how am I supposed to turn patients away when they desperately seek professional emergency care? My training as a nurse embodies the components of collaboration, advocacy, and leadership; the decision to reduce the hours of service at SCH disregards all of these elements. Many of the RNs who work at SCH have shown interest and are willing to take additional required education to initiate a program called RN First Call, which reduces the issue of lack of physicians at SCH. First Call was previously brought over to Interior Health by the local Health Committee but was later declined. I have chosen a career as a nurse because I am passionate about providing care to patients that will enrich the quality of their lives. However, I feel that by reducing the hours of service to the ER I will no longer be able to provide this standard of care in my community. I have the ability, the knowledge, the competence and the drive to save lives in the Slocan Valley, yet, here I sit disheartened, disappointed and distressed about the prosperity and longevity of the community. Ultimately, by reducing the hours of service at SCH, patients will be transported and expected to travel on geographically extensive terrain to a facility that is located significantly further away from a regional hospital. If this is not a cause for concern, what is? This is the health and safety of our people at risk; let’s make a change for the greater good.

Mercedes Casley New Denver

Why, one asks, has no doctor wanted the posting? Some say it’s not a matter of money, it’s simply their desire for pleasant accommodation and lifestyle. The view would be reversed by the video that reveals in greater measure the marvelous scenery and possibilities that some persons are making available. Still, the beach of New Denver, its hometown atmosphere and all its other inviting characteristics have not attracted a doctor after months of searching. It was said at the recent meeting we actually need two more doctors. This would sweeten the issue of working hours by dividing the demand on each, but emergency services 24/7 shouldn’t depend on it if getting one doctor will get us through.

Something that is of crucial importance may be missing. That is the government should cover all the requirements made of such prospective doctors. And they have to come in. What I propose is an expanded base income for what these doctors may see as inadequate for the amount of work they have to put in. But where would the money come from?

Consider: this the site of Site C dam is now proposed to cost $10 billion to build. The BC Utilities Commission found that it would work out to $3.4 million per job over the next six years for a proposed completion in 2024. Imagine that sum was differently used. Suppose the sum of $100 million per year were offered as a base salary? That $3.4 million per job over a six year period equates to $100 million per year being paid to a prospective doctor for 34 years or 17 years for two prospective doctors. Such a sum might well attract draws new doctors who are saddled with debt from their education and might also draw doctors from other provinces who may not have had the guaranteed base earnings is not available.

The fact is, our reduction of health care services in BC’s rural areas lack the funds being expended on Site C; yet the NDP’s election campaign decried the Site C dam as a prodigious waste of taxpayer funds. They said, if elected, they would cancel it, and then reversed their position on specious or refutable premises when they gained office. They are aware, as their election platform showed, that there’s no demonstrable market for the power in 2024; huge environmental damage is being done, and aboriginal rights have been transgressed. Such an issue now subject to legal proceedings which will cost the taxpayers tons of money. $10 billion probably doesn’t begin to account for the true costs of going ahead with the project.

Contrast this to the long-term strangulation of funds for health and social services in BC. Imagine if that money were to have been used to build a well-equipped emergency room to save lives in isolated communities, and then shutting it down even part time rather than pay enough to attract the doctors to staff it is simply a poor standard of health care due to the worry and fear of losing huge amounts of funds from the taxpayers.

The outcry has been such that the IHA has withdrawn its edict until the spring, pending further discussion. One of these considerations will be the necessity to renovate the proposed doctors’ quarters. This may impact the issue of money and thus its correlative – the tons of taxpayer funds that are going to be thrown down the chute of the Site C dam. The IHA’s position is non-constructive and then further deters the money to make them available and what happens to us and other rural communities similarly situated is of little evident concern to government.

The IHA is basically a bureaucratic front established by the previous government, and is an entity designed to take any heat for reductive governmental decisions about health care. It has no power and no money of its own; it all comes from the present government and its decisions are the government’s decisions. IHA’s executive is depackaged in the name of IHA, which makes no directives in opposition to the NDP government. As a contracted entity IHA has far more to lose than a small excess while using taxpayer funds to present governmental decisions that outright endanger us, but IHA intends to invest the money to make them available and what happens to us and other rural communities similarly situated is of little evident concern to government.

Let us not go hat in hand to beg the NDP government for the money. Let’s instead continue to communicate our outrage at its preposterous mispriorities and its willingness to potentially endanger the health and even the lives of every man, woman and child in this valley, simply because they no longer want, for political reasons, to fulfill their election promises to scuttle Site C. Let us carry this shocking mispriority into every forum, present it to media, and circulate it through social media. Whatever we do, let’s not accept IHA’s pious claim they did everything they could to find a doctor – everything but make it practical and inviting for a doctor to accept the position.

Richard Caniell
New Denver
January 25, 2018 The Valley Voice

COMMUNITY

Slocan council, January 8: Water rates to increase by 2.75%

by Sandra Smith

- Village water rates will increase by 2.75% in 2018.
- A discrepancy was noted between single family residential rates at $447 per year and multi-unit residential rates at $312.90, which is 70% of the flat rate ($447).
- Councillor Patterson called the rates unfair and said, “If I have to pay $447, so should everyone else.”
- Calculations for the water rate are based on number of lots. With two lots being the minimum needed to build, the water fee for two lots is $447. Based upon the current fee calculation formula, the fees reported are correct. Mayor Lunn noted there were some discrepancies in and around the village but without water metering, it is the most equitable system Slocan has, she said.
- Water samples were taken from Springer Creek on June 6, August 7, and October 24 to test for arsenic and samples sent to a laboratory where they issued a report issued to council by Passmore Laboratory Ltd. In addition, one sediment sample was taken on October 24. Aluminum and iron were noted as elevated in the June sample, returning to normal levels in the two further tests, which the report said may be attributed to sediment being released during the spring freshet. Jennifer Yeow of Passmore Laboratory concluded in her report: “it is likely no harmful effects to approve life from metals in the sediment will be observed in Springer Creek.”
- In anticipation of cannabis legalization in July 2018 and its anticipated impact on BC municipalities, West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater requested council’s support in lobbying the provincial government for a fair and equitable distribution of the tax revenue generated from the sales of marijuana. Council agreed to send a letter to the Province in support of municipalities and community groups’ concerns over the tax revenue; however, council felt that without knowing what the law or the revenue will be for the specific 50% share requested by Findlater was a bit premature. “I agree we should get something, but it seems like we are jumping the gun when a final decision has not been made,” said Councillor Jean Patterson.
- The Slocan Food Bank, along with 29 other food banks in the area, received a generous donation of $500 from the CBT in an effort to make the holidays brighter for those less fortunate, said a letter to council from CBT President and CEO Johnny Stralaef. Council also received 2018 desktop calendars. It was agreed that a letter of appreciation be sent to the CBT.
- Mayor Lunn thanked Pat and Peggy of Mountain Centre for their continued support in lobbying the Province for increased funding for all BC municipalities, especially for those in rural and community economic development projects.

Forget gold: graphite is soaring in the Slocan

by Katrina Campbell

Although many of the mines in the area have been put on hold for various reasons, one is still going strong and plans to expand—perhaps by a factor of 10. Eagle Graphite owns a quarry and production plant in the south Slocan Valley, one of only two natural flake graphite production facilities in North America. The Black Crystal quarry is on Hooder Creek Forest Service Road. The plant is at the junction of Little Slocan River and Koch Creek.

Mobilizing local capital: put your money where your life is

In today’s interconnected world, it is easy to see how your hard earned money can end up going towards projects and businesses all around the world.

In 2013, British Columbians contributed $4.5 billion into their RRSPs, much of that money disbursed outside the province and Canada. Imagine what an impact we could have by re-directing just 5% of that money back into the communities in which we live – $225 million in annual local investments. The idea of Community Impact Investing is to do just that.

CII is the process of connecting investors to investment opportunities in their communities. While the demand for investing locally is increasing, traditional options available to investors limit where they can invest. The result is that most investment capital leaves our community and is invested into far-off stock markets and corporations. An unintended consequence is that while our investments create significant jobs and wealth elsewhere, the places we live, work and play are overlooked.

Eileen Yesh – Invermere branch manager for Kootenay Employment Services (KES), consultant to the Creston & District Community Development Co-op and chair of the BC Community Impact Investment Coalition – will host sessions in most communities throughout the Kootenays. These will highlight examples of how local investment vehicles have successfully met community needs across Canada, such as affordable housing, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and food production, small business, technology, and community economic development projects.

The purpose of these sessions is to discuss the local investment movement and the opportunity to establish new CII co-ops in southeastern BC in 2018. The year-long initiative will be facilitated by Yesh and funded in part by the Province, Kootenay Employment Services and the BC Community Impact Investment Coalition – will host sessions in most communities throughout the Kootenays. These will highlight examples of how local investment vehicles have successfully met community needs across Canada, such as affordable housing, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and food production, small business, technology, and community economic development projects.

For those less fortunate, said a letter to council from CBT President and CEO Johnny Stralaef. Council also received 2018 desktop calendars. It was agreed that a letter of appreciation be sent to the CBT.

Eagle Graphite owns a quarry and production plant in the south Slocan Valley, one of only two natural flake graphite production facilities in North America. The Black Crystal quarry is on Hooder Creek Forest Service Road. The plant is at the junction of Little Slocan River and Koch Creek.

Eagle Graphite sent out a ‘private placement’ [of stocks] notice to those who sold it dry. It has expanded the offering, and anyone interested can talk to a financial advisor (your credit union or bank if you want one) about buying in. Net proceeds will fund exploration work and general and administrative activities, the announcement says.

Deidt invites anyone who is interested in following the company’s activities or seeing its announcements to go to the website, eaglegraphite.com and sign up for its email subscription list. He also welcomes emails sent directly to him at ir@eaglegraphite.com.
VFAS hosts concert by Girvan and Landsberg

by Art Joyce

With the New Denver-Silverton community reeling from one crisis to the next, it was a genuine treat to enjoy an evening of superb music. The Valhalla Fine Arts Society (VFAS) and Katrina Sumrall hosted the concert presented an eclectic repertoire of songs from all over the world. The two chanteuses easily charmed the audience into a standing ovation. The timing couldn’t have been better in the wake of Liam Butler’s death and the potential loss of 24/7 health centre emergency services.

Girvan and Landsberg make a natural vocal pairing, their harmonies seamless and sweet. Girvan is best known for her work with the Corazon Youth Choir in Nelson, which draws many members from the Slocan Valley community. Her husband, the composer and music instructor Don Macdonald, provided subtle yet eloquent backing on violin.

Landsberg is primarily known for her work as a jazz/R&B singer and is a faculty member with the Selkirk College music program. Paul Landsberg, an accomplished jazz guitarist and fellow Selkirk faculty member, was equally at home with the world folk styles woven throughout the evening’s repertoire. Rob Fahie on double bass was a revelation, alternately plucking, bowing and whispering his notes, providing both rhythm and texture. Dylan Ferris, probably the youngest musician onstage, surprised with his musical virtuosity, playing mandolin, banjo and guitar.

Slocan Valley Legacy Fund
2018 Grants Are Now Available!

With generous support from the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation, we are once again ready to provide funds to deserving groups in our community.

Guidelines for the granting process, as well as applications, are now available online, at www.slocanvalleylegacy.com. Grant applications are due by March 16, 2018.

The maximum amount per grant is $2000.

Six months later and still ‘the new guy’

by Katrine Campbell

Constable Corey Chaloner is known around the area as ‘the new cop’ but that isn’t quite accurate. Although he’s the newest in the Slocan Lake Detachment, replacing Nick Herder, he and his family transferred here from Nunavut in July.

Chaloner joined the RCMP nine years ago. Asked what he worked at before joining, he says, “Not much. I got pretty busy.”

He has been working in the rigs in Grande Prairie, Alberta, but left for Depot Division (RCMP Academy) when he was 21. Chaloner was first posted to Chilliwack, where he worked with Const Ben Nickerson who transferred here in 2015. His last posting was to Baker Lake, Nunavut.

Born in Calgary, he grew up in Charlottetown, PEI. His family consists of wife Katie and daughter Julie, a 19-month-old who is the apple of Daddy’s eye.

Although almost every RCMP newcomer to the area says the big attraction for them was the range of outdoor activities, Chaloner says, “I wish I did more outdoors stuff.” He spends time in the gym in the basement of his home, his place “to get in the zone, to relax.” Although he played football in PEI and coached the game in Chilliwack, there is no football here and very little in the way of organized sports. He has no hobbies at the moment, he says.

“My 19-month-old is my hobby. She’s my everything.”

Overall, he is happy to be in New Denver, which he called “a great place,” but he loves police work too much to stay past the three-year term here.

“My focus is to be as community-based as I can be. It’s an open secret we’re not overly busy [with crimes] here.”

Chaloner likes working with kids but says, “We’re probably not doing as much as we could.”

The detachment hosted a pancake breakfast at Lucerne school in December and got a good turnout. Chaloner will head to Slocan soon to teach 2 1/2 to five year olds about 911.

Slocan Community Health Care Auxiliary would like to thank everyone that supported us at the flea market, as well as the businesses for their donations towards our gift baskets.

Your contributions were appreciated.

Thank you

Basket winners were: Marion Tomko, John Everett, Sharon Broughton, Carol Weiss

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New Denver council, January 9: Community composting discussed

by Claire Paradis

• Silverton will have a series of eight composting sites at eight different locations in the Village’s parks and trails, if all goes according to plan. An application for a CBT Recreation Infrastructure Grant of $20,243 was approved. As it’s a 50-50 matching grant, Silverton would be on the hook for the other half.

• The Healthy Community Society provided council with the results of its compost survey. Councillor Leah Main said she loved that when reading the comments collected in the survey, it appears that the community is not attached to the amount of taxation that would be required to make community composting happen. Councillor Bill Christian told council that the group will be looking for a community composting site, probably in New Denver.

• Garbage rates are going up $5 in Silverton. Single-family residences and churches will pay $122 for garbage service this year, up $5 from last year. Hotels, restaurants, and churches will pay $5 in Silverton. Single-family residences and churches will pay $5 in New Denver.

• Claire Paradis; Interior Health Authority; Barbara Yeomans of Slocan; Village of Silverton; Village of New Denver; Columbia Basin Trust

Thank you!!

The Slocan District Chamber of Commerce Health Committee would like to thank all of the people and organizations for their overwhelming support in 2017!

Because of your help we have been able to produce a physician recruitment video that is now being spread to all corners of the world.

We also are well on our way to being able to fund a ‘Love Our Locums’ campaign along with printing of physician recruitment posters plus hiring a social media director to help us keep the video(s) up to date and ‘out there’.

In addition we have embarked on an overall Slocan Valley promotional video that will be completed by the end of 2018. This video will connect with the physician recruitment portion of the final production.

So . . . thank you so much to the following people and organizations and we look forward to working with you all in 2018!

Dr. Charles Burkholder, Regional District of Central Kootenay (Area H); Village of Slocan; Village of Silverton; Village of New Denver; Columbia Basin Trust (promotional segment of video); Interior Health Authority; Barbara Yeomans and Dick Callison; Frances Matthews; Craig Besinque; Gail Toop; Lori and Ron Friesan; Eb and Liz Friedle; Andrea Smith; Mercedes Casley; Leonard Casley; Mayor Ann Tanka (Village of New Denver); Isy Schumann; Leisa Haddleton; iCandyFilms (New Denver).
The internationally acclaimed quartet is comprised of a piano, double bass, violin and a bandoneon, the traditional accordion-type instrument that is the signature of Argentine tango music. Their unique danceable style has made them a popular ensemble and they are in demand at tango festivals around the world. They will play at the Portland Valentango event February 8-12 this year.

Selections of music from several decades will be played, featuring the works of Osvaldo Pugliese, Francisco Canaro, and Carlos Di Sarli and other greats from the Golden Era of Tango, as well as some contemporary and original compositions. Each venue will provide both a space for dancers as well as concert seating.

This tour is co-sponsored by the Silverton Lake Gallery Society and Selkirk College Music School. Tickets $20 advance, $25 at the door, from Otter Books, Eddy Music, Silverton Building Supplies, Apple Tree, Winlaw Mini-Mart, Sunnyside Naturals and Broadway Deli. Etransfer or paypal to franwallis@redmtn.ca. Questions 250-358-2448.

Alejandro Ziegler, pianist, composer and Quartet leader, at a 2016 performance at the Silverton Memorial Hall. This year, the quartet will perform with professional tango dancers in Kaslo, Silverton, and Nelson on February 5, 6 and 7. The quartet will play interpretations of traditional tango music from the Golden Era as well as original compositions by Ziegler. These virtuoso musicians play the classical instruments: bowed double bass, grand piano, violin, and the signature tango instrument, the bandoneon. Visit Zieglertango.com.

PHOTO CREDIT: CARLA NEMIROFF

The Valley Voice | January 25, 2018
Herb Brown was joined by a large group of family and friends for the celebration of his 100th birthday January 24.

Building his house. His sons, Larry, delivery business while he began truck, setting up a haulage and Gordon Thomas was born there. In 1921, settling as farmers at Sunny Nook, Alberta. During the Great Depression, the family was forced to migrate from Sunny Nook further north to the tiny hamlet of Endiang (near Red Deer), herding their sheep 65 miles on foot. Eventually Herb ended up in Clyde, north of Edmonton, where he met the woman he would later marry, Marjorie Maynard. At the time she was married to Cyril Joyce.

In 1940, Herb joined the Canadian Army at the age of 22 and was sent for training to Kingston, Ontario. It was the first time he’d slept on a mattress and had more than one set of clothes. “I’d never eaten so good in my life,” he recalls. Ironically, he was discharged as medically unfit due to a vision problem, despite the fact that he was the best sharpshooter in boot camp.

He made his way back west, working briefly in Prince Rupert, Clyde, and Edmonton before working at the Cominco smelter in Trail. Meanwhile, Cyril and Marjorie Joyce had been living in Trail, but their marriage came apart in the years following the birth of their son Arthur Cyril Joyce in 1938. Divorce in that era carried a great stigma but by 1942 Marjorie was free to remarry. She married Herb on January 22, 1942 and their son Lawrence (Larry) Herbert was born in Trail in 1943.

Governor-General Julie Payette wrote: “A life is measured not only by how well it is lived, but also by how long it is lived, but also by how well it is lived. Without you and your lifelong contributions, Canada would not be as diverse, as rich or as interesting.”

More information: 250.352.5342 or visit www.ckfoodpolicy.ca

Print version of the Directory, please contact the publisher, Pennywise (rick@pennywiseads.com).

Adventures in Forestry & Environmental Studies May 23-27, 2018 in Prince George
For Students in Grades 10, 11, 12. Return air fare between Kelowna and Prince George and meals will be provided. The student will be billeted by a local Prince George Rotarian.

Check details at: www.adventuresinforesy.ca
Apply at NSS
Contact Teacher: Mr. Barisoff
Deadline: February 23, 2018
The Valley Voice  January 25, 2018

Kaslo & District Minor Hockey board report

Kaslo and District Minor Hockey could not function without the support of its extensive community of businesses and families who come together in the spirit of Minor Hockey. We have 33 players registered this season in Novice, Atom and PeeWee divisions.

In our PeeWee division, we combined eight Bantam-age players with the PeeWees. These 16 kids have worked hard all year under the strong direction of Joshua Laboucane. Brendan Roehrig also joined the team this year as an assistant coach. We are so lucky to have these two non-parent coaches who have dedicated many of their weeknights and weekends to these players. Thanks as well to Emily and Eric Early, our fabulous goalie trainers who come out to give goalie support.

Our Atom team combined with six Nakusp players this year to form a team. The groups practice apart and play games together under the tutelage of parent coaches Dan Rude and John Catho and Brendan Moffat. Volunteers Brian Hromadnik and goalie trainer Erin Gillies come out to help with skill development for this enthusiastic young team.

This year, the Novice players have Brendan Roehrig as their coach along with volunteer Midget players, Callum McDougall and Julian Enns. The Midget team won the banner last year but we did not have enough players to form a Midget team this year. Three of our Midget players are playing for adjacent associations, Callum and Julian volunteered to put their energy on ice as role models to these young Novice players. Andrea Hand helps guide the team through drills.

Some of you will notice these hockey players walking around town wearing new Winterhawk hoodies. A huge thank you to Mountain Fruit and Folklore for this generous donation to each team, their coaches and volunteers.

Fundraising makes up for approximately half of what KDMHA needs to run. Our newest fundraiser is selling organic ethically traded spices, salts, teas, and dried fruit. We will continue with The Gathering Place fundraiser throughout the summer. For a list of items or special orders contact kdhmsecretary@gmail.com.

Other fundraising this year includes donations from Kaslo, Nelson and Larder Valley businesses towards raffle prizes at the Kaslo Jamboree. We also sold hotdogs at Light Up, and Front Street Market donated all the hotdogs and buns. We continue to take part in Kaslo Jazz Fest. KDMHA manages the sponsor wall program in the lobby of the arena, where we provide advertising space for local businesses in exchange for their sponsorship. Of course we can’t forget bottle sorting, that perennial job that nobody cares to do but somehow gets done, not without the energy and organization of fellow hockey parents, Claire McKinney, Heather Steinmann and Hamish Shaw. We thank them profoundly for taking on the organization of this immense task. All fundraising money goes directly toward fostering the love of hockey and keeping these kids on the ice. And a huge thanks to all the parents for driving and helping in the myriad ways you are asked to.

Nakusp Minor Hockey Association board report

Nakusp Minor Hockey has three teams this year: Bantam House, Novice and the Atom players have combined with Kaslo.

The Bantam team is halfway through their season and hosting their home tourney February 2-4, with teams coming from Cranbrook, Salmon Arm, and Vernon. There will be 50/50 and a great raffle table. Playoffs are in Trail at the end of February this year.

With low numbers this year, the Atom players combined with Kaslo. The team is halfway through their season with a few regular season games left, and playoffs finishing up the season in Castlegar.

The Junior and Senior Novice teams practice together with lots of new skaters this year. The coaches took the Senior Novice team and headed to Nelson for their first big tournament in January. They will play Castlegar during the Bantam tournament coming up in February. Come and support the smallest Falcons!

Nakusp Minor Hockey has had some great fundraisers this year. There were Legion Meat Draws in October, and the Falcon Cup Men’s Tournament on January 30 and 31, with a New Year’s Dance at the arena. All money raised went to Minor Hockey.
MINOR HOCKEY

The Village of Kaslo celebrates our young hockey players during Minor Hockey Week
Play hard, play fair, have fun!

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We are proud supporters of our local Minor Hockey
Meadow Creek, P.O. Box 1100
Email: sales@hamiltontimberhomes.com
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More than just a Health Food Store
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Proudly Supporting Minor Hockey!
Building Memories and Dreams for a Lifetime
Kaslo Building Supply
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We salute our minor hockey players and all the coaches, officials and fans who work so hard to support them!

Willow Home Boutique supports kids having fun playing hockey!

Thank You to the Coaches, Managers, Players, Arena Staff and fans of Kaslo Minor Hockey for your passion and dedication to keeping hockey active in our Community!

Jones Boys
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www.cornucopiakaslo.com

Celebrating Minor Hockey Week, 2018!
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405-4th St. • Kaslo

Eric’s Meat Market
Minor Hockey builds teamwork and character!
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Hockey builds community!
Minor Hockey Week Celebrates our young players!
Aimee Watson
RDCK director, Area “D”

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www.acebuilding.com

Play for the love of the game!
Minor Hockey Week 2018
New Market Foods
518 6th Ave
New Denver • 250-358-2270

The Valley VOICE
wishes to acknowledge all the hard work of players, parents, coaches and volunteers to keep the game of hockey alive in our communities!


The Valley Voice
January 25, 2018

Minor Hockey Week 2018
510 Broadway, Nakusp, BC
250-265-3662

Pacific Inland Pole & Piling Co. 2004 Ltd.

Happy Minor Hockey Week 2018


H&R Block thanks all the volunteers, coaches and players for a fantastic start to the 2017/18 hockey season.

The clear choice for all your glass needs!

Thanks to all the volunteers who keep Minor Hockey alive in our communities!

DON'T FORGET TO HAVE FUN!

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Thank you to the volunteers that keep hockey alive in our community! Congratulations to all the young athletes!

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Minor Hockey Week, 2018

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250-265-3662

Play hard.
Have fun.
Drink water!

Hockey helps kids to score life’s big goals!

Thanks to the volunteers that keep hockey alive in our community! Congratulations to all the young athletes!

Hockey Week 2018

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It pays!!!
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email: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca
Kaslo council, January 9: Funding sought for Lands Project, phase two

by Jan McMurray

• The Village will apply for a $97,359 Rural Dividend grant for the Kaslo Island Forest Recovery Plan for the Village. The proposal has the support of the RDCK Environment program.

Zoning amendments made for Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort

by Jan McMurray

Further changes have been made to the Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort Community Plan for the Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort. The request for an increase in density was denied.

Building WWII fighter plane combines Kaslo man’s passions

by Katrine Campbell

In a year or so, start keeping an eye on the sky over Kaslo. You may see a Mustang firing away. It’s Ward Taylor, owner of the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society. He plans to gain flight hours in the P51 Mustang as an American fighter plane, Mustang as an American fighter plane, which was designed and built by North American Aviation company at the request of the British government.

Curtis Wullum, Director of Development Services for the Lower Kootenay Band would like to see a feasibility study into the water and wastewater problems. “We understand there are concerns in the community, not from any one location. Further, a recent Urban Systems report states that the resort’s septic system has the capacity for the staff accommodation development, but any further development would necessitate upgrades to the system.

Mullum told community members at the hearing that the Lower Kootenay Band would like to work with the community on solving water and wastewater problems. “We understand there are concerns in the entire townsite over wastewater. It’s always been our intent to work with the community. We would welcome the opportunity to work with RDCK. We can’t foot the whole bill, but Is there a possibility to do a feasibility study on a community-based water system?”

Director Watson said she would look into the water and wastewater issues, and continue looking for solutions to the parking issues in Ainsworth.
Nakusp, January 8: On the lookout for Downtown Revitalization funding

by Claire Paradis

The Downtown Revitalization project promises a big facelift for Nakusp – the problem is coming up with the cash to match its price tag. Council is looking to the NACFOR Legacy Funds, Community Works (Gas Tax) funds, and a $50,000 grant through the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust.

At a special council meeting held on January 4, council decided to request $300,000 from the NACFOR Legacy Fund for the project. No decision has been made yet on the request. According to the Legacy Fund bylaw, council works collaboratively with the NACFOR board to identify projects eligible for the funding. At least one meeting annually is held for this purpose.

The Village will have about $400,000 in its Gas Tax account once the 2018 payment is received. CAA Laurie Taylor reported, “so a portion of that can be put toward the project.”

Council decided to ask the RDCK for assistance as well. Last year, the Village returned $93,750 to the RDCK because the Arrow Lakes Heat Recovery Project was never completed. Council voted to ask the RDCK to redirect those funds to the Downtown Revitalization Project.

The Village will also be bringing different strategies for tackling the project to the public, including whether to do the project piecemeal or all at once, said Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling.

A citizen in the public gallery asked about the condition of the storm drains under Broadway, noting it would be best to ensure they are in good shape before beautifying the street above them.

Nakuspians will see a 5% increase in sewer rates, but no increase to water rates, thanks to last year’s water projects coming in under budget.

A number of users on Village water systems do not pay property taxes to the Village, so it wouldn’t be fair to increase property taxes, remarked CAA Laurie Taylor.

Council had previously resolved to increase water rates by 5% and sewer rates by 10% this year, as it is trying to build up the sewer and water reserve funds for future capital expenditures. At the end of 2017, there was about $169,772 in the sewer fund and $480,248 in the water fund. The minimum recommended balance is $244,855 for sewer and $442,890 for water.

Councilor Tom Zeleznik asked for clarification of the categorization of several businesses for water taxation purposes that are of different size but are of the same category, like grocery stores, or retail and fast food and cafe. CAA Taylor said it might be difficult to compare them, but Mayor Karen Hamling said the Village could take a look at what other areas have done to address the issue.

The Village of Nakusp will be backining Canadian Mountain Holidays to hire a consultant to create a sustainability and reputation management plan. CAA Laurie Taylor said the Village will be writing a letter and talking to the local MLA and MP about how the proposed legislation could negatively affect places like Nakusp.

A number of businesses at the Nakusp Hot Springs and Campground are going up, but will still be competitive, Recreation and Parks Director Verigin-Burk explained.

Waste disposal fees at the Village are increasing roughly 5% or 50 cents; family rates are seeing the biggest rise with a 20% increase. The increases are forecast to bring in an extra $40,000 that Welsh says will help offset inflationary costs, including those of the recently ratified Collective Agreement.

The proposed zoning for the new Green Door project was okayed by the project proponents, CAA Laurie Taylor told council.

A special meeting set out on a quest to look at options for the purpose of creating the retreat and was purchased in 1982 by the Regional District of the Okanagan Okanagan Regional District.

The ongoing Nakusp sexual exploitation case: judge’s decision to come February 28

by Jan McMurray

A former Nakusp Secondary School teacher was tried in Nakusp court January 17-19 on charges of sexual assault and sexual exploitation of two of her students in fall 2016.

The sexual assault charges were dismissed on January 18, the second day of the trial. Justice Seagram will deliver his decision on the two sexual exploitation charges on February 28 at 2 pm.

McIvor is charged under section 153 of the Criminal Code, which prohibits people in positions of trust or authority, who are not their students, from engaging in sexual touching with young people.

Crown Prosecutor Dave Meagher, in his closing arguments on January 19, urged the court to accept the complainants’ evidence, and to find that McIvor was in a position of trust or authority as their high school teacher, as she was responsible for giving them grades and could discipline them.

In their closing arguments, McIvor’s lawyers, Richard Fowler and Karin Bilog, disagreed with the Crown. Bilog argued that the testimony of one of the students should be rejected, calling into question the credibility and reliability of the testimony, and pointing out many inconsistencies between the evidence given in court and the statement given to police.

She concluded that the student’s allegations of sexual contact with McIvor should not be accepted.

Fowler argued that the Crown had not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that his client was in a position of trust or authority over the two students.

He said that although in a majority of cases a teacher would be found to be in a position of trust or authority, there are exceptional circumstances.

“Based on all the evidence, the relationship was not one that can be characterized as having elements of trust or authority. She was a very new and young teacher, had only been there for about one month prior to the first incident and for about two months prior to the second incident. The student had no problem socializing and drinking alcohol with her. There was no evidence of McIvor engaging in any kind of seduction behaviour, grooming behaviour, trying to isolate the students from others to develop a special relationship. She was not grooming or creating plans to have a sexual relationship with them.”

He did if there was any “conniving or organizing of circumstances to get to her alone,” it was more the students themselves who did that.

Fowler argued that neither of the students were vulnerable or weak, but that it was McIvor who was vulnerable, weak, immature, lonely, sad, often drunk.”

“When you look at all of the circumstances as you are required to do, to look objectively and subjectively at the nature of the relationship between the two, neither of the complainants were vulnerable or weak, and in the circumstances under which the events unfolded, the presumption of trust and authority has been rebutted in our respectful submission,” concluded Fowler.

The identities of the two students are protected by a publication ban.

Shawtanie Lake Retreat Centre looks at bulk water sales

by Jan McMurray

The Shawtane Lake Retreat Centre is exploring bulk water sales as a way to generate some income and to provide its neighbours with quality potable water.

Tammy Verigin-Burk, CEO of the Whatshan Lake Retreat Centre, presented the proposal to the RDCK Rural Affairs Committee meeting on January 17, and asked for an amendment to the zoning bylaw to allow for bulk water extraction in the Recreational zone.

Verigin-Burk explained that the centre built wells in 2013 to increase the drinking water and fire suppression capacity on site. “An exemption was made for those two wells,” she said, “so we set out on a quest to look at options for what to do with our excess of quality water.”

A water feasibility study done for the centre by the Hamilton Group showed that the most feasible option was to transport bulk water to consumers. Verigin-Burk said the centre likes the idea of providing high quality potable water to communities, properties or companies who need it, and the main market they will serve is local people who are facing problems with potable water.

The centre is also hoping that the project will provide an income for its programs.

New regulations include business and marketing planning, and regulatory approvals.

The RDCK Rural Affairs Committee agreed to give the zoning amendment bylaw two readings, and to schedule a public hearing once the regulatory approvals are confirmed.

The Whatshan Lake Retreat Centre is used for Freedom Quest youth programs, adult health and wellness programs, alternative school programs, church groups, weddings, retreats, conferences, the annual Kamloops River and the Whatshan Lake. The property size is 204 acres and was purchased in 1982 by the Doukhobor Heritage Retreat Society for the purpose of creating the retreat centre.

Chip truck collides with vehicle in Nakusp, January 10

by Jan McMurray

A two-vehicle collision in Nakusp involving a chip truck and a vehicle on January 10 caused the closure of the highway for several hours. No injuries were reported.

At about 7 pm, Nakusp RCMP responded to a report of a collision on Highway 6 just before the Highway became available with only two wells currently in operation. “As we try to increase the production,” said Verigin-Burk, “we will set a quest to look at options for what to do with our excess of quality water.”

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The collision caused the highway to be closed for several hours, but no major vehicles had to be removed. The extremely icy road conditions were a cause of the accident.

RCMP are reminding the public to drive carefully according to the road conditions.
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Cancer Caregiver Support Group: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 pm in the conference room at Arrow Lakes Hospital. For more information, Allan 250-265-491.
Eva Tree opens Vallican Whole winter series

On Saturday, February 10 at 7 pm, the Vallican Whole Community Centre will host the first presentation in the third season of its Up Close & Intimate Series (UCI), heading up what is arguably the strongest line-up yet. This evening will feature an exceptional performance by Eva Tree and Friends.

They will be the musical element in Le Cabaret Intime, always the season’s opener – an oh-so-glamorous evening of fine wines, attentive service and delectable desserts. Eva Tree is one of our home-grown talents, with deep Kootenay roots. Her career began at the Selkirk Music School, followed by a musical voyage around the world before returning to her home. Eva combines folk Americana, soulful Roots and Appalachian influences to weave a sound that is unique and unmistakably her own.

She has released two full-length albums on her own publishing label, Treele Tree, and is currently working on her third, Holding Rain, co-produced by her husband, musician Bill Dickerson. Eva’s storytelling is both keen and warm-hearted, leaving even the most sorrowful tales with a touch of hopefulness and grace. Her vocal delivery creates a complexity and sweetness of sound. She paints for the listener a soundscape of colour and mood, evocative and compelling with running themes of fire, ponies, snow, love and the strengths and frailties of the human heart.

Eva will be playing with Dickerson, with his clean, inventive guitar enhanced by Hal Reznosoff’s warm upright bass tones and Toiyna Sammartino’s crystal clear vocal harmonies.

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Winter WideSpots turn toward life

WideSpot is taking a turn toward life! After co-hosting several events with New Denver Hospice Society (Death Café and Blue Christmas), WideSpot will host a controversial conversation on Sunday, January 28 and a sweet concert on Saturday, February 10.

“I can’t believe she said that!” is the theme for the Saturday, January 28 discussion at the Knox Hall. In this world of Facebook and instant messages, what do we say and how do we say it? Join us at the Knox Hall for dessert and discussion about how to say what we say in a way that preserves community without sacrificing truth.

The Saturday, February 10 Community Valentine Party is a reminder that Valentine’s Day is not just for lovers. It’s a time to notice all the people whom we hold dear and to celebrate those connections. This family-and-single-friendly event at Silverton Memorial Hall begins with dessert at 6:30 pm. There will be materials for those who might wish to write Valentine’s cards to the people they appreciate. Then, at 7:30, the incomparable Martine denBok and Noel Pudge,aka Pesto, will present an hour of music all about all kinds of love.

Send photos of who and whatever you love and appreciate: your partner, your child, a friend, your dog, a teacher at the school, your neighbour; cedar trees, the colour blue or the vast ecosystem. Send your photos to fortheloveoffreya@gmail.com before February 8 to make sure that they are included in the community video.
Bill Lynch releases first album featuring many Kootenay musicians

by Art Joyce

Some labours of love take a lifetime of experience to create, and are all the better for it. Bill Lynch, the Nelson-based musician best known for his work with blues band Lazy Poker, has just released his first album, Would You Speak On My Behalf. It features a Who’s Who of Kootenay musicians, drawing from a wide spectrum of genres and instrumentation. Sloan-based guitarist and songwriter Jon Burden is featured prominently on the record, as is Kaslo-based keyboard player Tom Thomson.

Lynch is an Irish immigrant who has lived most of his life in Canada but found his inspiration early in the blues. The Lynch family suffered the premature loss of his father when Bill was only 12 and music became a source of healing. “I remember when the blues came to Ireland – I was young and it was startling, the notes that bent and twisted the old familiar scales, the lyrics that spoke of the stuff of real life, love and loss and sex and joy, and all of it performed with an attitude – an attitude stripped of sentimentality.”

But Lynch’s eclectic new record isn’t exactly a blues album. Lynch has travelled widely during his life – the Middle East, Central Asia, India, the Balkans, and Cuba, and these influences subtly creep into the record. Only two numbers on the CD, the traditional song ‘Corinna, Corinna,’ and ‘Please Leave My Kitchen,’ are blues. Even these are done with an off-kilter 13-bar structure, something blues greats like Charley Patton and Robert Johnson were known for. ‘Please Leave My Kitchen,’ inspired by post-concert parties in Lynch’s kitchen, is of course a kind of musical answer to Johnson’s classic ‘Come On In My Kitchen.’

Lynch writes all but one of the 12 songs on the album, and displays a deft hand at creating beautiful guitar melodies and arrangements. He credits Jon Burden, whose guitar playing “has the biggest vocabulary I’ve met.” Jon’s influence is all over this album.

There are distinct traces of folk music throughout. The title track was inspired by one of their blues heroes, Albert Collins, who used an F minor open tuning. The resulting song has a chiming, almost Indian sound to it. The song ‘Would You Meet Me There’ has an underlying Cuban element, while ‘You’re Not Ready and Chasing Shadows’ have R&B style horn sections driving the groove. ‘Song For a Country Girl’ is a 1930s jazz feel to it. Unsurprisingly then, Lynch is determined not be pigeonholed.

For a Country Girl

It features a Who’s Who of Kootenay musicians. What changed? “I was sitting in the Kootenays haven’t done that, because I’ve only scratched the surface, we have so many good people here.”

“The recording started with just Burden and Lynch laying down tracks with vocals and guitar, but soon expanded to include a cast of 20 musicians. What changed? “I was sitting in too many years,” says Lynch, “and there were suggestions flying around the room. And someone said, imagine a cello on that one. And another one said, imagine some soprano voices on that song. And I said, well we have all of these people here.”

Lynch started making phone calls and everyone he called said yes. That includes musical luminaries like soprano Noemi Kiss, who performs in opera houses across Europe, yet makes her home in sleepy Argenta. Multi-talented Besse Wopp adds accordion and vocals with an Eastern European shimmer. Allison Girvan lends her pristine vocal talents, as does the earthy blues singer Aryn Sherriff – a frequent performer at the annual Silverton Winter Blues Boogie. Ubiquitous hornplayer Clinton Swanson provides a brassy gloss to the songs along with trumpet player Donnie Clark and trombone player Keith Todd. Composer Don Macdonald provides a warm, folksy violin. To mention only a few of the worthy musicians on Lynch’s long guest list.

“I wonder why other musicians in the Kootenays haven’t done that, because I’ve only scratched the surface, we have so many good people here.”

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Sandon loses historic cabin to fire
by Jan McMurray

Another historic building has burned down in Sandon.
The one-room cabin on Sandon Creek, most recently the home of Tom Reigel, was reduced to ashes in the attic, close to the chimney.

Wilson says the fire started in the attic, and Tom was a great neighbour and friend.”

Sandon loses historic cabin to fire
by Jan McMurray

Any hope that the new government would have a different approach to small water systems has been dashed.

“arable area” says Minister Selina Robinson in a letter to the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) board.

The letter follows up on a meeting between RDCK representatives and Minister Robinson at the UBCM convention.

May Gudmundina
Kelly
(Goodman)
May 3,1929 - January 20, 2018

May was born in an Icelandic community, Hecla Island on Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba. When May was 6 she moved to a lovely farm near Gimli Manitoba, which is still in the family. She was one of 10 children. She enjoyed walking in the fields, gardening, cooking and sewing.

May was 17 when she moved to Winnipeg to work sewing at a clothing factory (Stalls of Canada). May met her husband Mike in Selkirk, Manitoba when she was 19. They were married on May 7, 1949.

Interestingly, Mike and May were delivered by the same midwife - May’s grandmother.

Mike was a heavy-duty mechanic and they moved a lot for work. They had 7 children, Roy (Heather), JoAnn Chatten (Chuck), Brian (Kathy), Darlene Halata (Robert), Lori, Gerry (Lynn), Robert (Jessica).

As well, raising a large family, May worked in camps as a cook and cleaner, she sewed and assisted in a hairdressing shop. May always enjoyed spending time with children, every little person was special in her eyes. The Kelly house was open to all, some mornings there would be 15 or more for breakfast. In her free time she enjoyed walking, berry picking, making wine, canning, dancing, music, crocheting, curling, boating and fishing. May also enjoyed telling jokes and spreading laughter to everyone around.

May passed away peacefully in Nelson, BC at the Mountain Lake Seniors home.

May considered herself fortunate to have come from and to have had a big loving family. She leaves many who mourn her passing. Siblings and relatives in Manitoba along with her family and friends in BC including many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

As an expression of sympathy, donations may be made in May’s honour to a charity of your choice. You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence by visiting the family’s online register at www.thompsonsfca. ca