Burton Elementary School to re-open September 2018

by Jan McMurray

Burton Elementary School (BES) will re-open in September, after being closed for six years due to lack of enrolment.

School district staff forecast a K-3 class of eight students in 2018-19, with enrolment climbing to a K-7 class of 18 students within six years. The School District 10 board of education made the decision to re-open the elementary school at its February 13 meeting, after a presentation by Superintendent Terry Taylor, Director of Learning Loma Newman, and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Shelly Woolf.

Taylor explained that she and Newman met with a group of Burton parents with 15 children between them (eight of primary school age) in November. The parents asked that the district consider re-opening the school.

“Burton is affordable, and they see it growing in the future, so they want Burton Elementary School open to encourage that,” Newman said.

Taylor said the district was already aware of the “baby boom” in Burton.

Of the eight students who will attend BES in September, one is currently at Edgewood Elementary, three are at Nakusp Elementary, three are enrolled in the Arrow Lakes Distributed Learning School, and one is currently not enrolled in SD10.

Newman said the Burton children are finding it difficult to travel on the bus, and the parents would like to be able to be more involved in their children’s education.

“The parents’ vision is for a one-room schoolhouse,” Taylor said. She pointed out that it’s not unusual to have small primary classes in the district. This year’s kindergarten class at NES has nine students, and the K-3 at BES has six.

The BES teacher and vice-principal will be reassigned from current staffing, Taylor explained, so re-opening the school will not incur additional staffing costs.

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Shelly Woolf presented a financial analysis of re-opening the school. Based on today’s funding formula, the school would receive the ‘Small Community Supplement’ and ‘Student Location Factor’ from the ministry. According to Woolf’s analysis, there would be a net surplus of $965,746 after eight years of the school being open. There would be a small loss in the first year, as ministry funding wouldn’t come in until the second year, but there would be surpluses in each of the following years.

Woolf cautioned that her analysis is based on today’s funding model. The ministry is reviewing the funding formula until spring 2019 and has indicated that the formula will be revised, she reported. Both Taylor and Arrow Lakes Teachers’ Association President Ric Bardati said their understanding is that some kind of protection for small schools will remain.

Taylor said there are many logistics to work through at the school, but she is confident that “we can make this work.”

At this point, they are looking at a four-day week for the elementary school program, using the Strong Start room. Strong Start would operate in the same classroom on the one day per week that elementary school is not in session. Currently, Strong Start runs one day a week for three hours.

The high school outdoor education/entrepreneurship academy program happens on Mondays in a dedicated classroom at Burton School, and Taylor said she anticipates no change there—the two programs should have no problems co-existing.

The third classroom at Burton School is being used by the Burton Community Learning Centre Society, and the society also has shared use of the gym and library. Isabelle Bergeron, society director, attended the school board meeting and was very happy when the trustees voted to re-open the school. She said she realizes this will mean some changes to the school.
FortisBC’s rate structure redesign would mean higher power bills for most

by Art Joyce

FortisBC is applying to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) for a rate redesign, moving from its current two-tier system to a flat rate. In a live webcast February 13 broadcast from its headquarters in Kelowna, FortisBC Manager of Regulatory Affairs Cory Sinclair admitted that, if approved, 80% of its customers would see a 16% increase over five years.

The application has prompted a letter from Kaslo Village council with serious concerns about the proposal. Former Regional District Area D Director Andy Shadrack plans to register as an intervener to object to the plan.

Sinclair said FortisBC is proposing a return to its pre-2012 flat rate structure, including a standard monthly service fee of $18.70 for all residential customers. Sinclair said the flat rate proposal is based on hourly energy usage, with flat rate electricity bills.

Our customers have done a really good job of conserving, they’ve set back their thermostats, changed to LEDs, they’ve done pretty much all they can do at this time. We think flat rate is the answer to diminishing conservation opportunities and equitable customer treatment.”

Sinclair used a series of complex charts and graphs to support his argument. About 27% of FortisBC customers — those in the highest consumption category (15,000 kilowatt-hours annually) — would actually see an annual decrease of up to 15%. Customers below that threshold will bear the brunt of rate increases. However, Sinclair said the proposed time-of-use option gives “the option to change consumption habits resulting in lower bills.”

FortisBC is also applying to offer time-of-use (TOU) rates for all classes of customers. The TOU option would not be mandatory but would be available to clients with a “smart” meter capable of reading hourly energy usage. While the flat rate would be phased in over five years, the TOU — if approved — could be in place immediately. The new TOU rate structure would have on-peak (22 cents per kWh), mid-peak (11 cents per kWh) and off-peak (9 cents per kWh), plus winter, shoulder and summer seasonal adjustments.

The live webcast was hosted in Kaslo by the Kaslo Senior Citizens Association branch #81, with 17 clients in attendance. The BCUC has been appointed by the association as its intervener in the FortisBC application, and says that the rate increase will hit seniors hardest. Seniors’ pensions are fixed, with small increases based on cost-of-living indexes, which Shadrack says is below the proposed 16% increase.

Further, two-thirds of the metering clients producing their own energy in Kaslo are seniors. “I don’t see why, when we in the Kootenays produce 40% of the province’s electricity, we should be made to bear the brunt of increased costs. We’re being expected to pay the highest rates for electricity while Fortis wants to pay the lowest for net metering, or to buy as little of the power their customers generate as possible.”

At a meeting of Kaslo council on February 13, a resolution was passed noting that the lack of any representation for rural communities by Fortis’ intervener leaves these customers “unable to directly question the rate designs in a public setting.” So far, sessions have been scheduled only in Kelowna and Castlegar. The Village resolution asks that FortisBC provide at its own expense multi-year household impact analyses compared with similar households in BC Hydro service areas; comparative business, industry and institutional impact analyses; and “comparative data for how each municipality and regional district is billed for streetlight power consumption, maintenance and streetlight years. Rates are市场竞争ally across the service area now and in the future if the related applications are approved.” Kaslo council also asks for feedback for the information to be reviewed throughout the region before the time for public comment expires. The resolution was copied to MP Wayne Stetski and MLA Michelle Mungall.

According to the BCUC’s Manager of Media Relations Katharine Carlson, prior to filing its application, FortisBC conducted information sessions, stakeholder workshops, online feedback opportunities and outreach to specific customer groups. However, Shadrack — a trained social scientist — argues that the feedback sample they used to justify the rate design application is so small as to be meaningless, only about 161 of its more than 114,000 customers. “So they’re talking to a tiny fraction of their clientele, and yet the BCUC leaves these questions about that? The BCUC is failing in its responsibility to act in the public interest.”

A public information session was held in Castlegar February 16. The deadline for intervener registration is February 23, with a final session March 6. For more information visit http://www.bcuc.com.

Harmeson explains in her letter that she had a 150,000 amp surge protector installed in her electrical panel to protect this expensive piece of equipment. She also says that the Appledale Hall, used as an evacuation centre in emergencies, lost both of its heat pumps in this event, and FortisBC denied their claims.

Director Popoff contacted Blair Weston of FortisBC to ask how the company was addressing the losses. Weston replied: “While we sympathize with customers who may experience damages as a result of an outage, we cannot guarantee uninterrupted service nor that the frequency or voltage of electrical service will not vary – particularly during extreme or unpredictable weather. Our terms and conditions state that the organization is not responsible for any loss, injury, damage or expense that is a result of interrupted service or voltage variation.”

Director Popoff’s resolution asks that the Minister of Energy and Mines and the BC Utilities Commission work with power companies to establish a process whereby compensation can be provided.

The Valley Voice  February 22, 2018

by Mayumi Nakamura

We’ll meet again with those we Love...for the heart never forgets.

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Marlynn Wilma Marshall
October 14, 1934 – January 31, 2018


Marlynn was the second born daughter to Rosa and Wilma Oatman in Anyox, BC October 14, 1934. She spent her childhood years with her sisters Fran and Irene in Stewart, Grand Forks and Kelowna. It was in Kelowna where she met the love of her life Ken. They married and were blessed with three children: Debbie, Gord and Nan. The family then moved to Nakusp in 1961 and Marlynn quickly became an ambassador for the community. She volunteered for many organizations; most importantly she was a dedicated servant of the St. Mark’s Anglican Church and also the Chamber of Commerce and always did so, with a smile. Marlynn was a living example of her faith and this guided everything she did, therefore she left a lasting impact on family, friends and community.


The family wishes to extend its gratitude for the kind and compassionate care provided by the staff of Bastion Place.

Please join us in Celebration of Life at the Nakusp Legion Hall, March 31, 2018, program to begin at 2:30. To honour Marlynn’s memory please wear blue. You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence by visiting the family’s online register at www.thompsonfs.ca.

“Anything will do, as long as it’s blue.”

We’ll meet again with those we Love...for the heart never forgets.
North Kootenay Lake Commonspace Initiative takes next step

submitted

A feasibility study will be undertaken as part of the effort to bring North Kootenay Lake services together under one roof in Kaslo’s Kemball building.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed between the Village of Kaslo and the three entities involved in the North Kootenay Lake Commonspace Initiative. For several months, the NKL Community Services Society, the Kaslo & District Public Library and Selkirk College have been discussing the idea of a shared space. The goal would be to meet the current and future administrative and programming needs of these organizations, as well as those of the broader community.

“These three organizations are very important to our greater community,” says Kaslo Mayor Suanz Hewat. “Village council wants to ensure that the exploration of this idea is completed properly so that we have the best information possible moving forward.”

The Commonspace Initiative was established to explore the possibility of working together to develop a shared space. A joint working group composed of representatives from each of the three organizations, together with representatives from the Village, has discussed repurposing the Kemball building and surrounding property for the proposed NKL Commonspace. The feasibility study arose from these discussions.

The feasibility study will be completed within nine months and will cover a wide range of issues that need to be addressed before any decision regarding repurposing the historic downtown Kaslo building can be made. The study will identify the needs of the three organizations and ways in which the property can meet those needs.

Cost estimates to renovate and build an annex will be determined and potential funding sources identified. Estimates of operating costs and potential revenue streams will also be researched. Governance models and a timeframe for the design and development will all be included.

“While the members of the working group are aware of many of the issues associated with the Kemball building, we were encouraged by the results of the assessment undertaken by Fairbanks Architects of the property,” says Eva Kelemen, a member of the working group.

“Its location, the onsite amenities, the size of the property and its place within the community could make it well suited as a home for the proposed commonspace. We look forward to working with the Village on this study as we look for ways to better serve the community of Kaslo and the surrounding area for many years to come. We can all envision this project to make our community proud.”

Ongoing communication with the community will be part of the process.

“The community needs to be involved,” says Hewat. “Once we get the feasibility study completed, we will be able to share more information about what has the potential to be an important hub in a beautiful heritage property.”

Formerly the provincial government building, the Kemball building is now owned by the Village of Kaslo. A feasibility study will be completed to see if it suits the needs of a proposed North Kootenay Lake Commonspace, which would house NKL Community Services Society, the Kaslo & District Public Library and Selkirk College.
The art of the Oath

Donald's getting ready for the toughest test of all: Telling Mr. Mueller, “I forget and can’t recall.”

But lawyers are wired for wisdom, and his advise him well.

“You’ll not talk to Mueller until snowballs freeze in hell.”

Kristen Jacks
South Slocan

CBT should promote arts in schools

It is good to see the many Valley Voice advertisements about money available from Columbia Basin Trust for arts and culture. This is an important and worthwhile effort, but why are local elementary and secondary schools so short of money for their music programs, if they even have one at all? Shouldn’t the Trust be promoting the arts in our schools where it is accessible for all young people? Shouldn’t we be promoting it early and with a long-term goal of it being for everyone? Isn’t this the mandate of the Trust?

Clair Berland
Passmore

Brave new world

“What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that everyone would have their own private little筐 of references on the wall in their own rooms. This would make it impossible to ever know what was really going on in the world.”

Recently I was waiting in a waiting room. Everyone was busy with their cell phones, pushing buttons. I and one other older person just sat there.

Frank Nixon
Winlaw

Tuition fees: Crispin’s book a must read

Tuition fees at colleges across Canada have been going up for many years. Personally I couldn’t afford to be a full-time student and have to work full-time and take classes on the side. I know many people who are in my situation or have given up on getting a degree because of the cost. As a student, I have been looking for a way to tell the government to put better funding into colleges.

I recently picked up a copy of The Fundamentals of Students’ Unionism, a book by Selkirk College student organizer Zachary Crispin. I can’t recommend this book more to everyone on campus, even events that are unrelated to students’ unions.

Terrence Walker-Bell
Nakusp

Disillusioned with BC politics

So now the New Dem Party (NDP) is going to complete the Site C Dam. How sad those billions of dollars are not being put into education. Can you imagine what kind of a boost $10 billion would be? Actually educating our number one resource, the people, to take on the challenges of the 21st century.

Instead we are fed lies, manure and promises. Mr. Weasel of the Green Party crowned the New Delusional Party leader, Horgan, as our Newly Deplorable Party leader. Strap in for more wacky BC politics!

After a steady diet of lies and broken promises in my 30-year voting career, I am understandably disillusioned when the NDP party continues to claim and inflate the number of dollars that are not being put into education. How sad we have the Site C Dam to proceed and the present Alberta government pushing dirty tarsands oil through as many pipelines as they can to convince the federal government to allow, all in the name of high paying JOBS, JOBS, JOBS to stuff, STUFF and pollute MORE, MORE, MORE of our environment to make corporations MONEY, MONEY, MONEY.

It’s almost comical, isn’t it, LOL.

So again, congratulations to the voters of Kelowna who decisively opted for human extinction as fast as possible. We are in the midst of the sixth Great Mass Extinction and its driving force is capitalism (the ‘growth’ economy). The main attribute of capitalism is producing as much garbage and pollution as fast as possible in order to satisfy the ever-increasing need to maximize corporate profits.

Why pretend we can save ourselves?

I wish to congratulate the voters of Kelowna who decisively opted for human extinction as fast as possible. We are in the midst of the sixth Great Mass Extinction and its driving force is capitalism (the ‘growth’ economy). The main attribute of capitalism is producing as much garbage and pollution as fast as possible in order to satisfy the ever-increasing need to maximize corporate profits.

The BC Liberals, being the main party of the capitalist, wish to achieve this goal of mass extinction faster than the other major parties. They are all in on the effort, but the BC Liberals, being a coalition of conservatives and liberals, are pushing the hardest. With the New Democrats and the Greens, expediency is the only moral truth, since capitalism is the predominant economic system of the world, and it is extremely difficult to buck the system. We can see this in the present BC government allowing the destruction of the Site C Dam to proceed and the present Alberta government pushing dirty tarsands oil through as many pipelines as they can to convince the federal government to allow, all in the name of high paying JOBS, JOBS, JOBS to stuff, STUFF and pollute MORE, MORE, MORE of our environment to make corporations MONEY, MONEY, MONEY.

It’s almost comical, isn’t it, LOL.

So again, congratulations to the voters of Kelowna who decisively opted for extinction as fast as possible. Why beat around the bush and pretend we can save ourselves.

Leon Pendleton
Whitshan

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The Valley Voice
February 22, 2018

BC’s wine industry/Alberta’s oil industry in search of common ground

• Product originates from the earth
• Product is stored in barrels
• Product improves with refinement
• Product used as fuel
• Product is excellent for lubrication
• Worldwide thirst for product
• Excessive consumption of product discouraged
• Safe transport of product in best interest of producer
• Spills of product to be avoided at all costs
• Easy consumer access to product becoming a pipe dream...

430 Front Street, Kaslo, BC 250-358-7714

KASLO HOTEL
Come check out our new menu!!

The Ingrid Rice cartoon is a satirical look at current events in politics and is sponsored by the Kaslo Hotel. The Hotel does not necessarily share the political views of the artist.
Open letter to the BC Utilities Commission re: FortisBC

I am a FortisBC electricity consumer, NOT by choice but because Fortis is the ONLY provider where I live. I also cannot afford to produce my own power.

Yes, the ratepayers were brought in two-tiered rates to encourage customers to lower their consumption and save — helping themselves, the environment and maybe even the power provider, I thought.

I do my dam best to use as little power as possible and consume ONLY low-rate power. If the FortisBC application is approved, every frugal power consumer will be slapped with a new higher rate. I assume, We will in other words be subsidizing wasteful power consumers. I subsidize Fortis already with a radio-off meter, but that’s another story. They plan to force this on us just like they tried to force the smart meters on us too! Mitigate annual rate impacts for lower consumption, encourage us to conserve and do it! Well isn’t that nice. All FortisBC customers should be up in arms, every single one of them. Fortis is looking for more legalized robbery.

Oh, I could get the time of use option — like I could cook my supper at midnight perhaps!

I know this corporation is up to no good. They tried to bill me more once than estimating my radio-off meter, for which I have lodged complaints with BCC. It got removed, but not from this.

Not a happy customer.

Henry Hutter
Winlaw

Loose dogs are a threat to whitetail deer

Year after year we witness the same sad thing: dogs at large chasing deer. We see this in summer too. But in wintry conditions with snow that deep, frozen hard with razor-sharp edges, and food scarce, the deer have a hard time surviving. Being chased by big dogs and fleeing the attack drives them to life-threatening exhaustion — if they can make it.

We live near Lemon Creek and share our property with wildlife. We declared our property a no-hunting zone; so did our neighbors. The deer seem to know the safe haven they have here. We have watched the birth of fawns, and watched them grow protected by their mothers. We have Mom with her twins, Mama with her single one. Sometimes last year’s offspring join in. Yes, they like their property, they don’t mind. In late summer they check out our fruit trees regularly for fallen apples and plums. We enjoy watching the fawns play and chase each other, see them losing their spots. We observe Mom and Mama keeping their young clean. Every winter we hope for a new crop.

In our hobo sapiens-dominated world, living space for wildlife gets decimated at rapid speed. The burned forest areas, vacant lots, and back yards we saw in late summer obviously did not make it through hunting season. White-tailed does are still open hunting — a crime in our eyes. Road kill takes a devastating toll on their numbers. And above all, dogs chasing them.

Last Sunday, we heard dogs chasing deer near our property. Today, one day later, one of Mom’s twins is gone. Just for the entertainment of loose running dogs. A weekend ago, again I heard dogs bark. I took bear spray and a stick and walked down to the river on frozen snow. I saw two dogs, a black one and a greyish-white-black border collie type. The poor deer they had chased was standing in the middle of the river, waters high to its chest. I hid behind a tree, watched and photographed the scene for about a half hour. Helpless and furious and deeply I walked away.

In icy cold water, humans can survive 15-20 minutes before dying of hypothermia. I have no idea how long a deer can stand these temperatures. What kind of a dog owner must a person be to allow this? Too blind to see what goes on? Too stupid to realize what happens? Or too just too ignorant about the well-being of wild animals and his/her responsibility for his/her pets? Probably all of this.

There is not much we can do to help the tigers, the elephants, the rhinos... But what we can do is here at our back door: watch, talk to the dog owner, and report to officials if the dog owners do not care.

Elisabeth von Ah & Michael Marnder
Lemon Creek

Open letter to Premier Horgan re: emergency health care

I received an email from you summarizing your Throne Speech, in which you claimed that the NDP is “revitalizing our healthcare to reduce wait times in emergency rooms.” Of all the news – this comes at the very time that my community of New Denver is scheduled to lose its emergency services on April 1st. We have a six day wait time in the ER, after 5 pm on weekdays. And we are not alone; other rural communities are facing this.

Waiting wait times? Your government will be INCREASING our wait times, requiring a one- or two-hour drive to the nearest other hospital for those who have emergency needs on the weekends. Are we to believe that one emergency room is as good as any other? Who are you fooling? A one- or two-hour drive could be a death sentence for people with serious injuries, heart attack or stroke.

Our emergency room has been preserved by health care staffed by previous governments; soon it will be forced to sit unused while our local doctor and nurses have their hands tied to do anything for a person gasping with a heart attack or some such. This is a SHRIKINGGKE of BC’s emergency response capacity, a refusal to maintain the former level of health care. You should be embarrassed by the contradictions between your Throne Speech and reality.

This dispassionate policy is blamed on a shortage of doctors, but that’s turning out to be a misrepresentation. People in our community can see that the small opening in the door for a new doctor for us has been half-hearted. Our MLA got us an extension to mid-April after substantial protest from the Village administration and the RDCK. But time will not help if the NDP refuses to invest the money needed to maintain our level of healthcare.

I urge you to tell your local constituents which doctors are supporting this on this issue all over this NDP riding, and that I included for you, yet I am taking steps to denounce your government. Enclosed, please find a package of letters published in our local paper denouncing the cutback of our emergency services. Emergency Room Your NDP MLA are responsible for this grave endangerment and I call on you to draw on all the necessary funds to resolve it.

Anne Woods
New Denver

New Denver area economy

This is an open letter to the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce and a response to them hiring ICandy Films to do a video on tourism for the area. When I asked on a Facebook post if the Chamber would be including some of the local business members in their video, I was told no, it was a tourism video. I don’t see the chamber doing anything for their business members or promoting them in any way. If they actually wanted to show people what the Slocan Valley is, they would include the businesses that are keeping these towns alive and would include them in a tourism brochure. This is the world how beautiful this area is... that is a given and doesn’t need to be showcased time and time again. Yes, tourism does bring people to the area but not sure why people would stay if there is no work or housing here.

This isn’t just a Chamber issue; the Slocan Valley should be getting on board and trying to figure out some way to promote their villages as good business locations. There are too many pitiful one organization against another in this area and that needs to stop also (loggers/miners vs. environmentalists’), heli skiers vs snowmobilers, those who want peace and quiet vs motorcycle tourists...the list goes getting longer and longer. A tragedy fought in Likely, BC for awhile (population much less than this area) and I was amazed how well everyone got along and worked together. During their May Days celebrations, all areas (environmentalism, logging, mining and tourism) played a part and worked together to make that weekend one of the best I have ever been to.

We need these villages, Chambers, businesses, etc to start working together to come to a solution... and it is not just tourism. If you think tourism will bring young people to the area, I feel you are very wrong. They have to sell this town, be here, yes, but can they afford to come to stay here? Probably not considering many of our young people that are here already can’t make a go of it. People need to realize without economy we will not have the amenities they want (example: doctors and a hospital). Most of our population is made up of seasonal homeowners, retirees and those who have to travel to other areas to work just so they can live in our piece of paradise. We need to start working on the area’s economy before it is too late.

Tanya Gordon
New Denver

Open letter to the mayor, council, residents and ratepayers of New Denver

Since my retirement from local government, I have enjoyed watching the continued development of our public space, paid municipal and regional property taxes and fees that have escalated far beyond cost of living increases, and refinanced from any public questioning of our council’s actions. Discreet silence is generally what our culture asks of councillors when faced with their own wrong doings in the past.

Likely, BC for awhile (population much less than this area) and I was amazed how well everyone got along and worked together. During their May Days celebrations, all areas (environmentalism, logging, mining and tourism) played a part and worked together to make that weekend one of the best I have ever been to.

The Village Voice is an open letter to the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce and a response to them hiring ICandy Films to do a video on tourism for the area. When I asked on a Facebook post if the Chamber would be including some of the local business members in their video, I was told no, it was a tourism video. I don’t see the chamber doing anything for their business members or promoting them in any way. If they actually wanted to show people what the Slocan Valley is, they would include the businesses that are keeping these towns alive and would include them in a tourism brochure. This is the world how beautiful this area is... that is a given and doesn’t need to be showcased time and time again. Yes, tourism does bring people to the area but not sure why people would stay if there is no work or housing here.

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Tanya Gordon
New Denver

LETTERS
Silverton council, February 13: Tree Inventory Program presentation

by Claire Paradis

• Richard Johnson was the delegation on behalf of the Tree Inventory Program. The program has given quantified values for the 1,996 trees in Silverton in terms of the cover they provide, the pollution they remove (494.8 pounds per year, $747/year), carbon stored (316.5 tons, $22,000/year), oxygen produced (23.94 tons/year) and runoff avoided (65,190 cubic feet, $4,290/year). Councillor Leah Main was keen to use the same method to calculate the benefit of trees to the Village’s watershed, and Johnson said it would definitely be possible to do so.

• Councillor Bill Christian said he met with the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society and Valhalla Wilderness Society to discuss how to stop logging in Silverton’s watershed, or at least how to allocate other trees in their place. Christian said the groups decided getting a terrain stability study as well as an independent hydrology report would be a good move, both with recommendations.

The councillor also recommended that the Village ask for the results from the Splatsin’s pre-harvest silviculture prescription as well as their terrain stability assessment. Councillor Main suggested providing the forestry company with Silverton’s watershed policy that states the Village will do what they can to protect their watershed. Christian said that one of the Skykomish Nation Alliance that Silverton’s watershed borders near Silverton, it was like “kicking a hornet’s nest.” So there may be other claims and concerns there, said Christian. The councillor’s suggestion to send a letter to the Ministry of Forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (MFLRO) stating that the Village does not want cutblocks 1 and 4 along creeks, or the cuts planned for steep terrain, was passed by council.

• Councillor Main said that Silverton will be retiring from his position with the Village of Silverton on May 31 of this year. The position will be advertised shortly. “Ideally if everything goes well, we have lots of time to have someone new on board before Darrell is gone,” said Mayor Clarke.

• A wage increase of 3% for the public works foreman, public works assistant and administrative assistant was approved for the 2018 calendar year. Remuneration for the mayor was increased from $3,000 to $5,000 and for councillors from $1,600 to $3,000, and that was the first increase in at least two terms, said Mayor Jason Clarke. Because there was no response to the call-out for a remuneration committee, council decided to bring remuneration in line with New Denver and Slocan. You have to increase it, said the mayor, especially if you want younger working people involved. Although the increase likely wouldn’t pay for childcare if a councillor needed it, it’s a step in the right direction, said Clarke.

• Silverton is applying for $161,550 for fuel treatment and maintenance to increase its firebreak so it would be effective in the case of a wildfire.

• The Arrow Scoah Tourism Association’s request for a letter of support for a Municipal and Regional District Tax Program (MDRT or 2% hotel tax) was approved by council. Councillor Main will advise the group to apply for funding from the CBT Community Initiatives Program to help pay the contractor preparing the MRDT paperwork. Councillor Main commented that it would be good to discuss AirBnB accommodations within the Village in the spring.

• A tour of the Silverton Gallery took place on January 30. The new lease will be signed with the Silverton Gallery Society when the building is ready to be opened to the public.

• Councillor Main reported that she and New Denver Mayor Ann Bunka attended the Health Matters meeting with the Interior Health Authority and told IHA very clearly that they had broken trust with the community. IHA refused to pursue the option of RN first-call, said Main.

New Denver council, February 13: Covered stairway from school to New Market referred to budget

by Katrine Campbell

• “A letter from Isy Schumann and Helen Allaway said that according to old Hydro, Corporate Officer Catherine Brown of the BC Hydro Regional District Tax Program for Kootenay Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. Asked to send a letter to the IHA on behalf of the GERCC to support the proposal to install charging stations,” said the mayor.

• There are big changes on the horizon for the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, said Main, and the SVEDC will be meeting next on March 1. The commission will be receiving Rural Dividend funding and the next year will be one of “profound changes” that will require a larger group of Slocan stakeholders to advise the SVEDC as well as devising a regional economic development strategy.

• The new water and garbage rates were finally approved. Single-family residences and churches will pay $122 for garbage service this year, up $5 from last year. Hotels, restaurants, other commercial businesses and institutions will pay $281 in 2017, up from $276. Water rates are up $22 across the board, with residences paying $479, commercial businesses $596 and restaurants and cafes $759. Accommodators will also be paying increased rates.

• Monique Wood was nominated by the Village to represent Silverton as an alternate on the RDCK Recreation No. 6 Commission.
**COMMUNITY**

**RCDK board, February 15: FireSmart 2018 program planning underway**

*by Jan McMurray*

- The board supported Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator Nora Hannon’s recommendations for the 2018 FireSmart program. As a result, the board will budget $40,000 from the Rural Administration service – the same last year – for fireSmart program grants. The board was also approved for a $250,000 program. If grant applications are successful, up to nine $25,000 grants will be available. The grants will be spread over four terms, with the grant application deadline set for April 30, 2020.

- In Nelson for an annual rental (2018-April 30, 2020) for two years, the Province of BC (March 1, 2018-September 30, 2019) will be hired to work 35 hours per week for 20 weeks. They will be located subregionally, and will provide outreach FireSmart education, property assessments, and community support. They will also collect data to inform wildfire pre planning and emergency planning zones throughout the RDCD.

- The RDCD will apply for a $3,000 grant from the Columbia Basin Trust to hire a FireSmart Resource and Training Coordinator for one year. The Coordinator would be responsible for coordinating FireSmart resources for home and business owners, help with FireSmart mitigation, help coordinate FireSmart training, and promote and develop training opportunities between fire departments, the Regional District of the West Kootenay and the First Nations in the Columbia Basin.

- The RDCD has three Strategic Priority Units (SPUs), which are deployed across the region during fire interfaces when structures or infrastructure are at risk. The SPUs contain equipment such as large-diameter bubble and to wet roofs and areas surrounding structures. The board agreed to budget $10,000 per SPUs to maintain the SPUs, and to upgrade the two years of this year a community fireSmart Project. This will require a contribution of $70,000 in taxes in 2018 from RDCD residents.

- The RDCD’s $133,726.43 funding application for the LiDAR initiative was successful. This initiative will help with flood risk assessment, flood mapping and flood mitigation planning.

- The RDCD’s Emergency Social Services Enhancement Project will go ahead, with $24,950 from the provincial Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.

- **RCDK expands**

  The RDCD will enter into a 24-month rental contract with the Province of BC, effective March 1, 2018 (April 30, 2020) for the regional offices at Kootenay Place in Nelson for an annual rental cost not to exceed $77,000. This is a short-term solution to address the shortage of space at the RDCD building in Nelson. The new offices would accommodate the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and FireSmart Management Services staff, and the Community Services department. The cost of IT connections, renovations and office furniture for these two offices is estimated at $87,000.

  The board approved the hiring of one full-time, temporary, Information Technology staff member. This will be in the 2018-2022 financial plan.

- The board agreed to hire four summer staff: two GIS summer students at a cost of $25,742 to be paid from Land Use and Planning Services; one Resource Recovery Educator at a cost of $12,872 to be shared among the three water subregions; and a Water Smart Ambassador at a cost of $12,872 to be shared among the water systems that participate in the program.

**Transport improvements**

- A total of $277,500 in transit infrastructure improvements will be made in 2018. The $267,700 in Transportation and Infrastructure will cover $188,000 of the costs, and the $89,500 RDCD will cover from Areas E, F and H Community Works funding. Bus shelters will be installed at the Playmore junction (Hwy 3A and 6, Playmor Rd), Hwy 3A/Nelson Bridge, and Ymir. Solar bus stop lights will be installed at (which includes the Slocan Valley), 99 (Nelson- Castlegar) and 10 (North Shore). Bus stop signage will be installed throughout the region. There will also be improvements to the Winlaw Park and Ride site, Nelson Park and Ride site, and existing pullouts.

- The RDCD has achieved Milestone 4 of the Partners for Climate Change Program, because it has implemented actions to reduce GHG emissions in corporate operations and in the community.

- **Nakusp and Area K**

  - Recreation Commission No. 4 (Nakusp and Area K) grants were approved for the Nakusp Squash Club ($400), Nakusp Curling Club Care Society (950), Kootenay Sufferfest Society (500), Nakusp Ladies Golf Club ($1,175), Nakusp Ski Club Association (1,000).

  - The Nakusp landfill needs some extra lighting; the board will budget $5,000 for this in 2018. The facility will also see a Waste Spotter summer worker, who will screen waste brought to the site by custodians. A Waste Spotter will also work on the Oteshcnenda film in summer. The board approved $14,900 for the Waste Spotter in the Waste Smart subregion.

  - Edgewood Transfer Station hours are changing as of May 1 to Saturdays 9 am-1 pm (year round) and Wednesdays 9 am-12:30 pm (1-September 30). Current hours are Sundays noon to 4 (May 15-September 15), and winter hours are Saturdays noon to 4 (October 1-March 31) as the numbers will be limited. Food waste can be dropped off at the site by customers. A Waste Spotter is on duty at the site Monday to Friday to assist customers.

  - $24,950 from the provincial Funding will go ahead, with the Provincial Funding for the Silverton Community Centre (500) and Zone 6 Kootenay Boundary 55+ Groups ($500), Brent Kennedy Elementary School PAC ($500) for the playground ($5,000) and Kootenay Organic Growers Society ($866.85).

**Slocan Valley**

- The board approved $15,590 for the community composting pilot project in New Denver-Silverton, led by the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley.

- The RDCD will apply for funding for a 3.16 hectare fuel treatment project at Trozzo Creek. The total cost is $228,000. If the grant application is successful, $205,200 will be covered by the Province, $11,400 from CBT and $11,400 from Area H Community Development funds.

  - Recreation Commission No. 6 will receive an extra $5,000 this year for repair and replacement of fitness equipment at the community gym in New Denver. Danika Hammond and Daniel Hellyer (alternate Area H rep) were appointed to the Recreation Commission for a term ending December 31, 2019.

- The RDCD is open for public hearings on Kleskun/Lamar Lumber’s proposal to develop a two-storey office building and a staff parking lot on the treed property across Hwy 3A from the sawmill and lumber yard. The proposal would involve OCP and zoning amendments from commercial to residential.

**‘Get Your Just Desserts’ submitted for 2018**

Volunteers – they keep our communities strong and resilient, putting in countless hours to make sure that critical services are provided and many needs are met. They come in all shapes and sizes, and they live throughout our valley.

Volunteers – they deserve to be recognized and appreciated for all that they do!”

This year Volunteer Week in Canada runs from April 15 to 21. The Slocan Valley is once again celebrating “Get Your Just Desserts,” a special event hosted by the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society to recognize the many dedicated citizens giving their time and energy that the valley couldn’t make it last year or the year before. Valley residents are also encouraged to suggest an individual, someone who volunteers informally than as part of an organization.

Groups wishing to register (or someone with an individual suggestion) should send an email with the name of their organization and the names of five volunteers (or the name of their nominee) to svsclv@gmail.com. The deadline is April 4, 2018.

“This will be a great opportunity for people to recognize neighbours and neighbours to enjoy an afternoon out,” says Maye, “without having to do any of the work!”

Early registration is recommended to be sure of a spot. For more information, call Val at 250-226-7399.

The SVCLS also reminds non-profit groups in the valley that their 2018 granting cycle is now underway, and grant applications can be found on the website at www.slocanvalleylegacy.com. Deadline is March 16, 2018.

The Slocan Valley Legacy Fund on Facebook.
Calls for forestry reform part of a province-wide movement

by Art Joyce

The call for forestry reform in BC is getting louder, with more voices weighing in on the chorus. In a previous Valley Voice issue we wrote about the Forest Practices Board (FPB) report calling for reform. Now an entire association has formed to that end, the BC Coalition for Forestry Reform (BCCFR). Like the FPB, it calls time on the provincial government’s current practice of outsourcing oversight to forested hired by logging companies, a practice known as “professional reliance.”

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) BC office has issued a report written by Bob Williams, further calling for reforms. Williams was Minister of Lands, Forests and Water Resources in the BC government of Dave Barrett and Deputy Minister of Crown Corporations in the government of Mike Harcourt. Williams started his forestry career in the Slocan Valley and Nakusp. He pulls no punches in the CCPA report.

“We have a monumental failure on our hands,” he writes. “The truth is that we have had a policy of liquidating our forests. For several generations we demolished great forests, clear-cut countless valleys and watched giant corporations come through and liquidate this great natural asset and move on.”

Our experience with professional reliance has led us each to conclude that there is an obvious conflict of interest,” adds the BCFFR, "both in regulation and in practice, when industry employees who are extracting timber value for their employer are also the final decision makers in how non-timber values will be 'protected' from the very harvest activities they are proposing.”

Williams cites statistics showing the steep decline in the milling industry in BC. Between 1990 and 2015, the number of large- and medium-size sawmills in BC declined from 131 to 70, a 47%-decline. Travers as saying that BC should emulate Sweden’s scientific silviculture system in young forests. The other parties in the House then, the other parties in the House have each had their opportunity to speak to the motion. Such cross-partisan support in Parliament is unusual, though as Cannings said, “in other words, those most impacted by this issue and who come from a background of the local harvest advisory committees as part of a formalized consultation process with all parties, and an increase in funding for monitoring and enforcement.”

The UBCM report states: “Without sufficient conservation officers and forestry officials on the ground, the Province is not in a position to adequately perform its monitoring and enforcement role,” a conclusion shared by the CCPA, BCCFR and the Forest Practices Board. Like Williams’ report, the UBCM document calls for a better long-term forestry strategy, and support for all tree farm license and tenure holders to become sustainability certified.

Canada now has a national British Home Child Day

by Art Joyce

It’s just one more reason to celebrate being Canadian. On February 7, House of Commons motion M-133, sponsored by Conservative MP Laura Froese of Kootenay-Coldwater, passed unanimously (294-0) in Parliament. The motion declares September 28 national British Home Child Day, a long overdue recognition of the more than 100,000 boys and girls brought to this country as child immigrants and indentured labourers between 1880 and 1948. It’s estimated that there are at least 50,000 British Home Child Children to Canadian society, their service to our armed forces throughout the twentieth century, the hardships and stigma that many of them endured, and the importance of educating and reflecting upon the story of the British Home Children for future generations by declaring September 28 of every year, British Home Child Day in Canada.”

Liberal MP Serge Cormier said in his speech that, “The thinking that led to the decision to uproot those children from their lives in England and send them to another country, thousands of kilometres away, seems absurd in the 21st century – and it passed fairly easily.”

The newly established national British Home Child Day is one more step in the right direction towards getting the BHC recognition of their immeasurable contribution to Canada, especially during its formative years,” writes Lori Oschefske, who established the British Home Children Advocacy and Research Association. “We as a government must forget their collective contributions or can we forget those who suffered greatly and those who lost their lives far too early.”

Land Act: Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that Irene Golebiowski and Ernest Leyland located in near Rosebery, and containing 0.03 hectares more or less, have applied to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Development (FLNRORD) to apply for a provincial forestry management with Sweden’s, which has a roughly equivalent forestry land base. “The standing stock in Swedish forests has increased dramatically from 2.3 billion cubic metres in 1950 to 3.9 billion cubic metres in recent years. BC forests have been in commercial use since Williams. “Sweden’s success has been achieved by satisfactorily stocking, thinning and intensively managing their forests.” Tree-thinning operations alone in Sweden produce 30% of the annual produce 30% of the annual total area replanted and the total area noted a significant gap between the Canada now has a national British Home Child Day

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Not Extinct: Keeping the Sinixt Way

On March 4 at 4 pm, join Maa Press at the Valkcin Whole for the launch of Not Extinct: Keeping the Sinixt Way. Many years in the making, this book written by Marilyn James and Tareas Alexis is part of a multi-pronged project by the Blood of Life Collective. There will also be presentations of the book during the upcoming months in Nakusp, at the Langham in Kaslo, Touchstones in Nelson, the Kootenay Gallery in Castlegar, and elsewhere.

For over a year, Blood of Life Collective members gathered to listen to and record Sinixt storytellers and knowledge-keepers James and Alexis telling the stories of the Sinixt oral history. They were entertained week after week by the antics of the trickster Coyote—a and the goings-on of the other animal beings who people these stories. These traditional stories as well as a few contemporary ones form the backbone of Not Extinct. The stories are available for free audio download by purchasers of the book in their original oral format.

As James writes in the introduction, “The stories that inform this book are the stories that depict the Sinixt oral history. They are the creation stories of this particular landscape, of our People. The stories guide us, they tell us about the laws, the laws of this land, laws that dictate our lives, our cultural paths, how we behave. Here, in Sinixt territory, these stories guide us."

Also recorded were discussions about each story which were transcribed into a written format. These explorations of the meanings and contemporary relevance of each story form the contents of the book alongside a captivating illustration and a settler’s reflection for each chapter. The Sinixt authors explore many aspects of their living culture including food, games, language, hunting and other cultural practices as well as the impact of the 1956 bureaucratic genocide of their people.

In another prong of this project, the stories and subsequent discussions have been turned into a 22-part audio series available as podcasts as they air on Kootenay Co-op Radio (kootenaycoopradio.com). Sinixt Stories: Ancestral Roots, Cultural Seeds is produced by collective member Catherine Fisher with the assistance of the other members: James, Alexis, Axel McGown, K.L. Kivi, Amber Santos and Alison Christie.

The work of the collective has been funded by the Canada Council for the Arts Aboriginal Storytelling Program, the BC Council for the Arts and the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance of the Columbia Basin Trust. Vital support was also provided by the Nelson and District Women’s Centre and Kootenay Co-op Radio.

To find out about upcoming readings, presentations and events and to follow the ongoing work of the Blood of Life Collective visit the Facebook page, facebook.com/bloodofflccollective/. To book a presentation, please contact info@maapress.ca.

Community

Not Extinct back to their original spawning grounds.

In their original oral format. www.maapress.ca.

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Be part of the budget process.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) invites the public to provide input into the development of the 2018-2022 RDCK Financial Plan.

What do you think?

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www.rdck.ca
Colville Tribes fight Teck’s appeal of pollution liability ruling

submitted
The US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on February 5 heard arguments from Teck Metals Ltd. challenging previous lower court rulings that it is liable for response costs for its releases of hazardous substances in the Upper Columbia River and Lake Roosevelt. A decision is expected later this year.

The trial court’s ruling was the result of more than a decade of vigorous litigation by the CCT and the state against Teck, based on its disposal of the Columbia River of 9.97 million tons of slag and effluent over almost 100 years. This case is unique not only because a Canadian mining company was found liable under US law, but because an aboriginal congregation and a state joined forces to protect a shared treasured resource – the Columbia River – and assure that the polluter, rather than US taxpayers, would pay the cost of any needed remedial action.

CCT Chair Dr. Michael Marchand, who attended the hearing in Seattle, said “The Tribe and state presented compelling arguments against Teck,” and he looked forward to a ruling in their favor.

About the Colville Tribes: Today, more than 9,520 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The tribes, commonly known by English and French names, are: the Colville, the Nez Perce, the Sa Nepean, the Poil, the Lake, the Palus, the Watenchi (Wenatchee), the Chelan, the Entiat, the Methow, the southern Okanogan, the Moses-Columbia and the Nez Perce of Chief Joseph’s Bands.

Interior Health CEO to retire fall 2018

submitted
Interior Health President and CEO Chris Mazurkewich has provided the Board of Directors with his letter of resignation, expressing his decision to retire at the end of October.

“Chris Mazurkewich has spent nearly three decades working to build a strong, sustainable health system in British Columbia,” said board chair Doug Cochrane. “Under his leadership as CEO, Interior Health has implemented services that make health care more accessible in rural areas, services that support people living with mental illness, and services that meet the needs of our increasingly older population.”

“It has been an honour to work in health care alongside the physicians and staff who provide care to our patients, clients, and residents,” said Mazurkewich. “Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of meetingcountless residents and individuals who make incredible contributions to the delivery of health care every day. I want to extend my gratitude to each of you – thank you.”

Mazurkewich was appointed President & CEO of Interior Health in October 2015. Prior to that he was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Alberta Health Services for four years. From 2002-2009, Mazurkewich was Interior Health’s Chief Financial Officer, Strategic & Corporate Services.

The board is proceeding with the recruitment of a new president and CEO. In the coming days it will retain an executive recruiting firm to undertake an international search. In the meantime, Mazurkewich will remain in his position until his departure in the fall.

Winlaw sledder cold, wet but uninjured

submitted
A 35-year-old Winlaw resident was happy to dry off and warm up after unexpectedly spending a night outside.

On the evening of February 9, the man’s girlfriend called Slocan Lake RCMP because she could not get in contact with him. The police went to the man’s home and located a fresh set of snowmobile tracks departing from the residence. Nelson Search and Rescue were activated and the snowmobile tracks led to an avalanche path but, due to nightfall and the risk of avalanche, the search was suspended.

The man resumed the following morning and a helicopter assessing the risk of avalanche located the man walking in the avalanche area.

Slocan Valley Seedy Sunday

Are you dreaming of sunny days in your garden? Good, because the Slocan Valley Seed Exchange is just around the corner! Join us for our annual Seedy Sunday, March 4, from 11 am to 2 pm at the Crescent Valley Hall. The day will include guest speakers, special presentations and, of course, plenty of local seeds and gardening expertise.

Free personal planning session offered

Are you prepared for the unexpected events that may occur for your future? In a time of crisis, wills and estate planning may not be enough.

Slocan Park resident Ruth Hackett will share her wealth of experience on personal planning and representation agreements with the community on March 6 at Slocan Park Hall. From 10 until noon, enjoy coffee, tea, and baked goods while learning how to ensure that your personal care needs will be taken care of in the way you want if you suddenly need assistance due to illness, injury, or disability.

Personal planning is different from estate planning: personal planning is about making arrangements for while you are alive, while estate planning is about making arrangements for when you die. Get informed on your rights, and the steps needed to ensure the people you choose have the legal authority necessary to help you should a crisis occur.

Everyone is welcome to attend. A $2 drop in fee is requested to cover the cost of refreshments. For information or to reserve a table, call 226-0008 or email slocanvalleyrec@rdck.bc.ca.

Food for Thought: Astronomer explains merging stars

The Hidden Garden Gallery invites you to a Food for Thought presentation March 4, 7:30 pm at Knox Hall in New Denver

Amateur astronomer Sandy Nichols has been studying the night sky and has presented lectures and star parties for universities in US and Canada. Many people were aware of the solar eclipse last August and watched in awe as the sun was blocked by the moon’s shadow. However, there was a far more significant celestial event that took place just prior to the eclipse, the merger of two neutron stars.

Nichols will explain the mind-bending science behind this merger in his talk, ‘A Ripple in Space/Time’. By donation, to benefit the gallery.

Village of New Denver Public Notices

Call for Volunteers
The Village of New Denver is seeking local residents to sit on the Village of New Denver’s Local Selection Committee to guide the allocation of funding from the CBT Community Initiatives Program. The meeting will take place at 8:30 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018 and interested individuals can contact the Village Office for more information. The deadline for expressions of interest is 4:00 pm on Wednesday, March 14, 2018.

Campground Attendant
The Village of New Denver is currently accepting applications for a Campground Attendant for the 2018 season. Information about the position is available from the Village Office. The closing date for applications is 4:00 pm on Friday, March 16, 2018.

Council Procedures bylaw
In accordance with section 124 of the Community Charter, members of the public are hereby notified that the Village of New Denver intends to make changes to its Council Procedures bylaw, updating the document to reflect current best practices and provide an additional opportunity for public comment before Council makes a decision on an issue. Copies of the draft bylaw are available for inspection at the Village Office.

Knox Hall Improvements
The Village of New Denver will be applying for funding from the CBT Built Heritage Grant Program for the Knox Hall Conservation Project. The final application will be submitted by March 16, 2018. Details about the proposed project are available weekdays between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm from the Village Office.
Nakusp council, February 13: Record snowfall hard on budget and staff

by Claire Paradis

- Record snowfall has meant record spending moving the stuff around. CAO Laurie Taylor reported that $52,069 was spent in January of this year compared to $33,590 in January 2017 on snow removal. The preliminary budget will be coming to the February 26 council meeting, and it will look like snow will figure heavily, as it does every year. The Village budgeted $144,550 for snow removal in 2017, and spent $142,680. But the cost reduction in 2018 has been more than monetary.

- “It’s very hard on them, the complaints they get,” commented Taylor, who said the “one finger salutes” Village workers received from people was very disheartening for the staff.

When asked what can be done about Village trucks blocking residents’ driveways with snowdrifts, Councillor Bill Tobey said it’s up to citizens to lend a hand and dig themselves out. “They’re pushed as it is to get Broadway and the main roads cleared,” said Tobey. He and Mueller noted that the plough trucks were able to go back and clear driveways when they had more time.

- Council voted to support the Arrow Lakes Historical Society’s request for a $24,000 grant in aid from Nakusp and a portion of Area K to help pay the wages for the Archive Technician and for other operating expenses. The RDCK will hold an Alternate Approval Process to determine if residents support the grant in aid service. The service would cost individual taxpayers approximately $5.76 per year on a $100,000 home; $14.40 per year on a $250,000 home; and $23.04 per year on a $400,000 home.

- The Village of Nakusp will send a letter of support for the Arrow Slocan Tourism Association’s application for the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program (MRDT). The 2% hotel tax in Nakusp, New Denver, Silverton, Slocan, and RDCK Areas H and K would pay for tourism marketing.

- Councillor Bill Tobey reported that the Nakusp Community Forest (NACFOR) is working up at Salmon Lake Area K, and he said they are working in accordance with provisions made to protect the western toad.

- Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) has told the Village they would consider putting funds toward the Downtown Revitalization Project. The Village has jumped to it and is sending CBT a request.

The Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce

Annual General Meeting

The Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend our 2018 AGM

Thursday, March 1
5:30 pm
Selkirk College
311 Broadway Street
Please RSVP 250-265-4234 or nakusp@telus.net by Friday, February 23.
We look forward to working with you in 2018!

Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce
Over 70 skiers and snowboarders registered for this year’s Summit Lake Race Day on February 11. Racers, all from the Arrow Slocan Lakes area, ranged in age from 5 to 40+. Medals were presented to the top three racers in each age category, and there were three trophies, too. The Tim Markholm Trophy went to Tim Barisoff, fastest high school snowboarder; the John Gleboff Trophy went to Garrett Waterfield, the fastest high school skier; and the Teanne Jones Trophy went to Finn Watt, the fastest Nancy Greene Summit Lake Racer. Here, Jonah Rainford of New Denver receives his first place medal in the male 5-7 year old category from Miss New Denver, Jude Helene Chodat.

Kris’s Winter in the Forest Festival was a fun-filled and sun-filled day! Here’s the lineup for the Human Dogsled Race, won by the Food Hub team.

Submitted

On Sunday, March 11 at 1 pm, the Slocan Community Library will welcome writer, researcher, and speaker Eileen Delahanty Pearkes. In her presentation ‘The Columbia River Treaty, its history, and the land that we love,’ she will speak about the opportunity we have to bring a more generous and thoughtful perspective to the region’s water.

The presentation will focus on her latest book, A River Captured: The Columbia River Treaty and Catastrophic Change. For this Nelson author, the book represents a decade of research and a lifetime of learning about water. The library has several copies of one of her earlier books, The Geography of Memory, which focuses on the indigenous history of the region, specifically the Sinixt. This information will naturally be woven through her talk. Pearkes will give an update on the current state of the Sinixt ‘extinction,’ movement out of extinction, and the state of our government relating to this. You are invited to the library to meet Nelson’s 2017 Cultural Ambassador, and enjoy her presentation. Copies of her books will be available for purchase or signing.

Submitted

The Langham Guest Artist Series presents Twin Bandit Saturday, March 3 at 7 pm. This sweet-sounding Vancouver-based folk duo’s elegant voices harmonize to create a beautiful tone that reminds one of simpler times. For the last four years, Hannah Walker and Jamie Elliott have been garnering praise for their standout festival appearances and shows for passionate crowds across Europe and North America.

Join Hannah and Jamie for an evening of intimate and beautifully crafted original folk/roots songs! Advance tickets $18 at Sunnyside Naturals and Willow Home Boutique, $20 at the door, open at 6:30 pm. www.thelangham.ca
On March 10, the Vallican Whole Community Centre shares a unique theatrical event with the Slocan Valley community. The second feature in this year’s ‘Up Close and Intimate’ series is the world premiere of Be/Longing, an original and very personal play about the lives of Slocan Valley women, written and performed by Martina Avis and Marya Folinsbee. Doors open at 7 pm, performance starts at 8 pm.

Many valley folks have witnessed Folinsbee’s outstanding thespian talent as part of the Valley Gems theatrical troupe, directed by Avis. Who could forget watching her channel Elvis as part of their modern version of Midsummer Night’s Dream? Avis, on the other hand, has rarely been seen here on stage. This is her first foray into the world of acting, rather than directing and design, in almost 10 years.

What is the play about, and what inspired them to take on this challenge? “Originally, I was imagining some kind of historical storytelling, playing recognizable characters, maybe creating some kind of Slocan Valley portrait,” Folinsbee says. “What has arrived is surprising, and quite different from that. I am surprised at how personal a lot of it feels … but still somehow rooted in this place.”

Avis’s take on it is, “This play is mostly lighthearted, sometimes satirical. It captures lots of experiences in the valley. We hope people will see a bit of themselves and their neighbours in this show, that they will laugh and cry and contemplate what it means to live here.”

Part of the charm of the piece is the powerful connection between these two women. “I’ve directed her in three plays and she’s a truly marvellous actor, I always have absolute faith in her. With this play, it’s fun to get to work with her in this whole new capacity,” Folinsbee says, “I think we both recognized some kinship during the first couple of plays. A collaborator! Another theatre geek! Someone who speaks my language! On top of that we are in the same stage of our lives, both becoming mothers around the same time, so we became friends, and began to trust each other as artists and theatre-makers as well.”

Avis was born in the Slocan Valley, and is a fifth-generation valley resident, whereas Folinsbee arrived about five years ago. This gives them two very different perspectives to work with. “That is one of the themes that shows up in the play – how we relate to this place from those different starting points. I have been reckoning with ‘belonging’ wherever I’ve lived… and I feel that complication very strongly here.”

Avis’s experience is, “My relationship with the valley has changed many times. As a teenager I couldn’t wait to leave, in my early twenties I visited regularly and began to recognize its uniqueness and beauty. Now that I’m raising my children here, I’m so grateful to be a part of this place. Our community is how I make meaning in my life.”

Now they’ve written a play about being here, about the women they are and the women they live amongst, about the home truths involved in being a woman in this place. Everyone who comes will admire the courage and creativity of these two remarkable women as they make their way through this particular part of the world.

They want to extend a big thanks to the Slocan Valley Arts Council, for its generosity and patience. Tickets for this play and for the next presentation in the series, ‘Maria Dunn, Storyteller in Song,’ are available for $40 for the two at www.vallicanwhole.com. Check out the poster etc. on Facebook/TheWhole. The series is well on its way to selling out, so get yours now.
Slocan council, February 13: Resident donates painting by artist

by Sandra Smith

• Don Currie first sought to donate a painting that was given to him by two members of Zone 6, BC Seniors Games Society, to the Fitness Centre. The painting depicts a local mountain scene. Artist Barbara (Zouzouline) Rode lived in Slocan in the 1960s. “Once I realized Barbara Rode was an artist of note, I thought maybe the Village should have it,” said Currie.

Because the painting may be of historical significance, council will look into donating it to the Slocan Valley Historical Society. It was also suggested that the painting be reframed and hung in the Village office for a time and perhaps circulated to other secure areas, such as the library, for public viewing and appreciation.

• Claire Peyton of Silvertown is canvassing for stories from council and the community at large about the exceptional care given by Nurse Practitioner Donna Gibbons. The stories will be part of a package submitted by Peyton to IHA in order to nominate Gibbons for the IHA’s Health Care Hero Award. Council unanimously agreed to support Peyton’s petition and write a letter describing the “huge benefit” Gibbons is to the community.

• Council agreed to a letter of support from the Arrow Slocan Tourism Association, which will apply to the Provincial government through the Village of Slocan, Nakusp, New Denver, Silverton, and RDCK Areas H and K. The hotel tax program will run for a five-year term before it is reassessed.

• The Village of Slocan will be seeking $95,000 for wildfire mitigation – to have fuel treatment prescriptions done for several small forested areas within and surrounding the village. CAO Gordon pointed to the fire hall area as one location in need of treatment, where significant damage could occur in a wildfire event. The Village will apply for $85,500 from the provincial government through UBCM and $8,000 from CBT. SIFCo will contribute $1,000 and the Village will contribute $500. The Village has worked with SIFCo in the past, over $300,000 worth of fuel treatment in Slocan and the outlying areas since 2010.

• The Village is interested in testing water from Springer Creek on a regular basis. Councillors requested that staff determine the cost and report back. Councillor Perriere noted that this is the Village’s secondary water source and data collection should begin as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY

• Council voted to look into a boat wash station for Slocan beach, with a view to preventing invasive species such as Quagga and Zebra Mussels, and maintaining the pristine quality of Slocan Lake and Slocan River.

• Council received for information Landinfo Technology’s progress reports on the inventory of Village assets and the state of Village infrastructure. To date, a GIS base map has been created; water, storm and irrigation networks have been assessed; and Slocan’s roads and buildings have been assessed. The report on the general state of the infrastructure, technological set up and staff training are still in progress. According to CAO Gordon, Landinfo Technologies will present their final report to council at the regular meeting in March. The $37,000 Asset Management Project is 80% funded by FCM, with a 20% contribution from the Village’s gas tax fund.

• The Legion will now have until June 30 to complete the kitchen exhaust/ kitchen renovation project. Village council will support the 55+ BC Seniors Games with a $400 membership; funds will come from the RDCK Discretionary Grant Fund. Around 3,500 participants, including at least a couple of Slocan residents, will attend the annual five-day celebration being held this year in Cranbrook, September 11-15. Councillor Perriere abstained from the vote as her husband is a participant.

• The Village will appeal the Statistics Canada review of the 2016 population and dwelling counts for the Village of Slocan. CAO Michelle Gordon said the population numbers are low and the number of unoccupied dwellings is incorrect. Stats Canada’s review resulted in a revised population number of 289 (originally published as 272) and a revised number of private dwellings of 200 (originally published as 183). The RCMP submitted the fourth quarter 2017 Crime Statistics Report to council. The total calls for the Slocan Lake detachment increased by 12 in 2017 compared to 2016. A substantial increase was noted in motor vehicle collisions; total persons/violent; total property; and domestic violence. There were no drug investigations compared to five in 2016, and no thefts from vehicles (three in 2016).

• Fortis BC is applying to the BC Utilities Commission to change all FortisBC owned and maintained streetlights in Slocan to LED lights, said a letter and copy of the application from Diane Roy, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, FortisBC.

The Village has the opportunity to have all of Village owned and maintained streetlights changed at the same time, at a discounted price, said CAO Gordon, but the cost is too high.

• Council reappointed Mike Koolen to the RDCK Rosebery Parklands & Trails Commission as the Slocan representative for the 2018-2020 term.

• Council members will attend the annual conference of the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG) being held April 16-20 in Fernie. At least one councillor will attend the April 17, pre-conference workshop on Drinking Water, held by the IHA. Emergency Preparedness is the theme this year.

• February 28 is the deadline for the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs (CBT/AAP). The Slocan public meeting was scheduled for April 23 at 5 pm. Council will meet to consider applications on April 30 at 5 pm.

This original painting of a Slocan mountain scene by Barbara (Zouzouline) Rode, former resident of Slocan (1960) and artist of note, was donated to the Village of Slocan by Don Currie. Once the history of the painting was discovered, its destiny change all FortisBC owned and maintained streetlights in Slocan to LED lights, said a letter and copy of the application from Diane Roy, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, FortisBC.

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Kicking off the 2018 season on March 10, the Langham Galleries present two exciting exhibitions, ‘Kaslo - The Beginning: Celebrating Kaslo’s 125th Anniversary’ and ‘Boundaries.’ - The Beginning: Celebrating Kaslo’s 125th Anniversary. — The Langham curator, and listen to an artist talk from Gesser and an introduction by Scarlett.

These exhibitions run March 10 - May 13.
Renewed fire protection for the SS Moyie
by Elizabeth Scarlett, Kootenay Lake Historical Society

At Kaslo, a major piece of work is well underway aboard the SS Moyie National Historic Site, despite heavy snowfall, dampness and cold. The ‘dry pipe’ sprinkler system installed nearly 20 years ago had reached the end of its useful life and had been removed. A brisk crew from Trainor Mechanical of Nelson is busy replacing it, and are scheduled to finish the job before the end of March.

The new system will provide more complete coverage of the old ship, inside and out, and in some nooks and crannies that were left out of the old system. Most important of all, the new pipes will be filled with nitrogen gas under pressure, unlike the compressed air used in the old system. Because the SS Moyie is not heated in winter, the pipes cannot be filled with water, as they would in a school or hospital building. As the former system aged, it began to leak, which meant the air compressor worked hard to keep it up. Moisture condensed in the pipes, causing rust and more leaks.

As you can imagine, a project of this scale and complexity is costly. The Kootenay Lake Historical Society is grateful to Parks Canada and Columbia Basin Trust for their help. Even with these large capital grants, other costs have arisen which are being met by contributions from our members and friends of the Moyie.

Visitors to the ship last season would have noticed the spic and span condition of the paddlewheel cover.

Heritage Week is focusing on stories this year and indeed we have stories at the Nakusp and District Museum. Here are two to bring to mind the hard work and accompanying sense of humour our valiant pioneers possessed. They were taken from the Women’s Institute Anthology in the Nakusp and District Museum. You will find this wonderful collection and so much more when the museum opens on Victoria Day weekend.

The Chicken and me, 1908
by F.W.Crowell

This spring Joe bought a broody hen and eggs from Bob Baird, and the night of the day they hatched a skunk got at them and killed them all. The next night there was a heck of a row in my henhouse about twelve o’clock, and I ran out. Seeing something move I shot it. That brought Boyd and Joe on the run. We were not dressed for company, having just our undershirts on which didn’t quite cover the law!

Boyd in crossing the ravine on a log, accidentally discharged both barrels of his shotgun which knocked him off the log into a mud hole about ten feet below. Joe had better luck, and just as he made it, Boyd came crawling up the steep side of the ravine covered with mud and scratches. He looked like one of those prehistoric lizards! Mother was yelling and throwing pants and things for us to put on. Just then two skunks game out of the hen hole and opened up with gas warfare! Joe and I let go with our rifles killing both of them.

Just then mother poked a lantern around the corner, and then beat it, as she was not too well gotten up herself, and we had not had time to use the things she had thrown at us.

Taking the lantern we went to take stock. Six chickens and three skunks dead. We were a sorry looking and smelly bunch of settlers. We didn’t get rid of that smell all summer.

In the forest of Glenbank, 1907
by J.S. Crowell

Times were really tough here at this time. Money was scarce and there was no mill (it being burned down the previous year) we found it difficult to get lumber for the floors of our cabins. The nearest mill was at Summit Lake about 12 miles on the CPR toward Denver. So, jumping a freight at 1 pm, I went up there. Fully expecting to get another freight at 10:30 pm.

After making arrangements for my lumber, came time for the train, but instead Tom Allshouse, Mayor of Summit Lake got a wire, “Train off track.” No freight until morning, and I had promised to be home by midnight.

Well there was only one thing to do – walk! There being no road, the track was the only way, and that was very slippery with packed snow. I went on for a bit using a stick I had picked up for help, but finally decided to remove my shoes and go in my heavy socks. This was much better, and I found I was doing not too badly, when suddenly came the most horrible yelping behind me, which I fully believed to be timber wolves.

I started to run, but soon found they could beat me at that game, and all I had for defence was the stick I was carrying for a cane - not much good for a pack of wolves! Anyway I continued to walk and run as best I could and they following with their yelping. When about half way out to Box Lake, a deer suddenly broke out of the bush and ran along the track ahead, going towards Nakusp. How I wished I had his speed! Then from a tree overhead a screech owl let out a most curdling wail. A skunk crossed the track ahead of me and waddled down the bank into the bush. All of which had no soothing effect on the nerves. As for the skunk – I didn’t want an argument with him, as I know those boys! They carry an ace card up their sleeve, or somewhere, so I passed by on the other side of the track.

On came – the pack following, until I came out at Thomas Rushton’s place at Box Lake, and there those fellows seemed to get wind of another rabbit, for they seemed to swerve off and go up the mountain to the east, yelping to beat the band. My wolves turned out to be coyotes. I only wish I had known it at the start. They were very real wolves to me at the time, I was glad to have them go.

I waddled along to my cabin in the forest of what is now Glenbank.
New Denver Kyowakai Society: The End of an Era

The Village of New Denver had no formal memorial site to commemorate the Japanese-Canadian internment of World War II. The village wished to honor its Japanese-Canadian community and was especially poignant that the Kyowakai Society began functioning here in New Denver. This site was opened in 1994 and given national historic site status in 2010. Annually, the site is visited by over 4,000 people from all over the world.

We recognize the important volunteer work done by the historical societies in our area. Thank you! New Market Foods 6th Avenue New Denver, BC 250-358-2270

Local museums and heritage sites are insurance policies against forgetting our past. RHC Insurance Brokers Ltd. www.rhcinsurance.com New Denver 250-358-2293 • Toll-free: 1-800-332-0588 • sbs@silvertonbuilding.ca

Congratulations to the Slocan Historical Societies for their ongoing commitment to preserving the stories of the Silvery Slocan.

Thank you to our local Historical Societies for keeping our heritage alive for all of us to enjoy.

New Denver & Kaslo Community Pharmacy

Slocan Village Market
Thank you to the Slocan Valley Historical Society!

Slocan Market

Thank you to the Slocan Valley Historical Society for your efforts to help preserve our history and local heritage.

THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

Thank you to the Slocan Valley Historical Society for your efforts to help preserve our history and local heritage.

THE NIKKEI INTERMENT MEMORIAL CENTRE (NIMC), under construction in the early 1990s.

As one of its last formal acts, the Kyowakai Society intends to create an educational booklet chronicling their role in supporting and promoting Japanese-Canadian culture, up to the time of the opening of the NIMC. In 2017, council approved staff working with the Society to produce the booklet.

As part of the agreement, the Kyowakai Society gifted the Village $10,000 to assist in the production of the booklet.

The current plan would see the project wrapped up by the end of 2018. After the dissolution of the Society, its remaining members will continue to consult with the Village of New Denver regarding the cultural interpretation of the NIMC.

Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre: an initiative of the New Denver Kyowakai Society

The Ledge

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Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre: an initiative of the New Denver Kyowakai Society

The Ledge
Book on Slocan pioneer family coming soon

submitted

2018 will be exceptionally busy for the Slocan Valley Historical Society as several projects that have been in the works for years will finally come to fruition. Within the next month, the society will launch *Warriors in the Slocan: A Pioneer Family’s Story*, a memoir of life in the Slocan Valley from the 1920s to the 1950s. Originally published in a limited edition for family members, this book has been expanded and annotated by the society. Allan Warner describes his family’s efforts to carve out a homestead in the wilderness and the challenges they faced to make a living.

The book is illustrated with photographs from the Warner family collection and the Slocan Valley Archives. It will be available at the Slocan Village office and other retail outlets.

This spring, the first signs in a walking tour will be installed around Slocan, highlighting the village’s past. Sites including the Slocan Village Market (former Kinoshita store), the cemetery, Legion Hall, and vanished buildings of Main Street.

The initial signs were unveiled last July and more are now in production. In May, a companion website will be launched. This site will also include a series of recently-digitized Slocan Valley newspapers, spanning 1894 to 1933.

The society is refurbishing the Buddhist memorial at the east end of the Slocan cemetery. A new picket fence was completed in 2017 and interpretive signage will follow this year, along with restoration of the memorial itself.

Additionally, a display cabinet will be created in the Slocan council chambers to better protect and showcase some key artifacts, and efforts are underway to relocate the *Merritwake*, an early Japanese-Canadian fishing boat, from Kaslo to Slocan for permanent display.

The Slocan Valley Historical Society was founded in 2011 to preserve the past of the area between South Slocan and Slocan City. It maintains an extensive archive on the upper storey of the Slocan Village office, which is open by appointment. Call 250-355-2230 or email slocanhistoricalsociety@yahoo.ca.

Annual memberships of $10 are now due and payable to the society at Box 28, Slocan, V0G 2C0.

*In the early 20th century, Slocan City’s red light district was at the south end of Main Street between Giffin and Fitz Avenues.*

Archives and museums: Our link to the past

by Kathy Froese, Arrow Lakes Historical Society

Archives and museums are two distinct organizations. Both are important repositories housing our heritage, but in different ways.

An archives houses, protects and preserves our heritage through print material, maps, photographs, and personal recorded interviews. These collections are not displayed, but staff will assist in locating required information. People mainly visit an archives to do research, look for information on ancestors, events, settlers, industry, etc. They also enjoy reading local stories through one-of-a-kind anthologies, personal accounts, or old newspaper clippings. Although every effort is used to make sure an account of an event or experience is correct, many textual records are point-of-view and anecdotal.

A museum houses, protects and preserves our heritage with natural objects, artifacts, and antiques. They are open to the public with formal displays, and staffing is available to explain the exhibits. These collections generally consist of local cultural items that have been donated, purchased, or are on loan.

Occasionally, an article in the museum has background information in the archives. Museum staff are conversant with their collection; archival staff have insight and access to the background stories behind these items. With advanced communication and a shared database, the connection between artifact and story can be done efficiently, enhancing understanding of our historical and cultural legacy.

"That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons of history.”

Aldous Huxley
Happy Birthday, Lardeau Valley Museum Building!

The Lardeau Valley Museum is 100 years old this year. Originally, the building was a staff residence for the Gerrard Rainbow Trout hatchery at Trout Lake.

Cornucopia
Natural Food Store
422 Front St., Kaslo, BC
Kaslo turns 125 years
Learn about our diverse local history. Visit the Archives of the Kootenay Lake Historical Society in the Old Jail in the basement of the Kootenay Memorial Centre.
www.klhis.bc.ca/archives
Thank you to all the volunteers for your dedication in keeping our history alive!

Celebrating
125 years in 2018!
Information on Kaslo’s 125th anniversary celebrations coming soon
Mayor and Council Village of Kaslo

Front Street Market
A full selection of meat, deli, bakery & produce for all your grocery needs
9 - 7 Monday to Saturday • 10 - 5 Sunday
411 Front Street, Kaslo 250-353-2331

Eric’s Meat Market
Serving Kaslo for over 75 years
• Meats
• Cheeses
• Deli
• Sausage
425 Front • Kaslo • 353-2436

The Valley Voice  February 22, 2018
Kaslo council, February 13: Community Forest report received

• Council received a Kaslo & District Community Forest Society report from Steve Anderson, Village representative on the KDCFS board. He said the board is shifting its role to be more supervisory and less active in the day to day operations of the society, and the new management team has the energy and enthusiasm to facilitate this shift. The physical office in the Kernball building has been closed, and the website is being updated to be more user friendly, and the board will continue to be public, and the management team will do more community outreach. The office manager position, held by Ronnie Carmen for many years, has changed to strictly a bookkeeping contract. Ronnie chose not to bid on the contract. The managers are finding it difficult to find loggers at the moment, and are exploring options to address this. The society would like to generate some revenue soon.

• Council agreed to budget $2,500 for the Kaslo 125th Committee. The new Kaslo pin has been received, and a subcommittee has formed to organize a gala on Saturday, August 11 and a street party/celebration on Sunday, August 12.

• Pace Electric will source and order lighting for the City Hall for $21,779.63. If more funding to finish the kitchen is necessary, council agreed to use City Hall reserve funds not exceeding $5,000.

• Mayor Hewat was authorized to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Kaslo & District Public Library, North Kootenay Lake Community Services, and Selkirk College to hold the annual building and property for nine months while a feasibility study is done. The study will determine the feasibility of using a portion of the old City Hall building and of the new building currently under construction. 

The letter of comment regarding the Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program is approved by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia.

In Kaslo, Meleiana Terlingen, told her about the scholarship and encouraged her to apply, “I wasn’t going to apply at first because I didn’t think I had what it took, but Ms. Terlingen and my parents pushed me to do it and I am so grateful they did!”

The Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program is administered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia.

It pays!!!

Kaslo receives government grant for Pasta Fermentata research project

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo Sourdough has received a $75,000 government grant to study the potential health benefits of its line of quality, handmade pastas, called ‘Pasta Fermentata.’

The pasta, and Kaslo Sourdough breads, are widely available in the Kootenays.

“We are thrilled to receive this funding,” said Heidi Lettrari, general manager of Kaslo Sourdough. “As a small family business, it would have been very difficult to undertake this high-calibre research project to determine the health benefits of our sourdough pastas. Now, we will have top-notch research to better understand and communicate the health benefits of our sourdough pastas.”

The project, a collaboration between Kaslo Sourdough and Jane Shearer at the University of Calgary, includes research to determine if the sourdough pasta encourages lower blood-glucose responses, influences insulin levels, and benefits the gut microbiome. The substantive research is being done at the University of Calgary, while Kaslo Sourdough maintains the administrative oversight of the project.

Lettrari reported that the project has been ongoing for a year now. The research team is expecting to complete it at the end of March, followed by an analysis of the results and the completion of the research paper in May. “We look forward to sharing the results with the world when we have them,” she said.

The family-owned operation has been baking Kaslo Sourdough bread since 1993, and creating Pasta Fermentata since 2013. It offers 12 different flour combinations and six different shapes of its vegan and allergen-friendly pasta.

The Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program is aimed at small and medium-sized farms, and supports the commercialization of innovation projects under the Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program. The Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program is administered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia.

In July 2017, federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) ministers of agriculture reached an agreement in principle on the key elements of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, $3 billion investment that will set a solid foundation for the future of Canada’s farmers and food processors, and will continue to help them grow, innovate and prosper. The partnership is set to launch on April 1, 2018.

Energy Tips...

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KASLO & DISTRICT

February 22, 2018  The Valley Voice

Kaslo's Jesalyn Tremblay wins prestigious Lorana Scholarship

by Jan McMurray

Jesalyn Tremblay of Meadow Creek, student of JV Humphries in Kaslo, has won a Lorana Scholarship.

She is one of 34 students in Canada to win this prestigious award this year, valued at $100,000 over the next four years of undergraduate studies. There were over 5,000 applicants.

Kaslo Sourdough receives government grant for Pasta Fermentata research project

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo Sourdough has received a $75,000 government grant to study the potential health benefits of its line of quality, handmade pastas, called ‘Pasta Fermentata.’

The pasta, and Kaslo Sourdough breads, are widely available in the Kootenays.

“We are thrilled to receive this funding,” said Heidi Lettrari, general manager of Kaslo Sourdough. “As a small family business, it would have been very difficult to undertake this high-calibre research project to determine the health benefits of our sourdough pastas. Now, we will have top-notch research to better understand and communicate the health benefits of our sourdough pastas.”

The project, a collaboration between Kaslo Sourdough and Jane Shearer at the University of Calgary, includes research to determine if the sourdough pasta encourages lower blood-glucose responses, influences insulin levels, and benefits the gut microbiome. The substantive research is being done at the University of Calgary, while Kaslo Sourdough maintains the administrative oversight of the project.

Lettrari reported that the project has been ongoing for a year now. The research team is expecting to complete it at the end of March, followed by an analysis of the results and the completion of the research paper in May. “We look forward to sharing the results with the world when we have them,” she said.

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as Knox Hall at 7:30 pm at New Denver. March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22. Every fourth Friday. Interested new members contact dones@valo.net.

CANCER PATIENT SUPPORT GROUP: Every first and third Thursday of each month. 9 am in the conference room at Arrow Lakes Hospital. For more information call Linda 250-265-1397. Cancer Caregivers Support Group: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the conference room at Arrow Lakes Hospital. For more information, Allan 250-265-4391.

SLOCAN VALLEY GRASSROOTS GRAMMAS: welcome donations of quality sewing supplies, fabrics, notions, etc. Call our third dehne rummage sale benefiting the St. Vincent de Paul Foundation. May 25 at Passmore Hall. Call Linda 226-7304 to arrange pick-up. No clothing, books, electronics or large furniture please.


STRESS SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS: Stressed out? Overwhelmed by fear? Come find relief and “a new story” at the Thrashers Guild/Fourtheveryweek. March 9. Call Sharon 226-7703. ALLENSONG LIVE CONCERT at the SLOCAN VALLEY LEGION, 502 Harold St., Slocan, February 24 at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm. Award winning songwriter Paul Allen’s folk diaplay well crafted storytelling songs with innovative melodies in a mord style. Allen Song is not a dance band but a listening treasure! www.AllenSongBand.com. The Legion welcomes members & guests - we hope you will support us in this endeavor!

SLOCAN VALLEY THREADS GUILD is seeking donations of good clean fabric, notions, crafting equipment and peripherals for Yard & Yardage, annual fundraising event April 29. Call Sharon 226-7703, Lyndsi 355-2267 or Julie in Nelson 778-463-1978 to arrange pick-up now.

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Airbnb taxes to fund affordable housing

The BC government and Airbnb have
reached an agreement allowing the online company to collect
provincial sales taxes on all short-
term rentals conducted through its
platform. The money will help fund
housing affordability measures, said
Finance Minister Carole James, and
will improve tax fairness for all British
Columbians.

Secondary students invited to enter human rights arts contest

The terms and conditions of the
competition can be accessed through
the Advocacy Centre’s website (https://
advocacycentre.org) or by calling the Centre
at 250-552-5775. Submissions must be
made before 5 pm on March 15, 2018.

Since 1988, the Advocacy Centre, a
program of Nelson CARES, has provided
legal information for low-income residents
through the West Kootenays.

Airbnb will begin collecting the 8% provincial sales tax (PST) and the up to 3% municipal and
district tax (MDRT) on short-term accommodations provided through its platform.

To streamline the process of
collecting taxes, Airbnb will remit on
behalf of its hosts in BC, so no additional
administrative burden is placed on them.

In addition, the agreement includes
a commitment from Airbnb to provide
hosting services to people experiencing
homelessness in BC.

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Kootenay Outdoor Producer Co-op getting ready to roll, calls for investors

by Jan McMurray

About 150 people attended the Kootenay Outdoor Producer Co-op (KOP) meeting at the Prestige in Nelson on February 17, reports Todd Veri, co-op president.

With recreational cannabis soon to be legal, the co-op is planning to grow, process, and sell Kootenay outdoor pot.

“The big point we tried to stress at the meeting is that we have an opportunity to play a significant role in this industry, and we have the ability to keep the profits local and the whole thing for our co-op is to control and the profits don’t stay here. The big point we tried to stress at the meeting is that we have an opportunity to play a significant role in this industry, and we have the ability to keep the profits local and the whole thing for our co-op is to control and the profits don’t stay here. The whole thing for our co-op is to keep the profits here, so to make that happen, we have to raise the start-up funds here. We have a chance to have a business worth tens of millions of dollars – now is the crucial point,” he said.

The timelines are tight. It wasn’t until December that the government released the draft regulations and the co-op knew it would be eligible to apply for a licence. KOP would like to be ready to apply for a licence on March 1 and get seeds in the ground in May.

Veri says the co-op will be finalizing its 12 farms this week. Last fall, KOP put out a call for landowners with one hectare of growing space for licenced cannabis. The draft regulations allow for micro cultivators and micro processors to be licenced, so KOP is looking at how these could be brought under the umbrella of the co-op.

“We think we’ve been a unique voice in this process,” Veri said. “When we approached the government from our point of view of a co-op and local economic development, we feel we were heard. We think they are listening to us,” he said.

Winlaw man fatally struck

submitted

A Winlaw man died after being struck by a vehicle on Hwy 6 near Slocan Park on Sunday, February 18 at about 1:20 am.

Nelson RCMP, responding to an incomplete 911 call, found the 47-year-old man deceased.

The RCMP investigation has determined that the man had been a passenger in the vehicle that struck him.

RCMP investigators with West Kootenay Traffic Services in conjunction with BC Coroner’s Service will be working together to determine the cause of the collision.

Police are seeking witnesses. Anyone with information is asked to call West Kootenay Traffic Services at 250-354-5180 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).
**Tracing the Columbia film presented at Food for Thought**

by Art Joyce

As part of its showcase of public presentations, the Hidden Garden Gallery’s Food for Thought series hosted a screening of the film *Tracing the Columbia* by Jay Macmillan. The filmmaker followed the 2011 expedition, retracing the steps of explorer David Thompson’s journey on the Columbia River exactly 200 years earlier. Thompson was the first European to traverse the Columbia River from source to mouth, a event that set the continent on course to become a highway for voyageur canoes on an epic 45-day journey from Canal Flats, BC to Astoria, Oregon — 1,695 kilometres in all. The youngest expedition member was 12 and the oldest 72.

The film was presented by Kaslo resident Val Koenig, who was one of the paddlers. The original buckskin jacket, voyageur sash and skull fur hat he wore on the expedition were on display.

The Tracing the Columbia Brigade (TCB) spent two and a half years in preparation. Besides the 200 paddlers, a team of drivers, cooks and provisions suppliers was required to keep the expedition running smoothly.

“We arrived in Astoria exactly 200 years to the day after Thompson on July 15, 2011,” said Koenig. What was notable about the expedition was how many people with grey hair participated despite the fact that paddling the broad Columbia takes only one afternoon of paddling into the wind to convince you to get started very early in the morning,” said one paddler.

Basin Business Advisors offer agriculture business specialist

Farms and agricultural producers can now access the help of a Basin Business Advisor through Columbia Basin Trust’s Basin Business Advisors (BBA) thanks to a new full-time agriculture business specialist.

BBA has been providing free, one-on-one, confidential business counselling and assessment services to businesses throughout the Basin since 2005.

“Our region’s agriculture sector has been growing and the BBA team is evolving to help meet its specific needs,” said Lisa Kilpatrick, CBT Senior Manager, Economic. “By having an advisor dedicated to agriculture, the program will be able to uniquely support farmers and their challenges, as well as help residents access local healthy food.”

BBA’s new agriculture specialist, Tracey Fredrickson, has more than 15 years’ experience advising hundreds of businesses and has particularly focused on agriculture over the past five years.

The Columbia Basin has a diversity of farm operators with the desire to grow, said Fredrickson. “After many years providing businesses advice in all sectors, agriculture has become my passion. I look forward to dedicating my skills and experience to working with farm operators on the business side of farming to help them achieve their goals and grow a dynamic agriculture sector for the region overall.”

Agriculture businesses can receive advice in areas such as production costing, marketing and branding, and expansion feasibility. BBA may also connect businesses with more specialized agriculture consultants who can address the unique business needs of a variety of producers. This service works in conjunction with the Kootenay Farm & Boundary Advisors, who focus on the science of agriculture.

“Tracey is a great addition to the advisor team and brings her ‘business of farming’ experience to producers and farms that need help to make their operations more profitable,” said Will Nixon, CBT Economic Development Manager.

“We have a strong team of business advisors with diverse experiences and skill sets, so we are able to access direct experience to assist a client in whatever their field happens to be,” said Nixon. To learn more about BBA, visit bblograph.ca or contact info@ bblograph.ca or 1-855-510-2227.

Community Futures is a not-for-profit community economic development organization committed to helping people who operate or plan to start businesses. For more information on its programs, call 1-250-352-1933 or visit futures.bc.ca.

**Income tax volunteer needed for New Denver submitted**

A community volunteer is needed to process basic tax returns for persons with modest incomes in the New Denver-Silverton area.

The Community Voluntary Income Tax Program (CVITP) is free and has been offered in the Nakusp and New Denver areas for 45 years. Information about the program is on the Canada Revenue Agency website.

Nakusp volunteers are happy to serve New Denver-Silverton area residents. If you are interested in volunteering for the community. Eligible New Denver-Silverton residents can bring, courier, or mail their tax receipts to Nakusp.

A volunteer will be at the Seniors Centre from 9-11 am on Saturday, March 11, and 10-11 am, between March 1 and April 30.

For more information, contact Diane 230-265-4298 or Debbie 250-260-7570.

**Irwin, Monica Violet**

June 7, 1923 – February 3, 2018

It is with great sadness that the family of Monica Irwin (nee Butlin) announces her passing on February 3, 2018, at the Fraser Hope Lodge in Hope, BC, at the age of 94. Monica was a long-time resident of New Denver, BC, before moving to Hope in 2014 to be closer to her children, Jeff, of Hope, and Pat, of Shawnigan Lake.

Monica was born in Callthorn, in the East Kootenay. The Butlin family lived in Fort Steele and Nakusp, BC, before moving to New Denver in 1938. At the age of 20 she joined the Canadian Women’s Army Corps and a clerk-stenographer, and was posted to Ottawa where she worked for the National Research Council. In 1946 she was discharged and returned to New Denver to work in the Provincial Government Office. In 1954 she married Jeffrey Lamont Irwin, and had three children, Jeffrey, Mary Anne and Patsy. In 1965 she began her work as secretary of Luzerne School; after 20 years of working with eight principals, she retired in 1985.

Monica was known for her kindness, sense of humour and her devotion to her family and community. She loved to play golf and bridge, and was a dedicated community member serving St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, the Slocan Community Hospital Auxiliary, the Order of the Eastern Star (Martha Chapter), and the Royal Canadian Legion for many years. She was loved by all who knew her.

She will be deeply and sadly missed by her son, Jeff (Noi), Hope, BC, daughter, Pat (Heni). Shawnigan Lake, BC, sister, Joyce Horrey, Nakusp, BC, six grandchildren, Randy (Melissa) Ilmer, Daniel (Santana) Letient, Joshua and Nicholas Letient, James and Sarah Irwin, two great granddaughters, Cassie and Kenna Ilmer, many nieces and nephews and friends. She was predeceased by her husband, BC, her daughter, Mary Anne Irwin (2001), and her sister, Vera Angirn (1998).

The family wishes to thank the wonderful staff of Fraser Hope Lodge who lovingly and compassionately cared for Mom to the end. A memorial service will be held in New Denver at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations for Resident Care and Comfort can be made to the Slocan Community Health Care Auxiliary Society (SCCHCA Auxiliary Society) at PO Box 253, New Denver BC, V0G 1S0.
Whole School presents ‘from scratch’ art show

submitted

It began with a homemade paintbrush. Using loose bristles, glue, sticks, tape and twine, the K-7 students of the Whole School in Winlaw began to craft their own custom art equipment. The goal was to create a work of art from scratch, by creating their own brushes, re purposing old sheets, pillows, cases, or t-shirts as prepared canvases, and constructing and mounting their own custom-sized lumber frames.

“The students made all the decisions about size, texture, and colour to fully understand the steps for making their own painting tools – the older students using applied math to design the dimensions for their frames, and in turn, helping the younger ones to build theirs,” says teacher Eli Geddis.

As a group, they studied the art of legendary Anishinaabe artist Norval Morrisseau, also known as Copper Thunderbird or the Picasso of the North, and drew inspiration from his bold, colourful depictions of animals and their inner spirits. Each student chose an animal and painted that animal in a way that bared its spirit. Some are local animals, others are not.

The students put care, time, and patience into their artwork, learning about layering, outlines, and patterns. They are proud of their work, and are so excited to share it with the community at Sleep is for Sissies.

“We are really excited that the kids have had this opportunity to show their work, and so thankful for the collaboration with and support from the new owners of Sleep is for Sissies,” said principal Ammi Lang.

The Whole School emphasizes small, multi-age classes of 15 students or less in a nurturing, home-like environment. It is accepting applications for Kindergarten and Elementary level students and financial support is available. To learn more about school programs, like the free ‘Ready, Set, Learn’ event, visit www.wholeschool.ca or drop by for a visit.

Kootenay Music Awards nominees to be announced February 24

Music Video and Artist of the Year. Go to kootenaymusicawards.ca between February 24 and March 6 to cast your votes.

Concession Fundraiser for the North Slocan Trails Society

The Awards Night features live performances, the awards ceremony, and some amazing prizes for the winners. Tickets are on sale now, and more inclusive of the diverse range of talent in the Kootenays. There will be four nominees per category, chosen by a panel of local industry professionals.

Categories are: Best Roots Song (includes folk, bluegrass), Best Rock Song (includes metal, punk), Best Electronic Song, Best Blues Song (includes jazz, soul, funk), Best Reggae Song (includes Ska), and Best Cover Band.

Except for the People’s Choice, winners will be chosen by a secondary panel of local industry professionals: venue and festival booking agents, sound technicians, band managers, musicians, and past KMA winners.

This is the sixth annual Kootenay Music Awards, brought to you by Kootenay Co-op Radio.

Kootenay Mountain Film Festival March 3

Do not miss the Whole School’s art show at Sleep is for Sissies until February 28.

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival is celebrating its 12th annual event on March 3 at the Silverton Memorial Hall. This year’s festival showcases a wide range of films that highlight our local landscapes, wildlife, mountain sport and culture. We are excited to show the most recent work of two of our regular contributors: Lardeau-based wildlife photographer Jim Lawrence and photographer Jesse Schapowski. Lawrence brings us Kootenay Grizzly Bears, a compilation of exhilarating moments that takes us on an intimate journey into the everyday life of these amazing creatures.

Jesse Schpakowski says photography is his life, his passion, and his voice. With his slideshow Kootenay Beauty, Jesse shares this passion with a stunning collection of images taken from around the West Kootenay in 2017.

A local young filmmaker, Penula Perry, has created her first film, Backcountry Girl. The Silverton ten-year-old shares her love of snowboarding as we watch her snowboarding progression from the age of six to present day. Although she trains and competes with the Central Snowboard Academy out of Red Mountain Resort, her true passion is the local backcountry.

Documentary film maker Colin Arisman brings us his important film, Last Stand: The Vanishing Caribou Rainforest. Hidden in the interior of the of the Pacific Northwest is the largest remaining inland temperate rainforest on earth. This magnificent landscape is home to numerous First Nation communities, thousand-year-old trees and critical habitat for endangered species like mountain caribou. The Last Stand puts the Caribou Rainforest on the map before it’s too late.

Enjoy these shows and more, starting at 7 pm on March 3. Doors open at 6:30. Proceeds go to support the North Slocan Trails Society and their work to maintain local trails. There will be a concession with sweets and beverages.

Tickets are available at Rutabaga’s and Silverton Building Supplies (adults $10 and youth/student $5). Remember that kids 10 and under are free, but still need a ticket. Get your tickets early as this event sells out every year.

For more information about this year’s film festival please visit northvalleyfilmfestival.com or contact us at northvalleyfilmfest@gmail.com.