Lemon Creek fuel spill: truck driver Danny Lasante takes the rap

by Jan McMurray

The responsibility for the Lemon Creek fuel spill has been placed squarely on the shoulders of truck driver Danny Lasante. On March 1 in Nelson, Justice Lisa Mrozinski handed down a guilty conviction for Lasante, and acquitted the Province of all charges. Earlier in the proceedings, on October 30, 2017, she granted a stay of proceedings for Executive Flight Centre, the fuel supply company.

The case has been adjourned to April 3 to set a date for Lasante’s sentencing hearing.

Marilyn Burgon, Slocan Valley resident who started the legal action with her private prosecution of Executive and the Province, was disappointed with the judge’s decision.

“I’m disappointed, and I hope this decision will be appealed. I agree the driver is responsible, but not solely responsible. It should have been a shared responsibility of negligence. To me, the government is the most responsible as the overseer. Executive Flight Centre was not held accountable at all, and it’s clear that they have a huge responsibility.”

The Crown is appealing the decision to stay the charges against Executive, and Burgon reports she has applied for intervenor status in the appeal. West Coast Environmental Law has agreed to provide some funding for her legal costs.

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Underwater archaeology follows steamship wrecks in Kootenays

by Art Joyce

It’s every explorer’s dream: to find a shipwreck deep beneath the waters. A full capacity audience at New Denver’s Knox Hall on February 25 got to hear about just that when the Silvery Slocan Historical Society hosted a presentation by diver John Pollack. Pollack is the former president of the Underwater Archaeological Society of BC and a current governor with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Pollack traced the history of underwater archaeology in the West Kootenay starting with the discovery in 1990 of the sunken sternwheeler SS City of Ainsworth near Crawford Bay. Using what was then state-of-the-art technology – sidescan sonar and a remote-operated underwater vehicle (ROV) – the Dam Busters Dive Club and Dwayne LeBlanc, silversmith, was able to locate the vessel for the first time since it sank in 1898. Video footage revealed a largely intact superstructure and artifacts of its cargo such as crates of intact 100-year-old canned pickles.

“We had the only undisturbed sternwheeler wreck in BC, but it was in over 350 feet of water and it would have cost hundreds of thousands to fully document or excavate,” Pollack recalled.

He said the cold, clear waters of Kootenay lakes are the envy of American underwater archaeologists confronted with the muddy Mississippi and Missouri rivers. The challenge with the City of Ainsworth is the sheer depth of our lakes, which limit how much divers can do. This is dwarfed by the tonnage of steamboats in American and British waters. The 1880s led to the establishment of discoveries of gold, silver and other valuable minerals in the late 19th century, with the City of Ainsworth.

Pollack believes they may have located the hull of the Minto in the northwest corner of Slocan Lake. Silverton dock. The boiler of the SS Bonnington can be found in shallow water near Beaver. The wreck of the SS Kokanee is near Deansand on the east shore of Kootenay Lake. The Nelson waterfront contains the remains of the tugs Ymir and Hosmer, the pilings of the CPR’s massive former railway/steamboat dock, barges, and artifacts such as handcars.

Pollack says more exploration is being done of the barges that were used to haul lumber and ore and can now be found at the bottom of Kootenay, Slocan and Arrow Lakes. There are several sunken barges on the west side of Slocan lake plus at least three barges near Rosebery and a train wreck that has yet to be located. An audience member noted that the first steamboat on Slocan Lake in 1877 is probably underwater near the Silverton dock. The boiler of the SS Slocan has been located at the northwest corner of Slocan Lake. Pollack believes they may have located the disturbing of the CPR’s Kootenay Landing rail line in 1931, the end was in sight. The sternwheeler SS Moyie made its last Kootenay Lake run in 1957 and – along with the SS Sicamous in Penticton – is the only fully restored craft of its kind. Remaining steam tugs and sternwheelers were scuttled or sold off for salvage, or callously destroyed, such as the SS Minto on Arrow Lake.

Pollack’s explorations have taken him to northern Canada and Alaska. The CPR had built an entire fleet of sternwheelers for the proposed Yukon River route to exploit the Klondike gold rush, but too late. They sold off many of the ships, some of which now lie abandoned near Dawson City, with the exception of the AJ Goddard small sternwheel tug, named by National Geographic the top find of 2009.

“Strangely, in BC, ships and cargo are protected by the Heritage Conservation Act but the old wharf sites are not. Due to improvements in scanning equipment, new technology provides far superior resolution, so old sites will all have to be scanned again. It’s like going from an old VHS tape to a high-definition disc,” says Pollack.

A so whole new era of underwater archaeology begins.

Basin arts and culture venues to see upgrades submitted

Arts and culture venues are an important part of the fabric of life in the Columbia Basin: they’re where we can come together to tend our children, marvel at artwork and more. To support and enhance the sector, Columbia Basin Trust is helping 12 facilities renovate, relocate or upgrade with nearly $380,000 in support through its new Arts and Culture Venue Grants.

The Hidden Garden Gallery in Nakusp, for example, has $15,210. In need of a new home, this visual arts venue, currently the only one in the Slocan Valley, has found a large garage that it can use for five years with no rent to be paid.

“Each summer season, the gallery welcomes three to four thousand visitors,” said curator Martha Nichols. “It’s a very large venue, so in need of a new home, this visual arts venue has been operating in a building that was once a garage. We’ve now been able to purchase a building that is the perfect size for our needs.”

The Langham Cultural Society in Kaslo will get $422,000 for upgrades to the theatre, ranging from lighting equipment to better chairs for patrons. Penticton’s Arrow Theatre/RARTS in the south Slocan Valley gets $20,311 for improvements to the Vallican Whole, including a new sound system, lighting, new flooring and improving the safety of the children’s balcony.

These grants are part of the Trust’s recent $11.6 million, three-year commitment to arts and culture, and to heritage. Other aspects include a new heritage professional located in the Basin and the new Heritage, Museum and Archive Grants. The Trust is also continuing the Arts and Culture Program delivered by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and its Built Heritage Grants; a partnership with Heritage BC. Learn more at ourtrust.org/artsandculture.
March 8, 2018   The Valley Voice

Ministry unveils renovation plans for Balfour ferry terminal

by Art Joyce

Following the massive opposition to the BC government’s proposal to relocate the Balfour ferry terminal to Queens Bay, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) has unveiled its plans to improve the existing terminal. The ministry’s marine branch held a public open house at Redhill School February 28 with details of the planned renovations.

Improvements include a 40% capacity increase to reduce waiting time, a new floating pier, an additional berth, a new dock and a new ramp. The plan is to replace the MV Balfour ferry.

“We’re getting a lot of support for the plan,” says Kirk Handrahan, executive director for the marine branch of MOTI. “People appreciate that the ministry listened to them, although it will take a little time for the community isn’t as happy with the decision.” He stresses that the Balfour terminal improvements will ultimately cost more than the proposed Queens Bay site.

First on the list for improvements — and non-negotiable in order to make the Balfour terminal function — is minor dredging in the West Arm to make the Balfour terminal a functioning terminal. The Balfour terminal improvement, according to the ministry, will meaningfully reduce the 28-hour wait times, currently experienced, and will likely operate from April through 2019. By April 22.

“We don’t expect it to impact traffic based on our statistics for this time of year,” says Handrahan. “A second critical improvement is the increase in vehicle capacity, so we can keep traffic moving, prevent delays, and reduce emissions in the area.”

The environmental assessment for dredging will take place during the imminent low water season of late winter. This means some adjustments to the ferry schedule. The Osprey will be able to dock at the Balfour terminal and go out as scheduled during the spring season. The Osprey will be able to dock at the Balfour terminal and go out as scheduled during the spring season.

Another key element of the plan is the replacement of the MV Balfour ferry by 2022. Built in 1954, this 28-car ferry has been incredibly reliable, but like all marine vessels, due to the amount of time spent on reduced capacity, reaching full capacity again will be a major undertaking.

The new hybrid electric ferry will be able to carry 300 passengers and run on cleaner energy. It will be able to maintain its speed for longer periods, which will mean less waiting time and more efficient travel. The new ferry will be able to travel from one point to the other in just 28 minutes, which is significantly faster than the current service.

The third main component of the plan is a new terminal building. The building will serve as the heart of the terminal, providing a workspace for the staff, passengers, and a view of the beautiful surrounding waters.

“With the help of the BC rural government, we are able to bring people together for this important project,” says BC Rural Head of Operations, John Morse. “We are happy to be working with the community and supporting this important initiative.”

The BC Rural Centre holds contest to bring young urbanites to Kaslo

by Art Joyce

The BC Rural Centre is offering young urbanites from Vancouver, Victoria and Calgary the chance to win a vacation package to Kaslo in its Escape the City contest.

“If you’re a young urban creative professional, frustrated at the cost of housing, gridlock, noise, crime, and stress that have become integral to your daily big-city life, this contest is for you,” states the centre’s website. “We’re looking for people tired of the metro rat race, who would like to explore the advantages — and challenges — of rural life like you!”

Entrants are asked to create a video no more than two minutes long, explaining why you’d consider moving to Kaslo. “If you’re a young urban creative professional, frustrated at the cost of housing, gridlock, noise, crime, and stress that have become integral to your daily big-city life, this contest is for you.”

The BC Rural Centre is offering young urbanites from Vancouver, Victoria and Calgary the chance to win a vacation package to Kaslo in its Escape the City contest.

The contest is aimed at people in the 21-35 age group. “If you’re a young urban creative professional, frustrated at the cost of housing, gridlock, noise, crime, and stress that have become integral to your daily big-city life, this contest is for you.”

“Explaining why you’d consider moving to Kaslo, Kaslo Community Pharmacy

DID YOU KNOW...

Recommended for people 50+

New & Improved Shingles Vaccine

is now available!

Protect yourself against this debilitating condition

Call Ward!

Committed to the community and your health


The Regional District of Central Kootenay is recruiting election workers for 2018 ASSENT VOTING/GENERAL LOCAL ELECTION

To be considered for a position, you must:

• be legally able to work in BC;
• be 18 years of age or older;
• be able to work on voting days from 7:30 am to 9:00 pm; and

Previous experience is desirable.

Are you interested in this opportunity?

Please send an email telling us about your experience and your qualifications to:

Randall Matheson
Chief Elections Officer
matheson@rdck.bc.ca

Actual hours of work and duties are still to be determined.
Fuel spill: time for integrity
My family has land on the river that has been impacted by the jet fuel spill.

The Province is responsible for what happened, no matter who is passing the buck. We are no longer in grade 2.

Due to obvious negligence, this disaster has occurred.

It is time to fairly compensate the affected individuals. It is time for integrity.

Nadine Nevochonhoff Heilberg
Grand Forks

Donald gets it done
Here’s an idea that’s really cool: Create an armed camp and call it a school.

And another idea that’s pretty neat: First grade teachers packing heat.

Kristen Jacks
South Slocan

Open letter to MLA Michelle Mungall
I ask you to outline to your constituents any government plan for protection of the Jumbo area.

On November 16, I wrote privately to the Honourable George Heyman (cc Andrew Weaver) urging government action to give protected status to Jumbo Creek Valley, Farnham Creek Valley, Upper Horsethief Valley and Upper Glacier Creek Valley. This current government has been inaudible concerning Jumbo.

In Opposition, you were a vocal opponent of the Jumbo resort project. Unfortunately, Opposition voices seldom shape government policy. Now you are a senior cabinet minister. Now is the right time, I think, for you to stand up and be counted on this issue.

I believe that many of your constituents are eagerly awaiting your action.

Albyn Stewart
Kaslo

Stop the Kinder Morgan nonsense
Fighting the Kinder Morgan pipeline extension seems to have launched the Silly Season in provincial and national politics.

Noelty’s blockade against BC Wine reminds me of the children’s song ‘I Don’t Want to Play in Your Yard!’

The challenge to Trudeau to ‘Show us the Science’ is spot on, but I doubt that he’ll step up to the plate on that one. Kinder Morgan’s weak argument about job creation has been refuted by journalists and economists alike.

There is ample evidence that shipping dilbit through the port of Vancouver is an environmental disaster just waiting to happen. Let’s please stop the nonsense and get on with doing what we can to save the planet.

David Stewart
Kaslo

$25 Loblaw card/price fixing scandal
Perhaps you have heard about Loblaw getting into trouble for price fixing bread. They are now giving every Canadian a $25 gift card, which can be used to purchase items sold in Loblaw grocery stores, e.g., No Frills, Wholesale.

This is not a credit card. Just register, and you get the gift card for waiving the right to sue them for price fixing.

I am encouraging everyone to get the $25 card and to donate the card to their local food bank or give it to someone they know is struggling.

Price fixing by large corporations has to stop.

Registation forms must be submitted by May 8. They can be found at www.Loblawcard.ca/en/register. It’s very easy: just fill out name, address, phone, tick all three boxes, verify – done.

When you receive the $25 card, activation is required by phone or internet by just typing the card number. Once it’s activated, it can be used by anyone.

Thanks for your support.

Karin Leja Winlaw

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.

The Opposition in this country should be somewhat disgusted with themselves because there are still Canadians who do not know about this.

Ed Varney
Villican

Support the ‘little guy’

We know this but sometimes don’t get it right. Jobs in industry, government, teaching can be secure. Others can be secure, too of course, including, hopefully, many of the small businesses which we have lots of. Then there’s the ‘artist’. Mmmm. Often they’re not that great with their finances, and often do go in too heavy for ‘regular’ jobs because it would mean they couldn’t be good at their art.

Whether it’s yoga, pottery, painting, music, it’s usually not regular enough to make ends meet. I had a good laugh the other day with a fellow artist teaching her craft to locals. Not sure who started it but we were saying just how hard it is. And then all the people going away on holidays, and missing classes. But what made us laugh was when we both had examples of people who didn’t want to pay for the two or so weeks they were going to miss from the 10- or 12-week class, because they were going on holiday.

continued on page 5
children of some infinitesimal God as well. LOL, We will not be fooled twice, by this subject making a fool of itself.  
Gunter Retterath
Winlad

Lucerne School provides quality education

Recently, Lucerne School invited me as a female adult chaperone to attend a three-day outdoor ed trip to Harkow Hut. Teachers Mr. Parkstrom and Mr. Kipkie brought ten students from grades 10/11 out 1 km by snowmobile to the winter cabin. (With volunteer help from Scott and Talbott!) From there, students snowshoed up the mountain another hour, where they enjoyed ski touring on perfect powder. The weather was absolutely stunningly beautiful. Slogging up the ridge with those students was a truly phenomenal experience. I basked in the sheer awesomeness of where we live and the beauty that surrounds us.

But the students were equally as powerful as the geography, were the students. Those ten teens were respectful, had good attitudes, were remarkably knowledgeable, showed great safety in the backcountry and incredibly adept at skiing and toughing it out in -18' weather. A few students even slept in tents! Not only was it a lot of fun but the teachers seamlessly wove in questions about math, physics, geography, and history in ways that related to our activities and conversations. The students were able to answer tough questions and weren’t afraid to make educated guesses on the material.

This experience reaffirmed my thorough appreciation at the quality of education that Lucerne School provides our youth. Both as an alumna and now as a young adult returned home, the lengths and breadth of our education can only be matched by few in the world. I was proud to be going to Vernon for Shakesfied in a couple of months...

We are so fortunate to be this lucky to live where we do and to have such skilled and trained educators and students that are able to provide experiences like this one for our teens. This trip would not be possible in nearly any other school even within the region.

Overall, I sincerely applaud and thank Mr. Kipkie, Mr. Parkstrom, Lucerne School, and School District 10 for their consistent effort and dedication to our students here in the Northern Okanagan Valley. The quality of education being provided is at a level that makes me very proud. I also thank the students for letting me tag along and share in your outdoor adventure – you teens are great!  
Danika Hammond
Silvertown

The truth comes out

In 2011, Canada took part in a NATO Operation Unprotected Skies and flew over 1,000 sorties over Libya enforcing a no-fly zone and bombing air defenses and military targets. The object of the operation was to prevent the Gaddafi-led government from attacking its territorial population. A NATO report has confirmed the Libyan war was based on lies, spread terrorism, and destroyed the country. A link to the recently published NATO report is: http://nato.int/docu/2016/09/libya_report_2.html or search: UK parliament+Libya report. Investigations showed Gaddafi was fighting Islamic militants on the back of protecting civilians provided a good excuse to get rid of him. He knew violent retribution would turn the people against him and was going after combatants.

Upon taking over Libya, Gaddafi nationalized its two million bbl a day oil industry. Among other things, he used the money to implement social programs. Hosing was a right in Libya, health care and education were free, electricity also. A gigantic aquifer was found in southern Libya and pipelines were built to the north supplying the country with most of its water. Oil money was saved. In 2013, Libya’s foreign reserves stood at $107 billion. With the invasion, they payed out over $356.6 billion at the end of 2015. Before Gaddafi, 25% were Libya's literate. Under Gaddafi, the literacy rate became 87%. Ironically a UN council was praised to adopt a report praising Libya's human rights record. Plans for the invasion caused a change in their plans.

In February 2011, Gaddafi was elected chairman of the 53-nation African Union. There, he wanted to create a single currency for Africa. The Gold Dinar was to be linked to gold and used instead of the US Dollar. An African investment bank, central bank, and monetary fund were to be established so Africa would not have to rely on the central bank of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

The UK Telegraph now describes Libya as a place where jihadists, some who had been forced to gain a foothold and multiple authorities and dozens of militias vie for power. The criminals responsible for this gridlock and paralysis desperately requires a good analysis of what happened.

Ed Zak
Nakusp

Will the Greens defend health care?

The following letter was received by Mr. Weaver on (approximately) the 15th of February and has not yet been acknowledged.

The enclosed material, published in the local newspaper, addresses the subject of emergency service cancellation at New Denver hospital from 24/7 to 8/12 hours a day by the Canadian government. This subject has been known to be of interest to you, and I thought you might be interested in helping find a solution.

I am aware of, that in your past, incentive packages have been offered to physicians in the aim of recruiting them for services in rural area hospitals and that these has not been successful. However, these incentives or bonuses have been paid as enslavement, for a period of three years, not as a substantial continuous benefit, which is what I propose in my letters. There really must be a way to resolve this, as the lives of men, women and children are at stake. There has been a lot of discussion between angry and frustrated villagers about the role that the Green Party can play in keeping our emergency services open. So you have a lot of distance to go before I think I can trust you with my enclosures. NDP politicians say “Humphm!” they’re not impressed that you could or would help, whereas the Greens believe in you.

So what if anyone of you is going to be a benefit to the earth. How are we going to do it? We have no choices but to face this reality. On the one hand, we have nuclear and dirtier fossil fuels. It seems to me that we could even think about using 90% of what falls dam in Newfoundland and Labrador is almost in a class by itself: regulators were blocked from assessing the dam, the costs have been doubled, the river’s health seems to have been completely destroyed. Ratepayers in this province expect their hydro bills to triple. None of the public utilities face any discipline, they continue to compete and market forces. Repeat that to yourself.

Many projects involve so much money that “contractors, engineers, architects, consultants, transportation workers, bankers, investors, and lawyers” are all up at the trough (The Tyee, January 9, 2018). The Iron Law, etc. And then no accountability: taxpayers pick up the bill.

Right after he announced Site C will go ahead, Horgan left for China to talk up LNG. Around the same time Prime Minister Trudeau (if he is pushing his vision for a low-emissions Canada which involves building dozens of Site C sized dams across the land, along with pumpping up the tar sands even more) will be in China.

When BC suggested halting transport of diluted bitumen until some tests were done around how to clean up a spill, it occurred by saying that no carbon cuts or coast protection without the KinderMorgan pipeline. Huh.

Behind all of these bizarre statements and decisions lurks a shadowy presence: China. In December 2018, CCCC signed with the Chinese (the FIPPA) back in 2014, and the free trade deal Trudeaun is working on right now – both have in common: they give China extra leverage to force Canada to allow them to do what they want in Canada, as if it were China. In the case of a Chinese state corporation getting the main contract on Site C they get the Chinese and Chinese Contractors China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) purchased Accor Construction for $2.15 billion. The Chinese government will make sure that 60% of the whole Site C job (by BC Hydro) they can (under an existing agreement with the BC government signed by Christy Clark) bring in Chinese workers instead of locals. The way this will happen, CCCC was banned from bidding on World Bank projects because of their fraudulent practices.

The Chinese have a big stake in the tar sands. They want a pipeline to water so they can ship their bitumen, and that is a condition of the current free trade deal. Horgan, at the same time, is trying to get an LNG deal going with the Chinese, and here is where I think Site C comes in as a bargaining chip.

So we, the ratepayers of this province, many of us wanting to forestall any further climate change, are faced with a very uncomfortable situation: it looks like our government has been captured by the oil industry. But, the situation is even worse for Chinese government, none of whom have our welfare of the welfare of the planet in mind. And as the planet is being polluted with the extraction and burning of bitumen and methane, we are being forced to pay both through our rising hydro rates (and rise) and they will and the destruction of the natural world we live in.

Harvey Armstrong
Johnson’s Landing
Youth-filled North Valley Mountain Film Festival celebrates 12 years

by Claire Paradis

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival has been bringing the Kootenay outdoors to the big screen in Silverton for 12 years now. This year, the film fest showcased another mix of local talent on March 3.

There were a record number of films by kids featured in the 2018 lineup. The pint-sized filmmakers who made and starred in the short movies were cleverly blessed by both beautiful, natural surroundings and proud parents who got them out and filming.

The first set of films had nature slide shows by Jesse Schpakowski and Chilla Zoll interspersed among climbing, and backcountry skiing and snowboarding shorts. A half-pint snowboarder, aged four was the youngest of the bunch, but the kids were out in force on film climbing, mountain biking, skising, snowboarding and generally having a great time outdoors in ‘1 Wanna Snowboard’, ‘Summer in the Wild’, ‘Children of the Rock’, ‘Backcountry Girl’, and ‘Hot Dry Loose’. The Arrow Lakes Distributed Learning students displayed their fantastically varied interests and camera skills as well.

The adults showed up singing and playing in the backcountry snow in ‘Babes and Bux’ by Dustin East and ‘Mountain Mania’ by Randy Apers and Shannon Glashen. icandy’s five-minute documentary, ‘The Spine Trail’, featured the new adaptive mountain biking trail built last year that extends the Butter trail in Rosebery. The fast-paced sports romp was rounded out by Chilla Zoll’s tranquil ‘Asparagus Dew’ short.

After a social break with snacks for sale as a fundraiser for the North Valley Trail Society, the film screening continued.

Public invited to Sinixt celebration and honour ceremony

As well as the usual AGM business, such as financial reports and election of directors, the meeting will decide whether (or not) to adopt updated constitution and bylaws for the Society (to enable transitioning to the new Societies Act). Constitution and bylaws can be viewed by emailing your request to aardsaw@gmail.com

The Annual General Meeting of the Area H North TV Society will be held on Thursday, March 15th, 2018 at 4 PM in the Luceerne School Library, 604 7th Ave, New Denver.

SLOCAN VALLEY Youth-filled North Valley Mountain Film Festival celebrates 12 years

The Slocan Valley Mountain Film Festival was held in the territory that has come from all over this world to share this beautiful place with us. We look forward to sharing Arrow Lakes artists, Big Drum, hand drum, flute and speakers with insight into Sinixt culture and history.”

The event will begin with words from Chairman Marchand, who is the grandson of Chief Amanapukan, the last recognized chief of the Arrow Lakes, or Sinixt, people.

Rick Desautel will follow with his thoughts and experiences as the person at the centre of this legal battle, which recognized the rights of the Sinixt people to once again lawfully hunt on their traditional homelands, as they have done for thousands of years.

Cody Desautel, Colville

Winlaw prescribed burn meeting March 14

The event begins at 6pm on Thursday, March 15 at the Capitol Theatre, 421 Victoria Street, Nelson.

“We would like to take this opportunity to share our vision of reconciliation with communities on both sides of the border,” Colville Tribal Chairman Dr. Michael Marchand said.

“Not only are we grateful for the dedication and commitment of Rick Desautel, his family, and our legal team, but also for the welcome and support we received from the community of Nelson during lengthy court hearings to date. This land is sacred to us, and the people that now live within this territory have come from all over the world to share this beautiful place.

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

Take notice that Irene Golebiowski and Ernest Leyland located in Rossland, have applied to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), Kootenay Boundary Region, for a Statutory Right of Way for sewer/effluent line purposes, situated on Provincial Crown land near Rosebery, and containing 0.03 hectares more or less.

The Lands File for this application is File #4408754. For more information; or to submit written comments concerning this application, please visit the website at http://arlfd.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/index.jsp > Search > Search by File Number: File #4408754. Written comments can also be directed to Authorizations Specialist, FLNRORD, Kootenay Boundary Region, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook BC V1C 7G1. Comments will be received by FLNRORD up to Friday, March 30. FLNRORD may not be able to consider comments received after this date.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. Access to these records requires the submission of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. Visit http://www.gov.bc.ca/freedomofinformation to learn more about FOI submissions.
Poverty reduction session comes to Nelson

by Art Joyce

The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition rolled into Nelson February 9 to host a public consultation session as part of its province-wide tour of 28 communities.

“Our government campaigned on the promise that we would bring in a poverty reduction plan in BC. Our province is the last one that doesn’t have a plan,” said Maureen Smith, Parliamentary Secretory Responsible for Poverty Reduction.

Lorraine Copas of the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC), the group that is contracted by the government to coordinate the sessions, laid out the discussion format. Two questions were posed to participants: What are the issues people living in poverty face every day? and What are the solutions? What are the types of policy changes and program supports that would make a difference?

A broad range of issues faced by people living in poverty came from each group. Some said that, while commendable, the $15 minimum wage is still well below the cost of living in BC, and that wages are too low and there are too many barriers to receiving it.

Lack of personal transportation can make it difficult for people to move where work can be found. Transit options are limited the further you are from Nelson, yet often those with lower incomes are forced to live in Salmo or the Slocan Valley where rents are cheaper. The lack of reliable daily transit can then make it impossible for them to hold down a job in town.

With the increasing centralization of medical services, more people living in poverty are finding it harder to travel for medical care, further increasing their cost of living. The lack of dental care amongst the poor is an ongoing problem on the board. Participants again looked to root causes rather than just symptoms, and advised access to universal post-secondary education and trades training to help break the cycle of poverty.

A more progressive tax system is another root issue, along with universal access to universal health care. Community activists also spoke of the intergenerational and mental health impacts of poverty. Jocelyn Carver of the Nelson WorkBC office said the number one complaint she hears from employers is how hard it is to find good help. “A lot of the ‘soft skills’ you learn in a middle-class home, like how to communicate respectfully, are often missing in poverty-level families. So one barrier begets the next barrier. I would like to see our mental health services better resourced as well as WorkBC.”

Although the solutions offered spanned a wide spectrum, the general theme was that the government needs to take the lead and work with communities.

Early childhood support and quality daycare access can be critical to helping parents re-enter the workforce.

Community activists also spoke of the intergenerational and mental health impacts of poverty. Jocelyn Carver of the Nelson WorkBC office said the number one complaint she hears from employers is how hard it is to find good help. “A lot of the ‘soft skills’ you learn in a middle-class home, like how to communicate respectfully, are often missing in poverty-level families. So one barrier begets the next barrier. I would like to see our mental health services better resourced as well as WorkBC.”

Although the solutions offered spanned a wide spectrum, the general theme was that the government needs to take the lead and work with communities.

In November 2016, the Central Kootenay Regional Fire Chiefs Association (CKRFC) initiated a request for the review of remuneration policies for firefighters. This was prompted in part by changes made by the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner to minimum levels of training and competency for firefighters in its Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook.

“Ten years ago, fire departments were staffed by volunteers who would give a week in training in addition to their week spent attending emergency calls,” said RDCF CAO Stuart Horn. “The landscape is very different today. Volunteer firefighters now spend six to eight hours per week training, and are required to meet the same standards as career firefighters.

The volume of calls to our fire departments has also been increasing, putting additional demands on our professional volunteers.”

The remuneration increase proposed by the CKRFC in 2016 was addressed in part by some remuneration budgets being increased in 2017. The focus of the discussion at last meeting was to allow fire departments to be better positioned to attract and retain firefighters into the future,” said Horn. “There are some fire departments that will need to compensate current firefighters and not allow those fire departments to be better positioned to attract and retain firefighters into the future,” said Horn. “There are some fire departments that will need to compensate current firefighters and not allow continued growth of their fire department.”

For more information about the RDCF fire service or the 2018 budget process, please visit www.rdck.ca.
COMMUNITY

New Denver council, February 27: Resident attraction and retention survey results

by Katrine Campbell

• Council received for information the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI) report on the results of its survey on why people move to New Denver and why they stay. Mayor Ann Bunka lauded it as “a good read; really valuable for us to have... a quality document.” The report is available on the Village website, newdenver.ca.

• Council received a request from the Arrow Slocan Tourism Association (ASTA) for a letter of support re: ASTA’s application for a Municipal Regional District Tax (hotel and accommodations tax). Council deferred a decision until it receives a completed application package. Corporate Officer Catherine Allaway said that by the agenda deadline “what we received was not what we requested needed.” More information did come in at the last minute but there was no time for the mayor and council to read it.

• Council agreed the Village will prepare in its 2018 budget for an increase in the amount of funding to the Rural Dividend (phase two) Slocan Valley Regional Economic Development Implementation Plan project. This will not involve a tax increase in 2018; the additional money would come from the Community Development Fund. The Village contribution to phase two was expected to be $2,500, but there was a misunderstanding about the Columbia Basin Trust contribution amount.

Discussion is still underway with CBT, but the project partners may be asked to contribute more. New Denver is partnered with Silverton, Slocan and Area H in the project. The two-year phase two project is estimated to cost $265,000, and calls for a tax increase in year two. The first phase created an economic development strategy for the Slocan Valley; phase two will implement the recommendations.

• Council authorized the CAO to sign a letter of support for an agreement with FortisBC to allow Fortis to apply for funding to install an electric vehicle fast-charging station on Village lands. The station will be alongside the regular charging station planned for an area between the recycling bins and the parkhouse.

• Council received several pieces of correspondence for information, three of which drew comment. They were on the same topic – municipalities calling for the Provincial to return revenues from cannabis sales. Councillor Heather Fox noted dryly that “selling cannabis is going to be interesting ... I like the idea of revenue sharing.” She added that there was a West Kootenay co-op wanting to grow marijuana.

Another letter was also about legal pot-growing, but was less enthusiastic. The District of North Sannich passed a resolution calling for the federal government to commit all its pot-derived revenue “for use in treatment, prevention and education” about “marihuana addiction” and “its serious and often irreversible effects.” By legalizing pot “the human cost will be in the 100s of Millions of dollars [sic]... the tragic loss of humanity is immeasurable.”

Bunka reported on her activities since the last council meeting.

• She and Silverton Mayor Jason Clarke met with LESS principal Nick Graves to talk about how they can work together to help youth in the community. They talked about a job board at the school for small chores around the community, the need for transportation, the availability of money for job shadowing, and having a fair job which would include municipal positions. Bunka also reported that the Village has applied for funding from the Canada Millennium Conservation Community Initiatives Program. The meeting will take place at 7:00 pm 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.

New Denver-Silverton Affordable Housing Plan on the way

The group applied for the grant from the provincial Rural Dividend program in December 2017. They hope to have definite news soon.

The project will involve hiring a consultant to look at such options as purchasing existing houses and buildings and converting them into affordable housing; purchasing land and building affordable housing on the land; receiving donated land for affordable housing; and investing in land for luxury suites, rooms and carriage houses.

Committee member Danika Hammond has volunteered to set up a table during the New Denver May Days celebration to gather input from residents.

McMurray adds that the Columbia Basin Trust has shown an interest in working with and supporting the committee.

The Valley Voice March 8, 2018

New Denver Silverton Affordable Housing Plan on the way

8

City Hall improvements

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 7:00 pm 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 Tuesday, March 14, 2018.

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McMurray adds that the Columbia Basin Trust has shown an interest in working with and supporting the committee. VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER PUBLIC NOTICES

Village notices

84% of residents say they are satisfied with the quality of life in New Denver and area. Check out results from a recent survey of residents, available on the Village’s website at http://newdenver.ca/documents/reports-and-studies/

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

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CAMPFIRE ATTENDANT

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre is hiring for the 2018 season. There are grant-dependent student positions available, as well as a full-time position to be filled. Interested individuals can contact the Village Office for more information. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2018.

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.
Columbia River Treaty renegotiation to be discussed at the Vallican Whole

submitted

On Friday, March 23 at 7 pm, the Vallican Whole Community Centre’s Whole Perspective series will present an information evening entitled: “The Columbia River Treaty: What is on the table? What will it mean for us, here?”

While this is a huge topic with ramifications throughout the Basin, few of us understand what is really going on, and who will be negotiating on our behalf.

To answer these important questions, the Vallican Whole has invited three well informed persons – Katrine Conroy, Corky Evans, and Martin Carver – to give us a primer on the topic.

Katrine Conroy is the MLA for Kootenay West, and BC’s Minister responsible for the Columbia River Treaty, the Columbia Basin Trust, and the Columbia Power Corporation. Thus she is uniquely situated to provide an overview of the current situation.

Corky Evans (“the formerly Honourable,” as he describes himself) was the MLA for Nelson-Creston for many years and held various ministry positions, including Minister of Agriculture. He is a passionate advocate for the Basin. He was a founder of the Columbia Basin Trust and currently sits on the Trust board.

Martin Carver is a hydrologist and conservation planner with over 25 years’ experience in water resources. His work focuses on environmental impact assessment and monitoring, and detection of environmental change, particularly in light of climate change. He currently leads a collaborative of Canadian environmental groups formed with the objective of engaging in transboundary discussions concerning possible renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty.

The Treaty has no specified expiration date. Either Canada or the United States can unilaterally terminate the Columbia River Treaty any time after September 16, 2024, provided written notice is filed at least 10 years in advance. In December of last year, the USA State Department indicated it was ready to begin negotiations, and Canada is in the process of responding. Both British Columbia and the United States are considering options to determine whether or not to give notice.

The ability to terminate the Treaty, and the changing flood control provisions that will occur post-2024 whether the Treaty is terminated or not, have prompted both countries to get this process underway.

Over the last few years, the Province has conducted an extensive review process to get input from as many stakeholders as possible, in preparation for sitting down at the table.

The Columbia River Treaty is a trans-boundary water management agreement between the United States and Canada signed in 1961 and ratified in 1964. The Treaty optimizes flood management and power generation, requiring coordinated operations of reservoirs and water flows for the Columbia River and Kootenay River on both sides of the border.

Back in the day, the USA prepaid Canada $64 million for 60 years to provide assured flood control operations, which resulted in reduced flood damage and increased safety for USA citizens. The USA also committed in the Treaty to paying Canada half of the incremental power potential that could be produced because of the new flow regimes made possible by the Treaty coordination. Now everyone wants to take a new look at the arrangements. Both sides hope to cut themselves a better deal, and this time to take many things into consideration that were not initially considered, such as First Nations rights and environmental concerns.

Things were very different when all this began, as Corky Evans points out, and he is excited to see the transparency now as compared to then. “Good for the Vallican Whole!” he says. “Good for the folks who are organizing this thing! Sixty years ago, the people here were kept in the dark until they lost their land and people’s homes were burnt down to make way for the reservoir. Thanks to a whole bunch of good people, we’re talking about it now. This is better for the people, the animals and the fish. It’s as different as night and day. This sort of thing gives us our best chance to have things turn out differently.”

It is all phenomenally complicated, really important, and far beyond the scope of one evening’s discussion. Hopefully, however, people will get a sense of what is happening, ask thoughtful questions and get intelligent answers, and have some idea of where to go from here to find out more.

The Vallican Whole is at 3762 Little Slocan S. Road. Admission is by donation. Check out www.VallicanWhole.com or FB/TheWhole
Veterinarians say a fond farewell to Nakusp
by Katrine Campbell
After nearly 28 years in Nakusp, veterinarians Laurie Page and Bill Sones are retiring and moving to Salmon Arm. The Nakusp Veterinary Clinic has been sold and the new vet, Amber Robinson, will take over in late March.

“March 23 is our last day,” Page says. “I will be back and forth helping the new vet.” Robinson is moving here with her husband and three children; although he isn’t a vet, he will assist her in the clinic.

Page and Sones moved to Nakusp in June 1990 after finding the perfect spot to open a practice. They bought a house on an acreage, modified and renovated the lower level (the family room and three bedrooms) and set up as a clinic.

Asked if she had any idea how many animals they had treated since then, Page said, “Thousands and thousands.” Software installed about 17 years ago lists 11,000 since then.

Page was well known for her involvement in community affairs.

“I started getting involved with United Church first, in the 90s, then preschool, then the Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services board, the Nakusp Area Development Board, and the Columbia Basin Trust. Those are the main ones.

“One of the great things about a little town is if you want to do stuff, to try stuff, you can get involved at any level. Preschool was an eye-opener, a real learning experience. I learned how things work, and what it means to be on a board.”

The couple also have a son with autism, “and that took up a lot of time” until he moved to a group home.

Page was very visible in the community. She said Bill was also very involved in the community, but is more low-key. He was on the library board, the squash club, trail groups, and the ski touring society.

Now the couple is on a new adventure, she says.

“We have family in Salmon Arm. It’s something different for us to do. I want to go camping. We haven’t had a lot of time off together. I want to have a significant camping holiday, in the desert, somewhere completely different from here.”

Page adds how great it was working with PALS (Protecting Animal Life Society). “Not too many places have a society of that calibre. The lengths they go to to help animals… I’m remembering the times Florence (Bargery) and I have picked up injured animals and birds, and wild cats.”

Bargery was their first employee, although he isn’t a vet, he will assist her with her husband and three children; the new vet. Robinson is moving here to Nakusp in late March.

Page and Sones moved to Nakusp in June 1990 after finding the perfect spot to open a practice. They bought a house on an acreage, modified and renovated the lower level (the family room and three bedrooms) and set up as a clinic.

As for the clinic, it’s the same as always, “well, it’s been updated. It’s a very good clinic.”

The Nakusp Veterinary Clinic has been sold and the new vet, Amber Robinson, will take over in late March.

“We have lived the life we wanted to live in a small town. We knew who people were, we watched animals go from puppies to the end of life. We got to know the owners, the horses, and the pets.”

Two new high efficiency domestic hot water boilers at the Trail Hospital ($550,000), washroom renovations at the Nelson and Trail Hospitals ($98,500), ultrasound area renovation in Nelson ($95,000), a new dishwasher/conveyor system for Trail ($296,000), a waste/cardboard compactor for Trail ($17,000), a surgical services supply air fan upgrade for Trail ($95,000), washroom renovations in Nelson ($85,000), a secure room for Grand Forks ($400,000), IT improvements at several sites including New Denver, and equipment between $5,000 and $100,000 at all facilities.

The total bill for all projects is $8,828,300. The West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District will contribute 40% or $3,531,400.

The Nakusp Veterinary Clinic has been sold and the new vet, Amber Robinson, will take over in late March.

“We have lived the life we wanted to live in a small town. We knew who people were, we watched animals go from puppies to the end of life. We got to know the owners, the horses, and the pets.”
Two young people from the Slocan Valley competed in the BC Winter Games.

by Katrine Campbell

Two young people from the Slocan Valley competed in the BC Winter Games in Kamloops and, although neither finished in the top ten, they don’t seem to care – they just loved the experience.

Winlaw’s Senna Kenny is an alpine skier who competed in the giant slalom two-run, placing 39th out of 61. The 12-year-old said it was “definitely one of my most amazing experiences ever.

“Going to the games itself felt like a huge achievement! Knowing that you have gotten into the games with the best of the best feels awesome. I think that most kids who go to the games loved it and I am definitely one of them!”

She added that competing was also a confidence booster. In the field of 61, “I usually got in the high 30s or low 40s. My best placing of the weekend was 32. In the future I hope to just do the best I can and see where it gets me.’’

“I forgot to mention how many great friends you make when you go to the games,” she added after the interview. “I’ve made so many friends and I think most of these friendships will last.”

Kenny’s mother, Leah Curran, found it fascinating that of the top 10 in her daughter’s event, eight were from the Vancouver-Coastal zone. “They’re training five days a week,” she said. “Here, it’s much more casual.”

Cross-country skier Lukas Pigott (13) of Slocan might disagree with Curran’s assessment. He belongs to the Black Jack Ski Club in Rossland and he trains three or four days a week in the off season, six days a week in winter. Mondays are a rest day, then there is an easy routine on Tuesday, followed by harder workouts on Wednesdays and Thursdays; on Fridays, the club heads to weekend competitions. His coach is Dave Wood, who used to be the national team head coach.

Pigott took 14th place in the individual sprint midget boys 500m, and 15th in the interval start 3.5k. The first day he was nervous, but then it got easier. He said it was hard work to get to the games but “it was a really fun experience.”

Are there Olympics in his future? “Maybe. It would be neat!”

More than 1,200 athletes competed in 19 sports over four days at venues throughout Kamloops and at Sun Peaks representing their home zones.

SPONSORED BY THE SILVERTON GALLERY SOCIETY, THE OUTLET YOUTH CENTRE AND CBT

FOOD SPECIALS

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- 30 Prizes of Free Gas for a Year
- 2018 Can-Am Outlander ATV
- 5 Vacation Getaways worth $5,000
- 10 Prizes of $1000

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Sun 8 AM - 9 PM Mon - Sat 6 AM - 9 PM

FOOD SPECIALS

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<td>PER LB $2.69 Western Canadian Produce</td>
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COMMUNITY

Nakusp Vegan Community promotes plant-based eating

Keep an eye open for ‘Vegan Friendly’ signs appearing in local stores soon. These merchants are actively promoting Nakusp as a vegan-friendly destination.

As more and more people begin to understand the benefits of following a plant-based diet, not only on a local level but globally as well, Nakusp has the opportunity to attract more visitors to the town and area by offering a greater diversity of services, specifically restaurants and grocery stores. If vegan, know that Nakusp is a vegan-friendly town, they will be sure to stop and visit on their way through. Businesses can only benefit from the extra customers.

The Deli on Broadway is a great example of what can be achieved when a business goes out of its way to support all lifestyles in the community. Chef Tyler Leeson made sure to include a great selection of plant-based items in his menu.

“It’s not difficult,” he said. “You just have to be prepared to switch things around a bit.”

Jennifer’s Chocolates has also been a great supporter of the idea, offering dairy free chocolates in her repertoire, and the owners of Home Grown Market & Juice Bar go out of their way to stock items in their store for those following a plant-based, vegan diet.

The Nakusp Vegan Community (NVC) has been established to provide the local community information and resources for those interested in (or already committed to) following a plant-based vegan way of life. Through their Facebook page (@NakuspVegans) and website, they share thought-provoking information regarding the significance of living in a vegan world and offer support to those who wish to know more.

NVC plans to host a plant-based food tasting event in the summer and, hopefully, cooking classes in the fall.

Plant-based eating: good for you, good for the animals and good for the planet!

Heather Ferguson
November 22, 1959 - March 1, 2018

Heather was born in Newmarket, Ontario, and grew up there, in Dollard des Ormeaux, QC, Calgary and Mississauga, Ontario. She was a Girl Guide, and enjoyed many boating excursions with her family. In Georgian Bay, the Trent-Severn Waterway, and the St. Lawrence. The family also enjoyed time at her uncle’s cabin outside Thunder Bay.

During her high school years she lived in Tanzania, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and Iran, where her father was working on rural electrification projects. She completed her high school education, with honours, by correspondence with the Ontario Ministry of Education.

After returning to Canada, Heather attended the University of Toronto for two years, and was then admitted to the U of T medical school. After a year of medicine, she decided that her real interest was in statistics; and she then completed her B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. in that discipline at U of T. Afterwards, she was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Waterloo.

During her pre-medical education, Heather met her life partner, Mike, in a chemistry lab at U of T. They moved in together when Heather started medical school and Mike started law school. They remained together in the Toronto area, and then in southwest Ontario, until Heather was offered a professorship at what was then Okanagan College.

After some months in Kelowna, Heather decided that an academic career was not her calling; and she and Mike sought out a more rural lifestyle. Those decisions brought them to the New Dover area in 1992, where they together opened and operated a law office. Heather managed the office operations, did research and developed precedents, drafted documents, rigorously undertook all bookkeeping and billing matters, and handled all trust account audits required by the Law Society. She continued in these roles until the end of 2017, when her health prevented further involvement.

Heather was faced with a trio of immune system diseases over the past five years, and the medical interventions and drug side effects of treating those diseases. Since last Spring, her health began to deteriorate significantly. In mid-January she was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, which by that time had spread to various parts of her body. She was able to spend most of the final six weeks of her life at home in Hills; but her last four days were spent in a respite suite at Minto House in Nakusp.

Heather was a lover of animals and nature, an accomplished cook, a fan of classic and foreign films, a reader with very wide interests, a gardener - especially of native plants, a solver of many types of puzzles, and (somewhat to the surprise of those who knew of it) a very keen and highly accomplished video gamer. She also enjoyed camping, canoeing, cross-country skiing and traveling the back roads.

Heather’s older brother (Rob), father (Bob) and mother (Elieen) died before her. She is survived by her older sister (Sue), four nieces and a nephew, and their children. She is also survived by her partner of 36 years, Mike, who is very deeply saddened by the gaping hole her departure has left in his life.

Heather will be buried in the Glenbank Cemetery, outside Nakusp. At her request, no services will be held. Anyone who wishes to commemorate her existence could make a donation to P.A.L.S., an organization which Heather supported with numerous contributions to its annual Mother’s Day plant sale.

Mike Sweeney

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Plant-based eating: good for you, good for the animals and good for the planet!
Campaign to protect Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face ramps up

by Jan McMurray

A North Kootenay Lake community group, Mt. Willet Wilderness Forever, is looking for public and political support for its proposal to include the Argenta-Johnson’s Landing (AJL) Face in the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy (PWC). The group has launched a petition and letter-writing campaign in support of the proposal. The campaign for this long-standing proposal is ramping up now that the AJL Face is part of Porcupine Wood Products Inc.’s (PWP) Mount Davis Creek Conservation Stewardship Plan, which was just approved in January.

The AJL Face has been in the hands of various forest tenure holders over the years, and logging proposals have been very contentious in the community. “We are confident that the long-term economic benefits of protecting the short-term economics of industrial forestry,” said Joy Carson, member of Mt. Willet Wilderness Forever. “Sustained economic benefits resulting from the scenery and wild lands are already present here.”

The PWC proposal explains that the AJL Face is the lake side face of Mt. Willet, the tallest mountain on Kootenay Lake.

“The Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face is bordered on three sides by the lake, so it makes sense to bring it into the Conservancy. Legislating this boundary expansion will add critical area and habitat to the park and contribute to its long-term vitality, resilience and sustainability,” said Gary Diers of Mt. Willet Wilderness Forever.

The AJL-PWC proposal would add 6,200 hectares to the park, increasing its size by 3%. The PWC currently covers about 200,000 hectares.

The proposal lists many benefits to including the AJL Face in the Conservancy. It would preserve existing habitat, connectivity, and access to Kootenay Lake for wildlife. It would add rare old growth western larch, ancient alpine larch, and Douglas-fir to the Conservancy, and would add recreational opportunities, such as caving and hiking trails. The AJL Face inclusion in the Conservancy would also preserve the spectacular, unbroken, forested mountain views people see as they drive up Hwy 31 between Balfour and Meadow Creek, and at the popular Kootenay Lake Provincial Park campgrounds of Lost Ledge and Davis Creek.

“It’s good for wildlife, the environment, the local and regional tourism economy, and local recreationalists,” says Joy Carson.

She also points out that the park expansion would give area residents peace of mind, ending the friction between residents and the Ministry of Forests.

“Many residents are concerned about the sale of a democratic watershed and the stability of the slope, particularly since the 2012 Johnson’s Landing slide,” said Carolyn Schramm.

She said that the proposal reflects the spirit of the BC Parks Future Strategy, released by the Province last year, which highlights conservation, recreation, accessibility, and bringing people together.

In June 2016, Area D Director Aimee Watson initiated a community meeting, and invited Porcupine Wood Products/Cooper Creek Cedar. At that meeting, Gary Diers asked that the logging company delay their plans for development on the AJL Face while the group pursues the AJL-PWC park proposal.

For more information, visit willettwilderness.ca, Facebook Mt. Willet Wilderness Forever, email info@ willettwilderness.ca, or write to Mt. Willet Wilderness Forever, General Delivery, Arceta, BC V0G 1B0.

March 8, 2018 The Valley Voice

RDCK budget highlights presented in Kaslo and Meadow Creek

by Jan McMurray

The first of 10 public meetings on the RDCK 2018 budget took place at the Larteau Valley Community Centre on February 28, followed by a meeting in Kaslo the following day.

In the presentation, RDCK CAO Stuart Horn explained that the RDCK board identified six priorities in 2016, and those priorities are evident in the 2018 budget. The priorities are: wildfire management; waste management and alternatives; recreation, parks and trails; water protection and advocacy; food security and agriculture; and coordinated service delivery.

Some of the projects to address these priorities include hiring a wildfire mitigation technician, building four FireSmart Ambassadors last year and nine this year, the Regional Agriculture Liaison Strategy, the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council (Director Watson sits on the board), parks and trails inventory, Resource Recovery Plan, composting and recycling.

Area D’s assessment value shot up from $32,673,612 last year to $38,283,468 this year. That’s a $6 million (17.17%) increase. Director Watson said she doesn’t know exactly why, but it seems to be a mix of new buildings, an increase in light industrial property assessments, and a general increase in property values.

Kasco’s assessment increased only slightly (4.12%) to $17,321,485 this year from $16,655,330 last year.

Altogether, Kaslo area residents will pay $376,677 in RDCK taxes this year, where they paid $389,715 last year. That’s a 3.5% decrease.

Altogether, Area D residents will pay $389,018 in RDCK taxes this year, where they paid $378,825 last year. That’s a 3% increase.

The good news is that the tax rate is going down by 10% for Area D, and 7% for Kaslo. Area D residents will pay $4.13 per $1,000 of assessed value ($1.43 per $1,000 last year), and Kaslo residents will pay $2.18 per $1,000 ($2.34 per $1,000 last year).

A Village of Kaslo resident with a $350,000 home will pay $842.77 on a $350,000 home this year to cover the costs of two new IT staff as compared with the other student’s $2.34 per $1,000 last year.

In June 2016, Area D Director Aimee Watson initiated a community meeting, and invited Porcupine Wood Products/Cooper Creek Cedar. At that meeting, Gary Diers asked that the logging company delay their plans for development on the AJL Face while the group pursues the AJL-PWC park proposal.

Pat Henham & Michael Graham

THE GIN GAME

by D.L. Coburn

Directed by: Lindsay Clague
Set Design: Shane Brandel
Lighting Design: Dave Inghram
MARCH 22ND, 23RD, & 24TH AT 7:30PM
Saturday March 24th Matinee 2:00pm
Capitol Theatre, Nelson BC
Tickets available online or at the box office:
www.capitoltheatre.bc.ca
The Capitol Theatre
421 Victoria Street
Nelson BC, V0L 2J0
250.352.4363
Kaslo council, February 27: Gearing up for Kaslo 125

by Jan McMurray

$2,000 sponsorship will be split 50/50 between the Kaslo 125 Committee’s budget and the municipal advertising budget.

The Village of Kaslo Public Art Committee is applying for CBT Community Initiatives funding to help complete the Public Art Park. The funding will be used to pay a bricklayer to lead a session teaching interested community members to lay a brick path; to purchase plants, trees and shrubs; and to purchase materials to build a children’s playground. The Village has registered as an intervener the BCCU proceedings on the FortisBC rate redesign application.

A letter of support from the Village will be provided to FortisBC for its application for federal funds for a Level 3 Fast EV Charger in Kaslo, and for negotiating a licence of occupation for a municipal location for the charger.

The Village will provide a letter of support to the Kootenay Lake Partnership (KLP) for its funding proposal to the Real Estate Foundation of BC. The letter of support from the Village states that the KLP’s proposed project would help the Village deal with forest water surface zoning regulations, secure modified and new tenures, review existing Development Permit Area policies, and help inform the Village’s Waterfront and Municipal Parks Strategy. The letter also notes that there is a “significant opportunity to develop a comprehensive set of policies and regulations in each jurisdiction [along Kootenay Lake] for an integrated methodology to stewardship on Kootenay Lake.”

Council approved a permanent $50,000 transfer from the transportation reserve to the equipment/vehicles reserve. The equipment/vehicles reserve had been diminished to $7,709 after replacing the dump truck and other equipment and vehicle modifications. The CAO recommends that this reserve is currently held $100,000, to allow for the ability to purchase and make 5-year loan payments on large equipment/vehicles when necessary. Fortunately, the transportation reserve is very healthy at $139,531 due to council’s decision to transfer gravel pit revenue to this purpose.

Council agreed to establish a Contingency Reserve Fund to cover the municipality’s deductible for municipal liability or property loss insurance claims; legal or surveying costs that weren’t budgeted for and are necessary for the municipality; capital and maintenance costs outside of the scope of the Care Fund; and capital or land acquisitions considered in the long-term plan. The balance in the reserve fund will be $10,000. The initial $10,000 will come from the Village accumulated surplus and any end. Additional contributions can be made from surplus cemetery revenues and proceeds from the sale of municipal land.

Municipal grants were approved for Kaslo Search & Rescue (training for SAR dog), Kaslo & District Public Library (replace outdated equipment), Kaslo Guitar Fest (festival costs), North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Council (Kootenay Lake Community), Kaslo Legion (install light motion sensors), North Kootenay Lake Community Services (Mother Goose early literacy program); Children’s Centre (playground repairs), Kaslo Concert Society (insurance and piano tuning), Hospice Society of North Kootenay Lake (public workshop), Kaslo Riding Club (horse training clinic), Trust for Kids, Kaslo Youth Soccer (equipment), Kootenay Lake Historical Society (office equipment), Kaslo Curling Club (ice making equipment), Legion Ladies Auxiliary (outdoor shelter construction), Kaslo Seniors (internet service). Kaslo InfoNet withdrew its application to install a community Wi-Fi device at City Hall, and all requests were reduced by a common percentage to meet the $4,500 available.

There was an amendment that changes the designation of E. Garthe’s property on Washington Street to Local Commercial from Neighbourhood Residential to be adopted.

Kaslo & District

Stronger legislation needed for forest health

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo and Argenta Concert Society (insurance and piano tuning); Kaslo Commercial from Neighbourhood Commercial to General Commercial from Neighbourhood Commercial; Kaslo North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Council (Kootenay Lake Community); Kaslo River Café (drink service and entertainment); Kaslo Soccer (equipment), Kootenay Lake Historical Society (office equipment), Kaslo Curling Club (ice making equipment), Legion Ladies Auxiliary (outdoor shelter construction), Kaslo Seniors (internet service). Kaslo InfoNet withdrew its application to install a community Wi-Fi device at City Hall, and all requests were reduced by a common percentage to meet the $4,500 available.

There was an amendment that changes the designation of E. Garthe’s property on Washington Street to Local Commercial from Neighbourhood Residential to be adopted.

by Jan McMurray

A special act and one that doesn’t have any fault when there’s no legislative backbone,” said Argenta resident Sara Allair. “Where is the legislation that says YOU must do this and that to deal with forest health? Please take our message to the minister. We are very concerned for ourselves and for future generations.”

Rhonda Hand, president of the Friends of the Larder Lake River, suggested that people write to Minister Doug Donaldson and MLA Michelle Mangell with their concerns.

Hit of Kaslo Jazz Fest returns to Kootenays for a three-show-run

submitted

This St. Patrick’s Day weekend, the “cuckoo clock of campers and rubber” CR Avery will be hitting the road hard and bringing along his current incarnation of an eight-piece band to deliver the get-the-spring-back-in-your-step dance parties to Kaslo, Nelson, and Argenta.

For those who caught him at last year’s Kaslo search party, you may remember the moment when he managed to rally the whole crew into singing along to ‘Oh Canada we stand’ amidst the road hard and bringing along his current incarnation of an eight-piece band to deliver the get-the-spring-back-in-your-step dance parties to Kaslo, Nelson, and Argenta. The other way I’d like to contribute is by putting my energy into the arts. I’m so happy to be helping the planet. The other way I’d like to contribute is by putting my energy into the arts. I’m so happy to be helping the planet.

Organizer of the Kaslo and Argenta Jazz Festivals, Amber McIntyre-Bay says, “I’ve been watching him as an artist for 20 years. He used to sit and bus on Commercial Drive with his harmonica and he’d beat box how Bob Dylan would be the best. He wrote a threadbare suit and an old fedora and when he wasn’t doing a show, he’d be playing on the street. He made folk music seem like a powerful force even amongst all that traffic and congestion. Skip forward ten years and now it’s reached the point of what I’d call ‘mastery’, because he’s taken something over and over and with all of you and your heart too, you’re gonna reach a level where you can blow people’s minds. And then once their minds are blown, they can seep in and if people go back out into their worlds inspired, I think the whole nature of the community is uplifted.”

Amber says she has watched CR Avery rock the house hard many times, in many different styles. “I know it’s a lot of work doing the same show but I feel like once people experience the show, they are gonna wanna go to Kaslo Friday night, Nelson Saturday night and then come out of the weekend with a new perspective of life.” 

Amber and her partner, songwriter Andy Shadrack, former Area D director, indicated that the problem could be addressed through tenure reform. “Gives salvagers the ability to salvage individual trees in huge tenures, and that’s a big issue, the exclusivity of the rights to the tenure!”

Shadrack pointed out that the last discussion on tenure reform was in 1987 and 1988.

Chris Bockner says, “He was my favourite surprise act of Jazz Fest. I really didn’t expect him to blow me away with his presence, he blew me away with his presence, and for sure, he’s my favourite surprise act of Jazz Fest.”

Shadrack commented that he felt the lack of trust among the public was sad. “We meet with the licencees and tell them what we want harvested,” he reiterated, and again suggested that the community work with the licencees, ask them for contributions, and “hold their feet to the fire.”

“Nobody in Kaslo has any fault when there’s no legislative backbone,” said Argenta resident Sara Allair. “Where is the legislation that says YOU must do this and that to deal with forest health? Please take our message to the minister. We are very concerned for ourselves and for future generations.”

Rhonda Hand, president of the Friends of the Larder Lake River, suggested that people write to Minister Doug Donaldson and MLA Michelle Mangell with their concerns.

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Avery rock the house hard many times, in many different styles. “I know it’s a lot of work doing the same show but I feel like once people experience the show, they are gonna wanna go to Kaslo Friday night, Nelson Saturday night and then come out of the weekend with a new perspective of life.”
Duo Solista returns submitted

On Saturday, March 10, Duo Solista will perform at the Bonnington Arts Centre, starting at 7 pm. This is the third concert in this season’s concert series, presented by the Arrow Lakes District Arts Council Society. Violinist Olga Kotova and pianist Dimitry Nesterov call themselves Duo Solista to reflect their chamber music partners. This husband and wife have played together since they first met through the RCM auditions. The Green Door property is located on 4th Street NW facing Nakusp Secondary School.

Joseph Hughes, who is involved in performing with orchestras, Kotova and Nesterov are both graduates of the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory and earned masters’ degrees in music performance from the University of Calgary. Kotova is a member of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra; Nesterov is an off-campus piano instructor for the Mount Royal University Conservatory. Their music spills into their home; their two sons (6 and 8), play violin and piano respectively.

ALDCAC is very excited to have this wonderful couple returning to perform here, as we first met them on their first tour through the Kootenays as ‘Artists in Residence’ from the Banff Centre.

Bereavement journal program offered in Nakusp submitted

Anyone who is going through a grief process after losing someone close to them, whether the loss is recent or in the distant past, is invited to a bereavement journal program sponsored by the Nakusp Hospice Society. It is modelled after the successful program developed by Susan Breiddal of Victoria Hospice Society.

Facilitators Sue Mistrretta, M.A. and Alice Watson, M.Ed., psychological counselor, will provide a safe, supportive and confidential space for participants to explore their grief and to discover a healing journey which cultivates compassion and acceptance for the array of intense feelings and confusing thoughts experienced through loss.

Participants will explore grief through writing exercises (journaling), collage and other simple art processes. They will come to understand and normalize their grief experience and will learn hands-on skills for dealing with life after loss. No experience in writing or art required. Limited to eight participants.

Program fee is $35 and all learning materials are provided. To register or for more information please contact Sue at 358-2177 or soulgarden58@gmail.com. Registration deadline is March 23.

Nakusp council, February 26: Hot Springs brings revenue to 2018 budget

by Claire Paradis

The preliminary operations budget was presented by CAO Taylor (budget slides are available on the Village website with Agendas and Minutes). Taylor reminded council that only 45% of property taxes gathered in 2017 went to the Village, which collects taxes for the Regional District, hospitals, police, and schools as well.

The big news this year is that the Nakusp Hot Springs will be a standalone function. Instead of being funded by property taxes, the Springs is contributing $15,000 to the Village budget. The transfer was calculated to be in line with what the Hot Springs would pay in taxes as a privately owned business.

The other big news is that thanks to the transfer, Nakusp residents are facing a tax increase of only 0.7%, rather than the 7% on the Village portion of their taxes.

There was some discussion about whether the expense of Pride Week, budgeted at $8,150, is worth it. Mayor Hamlin said it has been very popular, and Counsellor Bill Tobey commented that many seniors who budgeted for 2018 at $8,150, is worth a tax increase of 1.6% rather than 3% on business.

We wish you all the best in your retirement.

The Arrow Lakes District Arts Council Society

— Presents —

DUO SOLISTA

Olga Kotova & Dimitry Nesterov
Violin and Piano

Saturday, March 10
at 7:00 pm
In the Bonnington
Arts Centre

Tickets: at the Bon MarcheDollar Store  $15 Adults  $10 Seniors & Students  60 & over  17 & under  $5 Children (6 & under)  $30 Family (2+2)
Hospitality Host: Selkirk Inn

Nakusp & The Arrow Lakes

We sincerely appreciate the many years you have provided stellar service to the people of our communities to help keep our pets healthy. It has been an honour and a privilege to work with you as PALS volunteers. Our animals were always given loving care along with the best possible medical attention.

Our volunteers have been treated with the utmost respect, integrity, and compassion. This incredible support, both emotional and financial, has been instrumental for our programs to enhance animal welfare.

Laurie and Bill, you have truly been the pulse of PALS. We are very grateful to you both, and we wish you all the best in your retirement. You are leaving very big “pawprints” on our hearts and you will be greatly missed.

Sincerely, Your PALS

The Arrow Lakes District Arts Council Society
COMMUNITY FOOD HAMPER PROGRAM serving Hills to Enterprise Creek. Anyone needing an Easter food hamper please call 250-358-2675 or Sue 358-7787 by March 20. We need your name, and contact number. Leave a message and we will call you.

CLASSIFIED ADS
& Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 250-358-7747 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

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CHIROPRACTOR:  Dr. Larry Zaleski

and Patti Sebben and all their volunteers

Benkoczi, Burgin Jacobs, Paula Shandro

Therese DesCamp, Lucerne School and

Gloria Lisgo and the Carpenter Creek

Eloise Charet and Katrina Sumrall for

injections at the school,

Gloria Liugo and the Carpenter Creek

Last Wishes Society, Essay Enterprises,

Therese Delpomp, Lyle Creek School and

students, music teachers Kelly Coubrough

and Rebecca Lutty and students, Amber

Butler, Elaine Charet, Barc Mark, Sadye

Butler, Nancy Guise, Isaac Carter and Orsi

Benkoczi, Burgin Jacobs, Paula Shandro

or simply are feeling stuck or uninspired.

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you’re eligible you will usually also receive

ongoing business training and coaching

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Futures! Through this program you will

Employment program at Community

work your dream job

and we will return your call.

name, and contact number. Leave a message

to Katrina Sumrall, the grade 4,5,6 class,

up afterwards. A very special thank you
to Kelly Coubrough, and Therese DesCamp. 

third and fourth Tuesday of each month @ noon 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

COMING EVENTS

SLOCAN MASONIC LODGE meets at Knox Hall at 7:30 pm in New Denver: March 23, April 27, May 22. Every fourth Friday. Interested new members contact Shon@shonsbs@gmail.com

WINTER WEDNESDAYS at Ainsworth Hot Springs and the Kinzua Grill Wednesdays from January 10 – March 14, 2018, purchase any meal ($10 or more) and receive 50% off at the hot springs. Hosted by Shon Slocum www.ainsworthhotspings.com

CANCER PATIENT SUPPORT GROUP: Every first and third Thursday of each month 10am in the conference room at Ainsworth Hot Springs. For more information call Linda 250-265-1397. Cancer Caregivers Support Group. Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month

The Valley Voice March 8, 2018

is waiting for them when they return from Mexico. Stay tuned for next year’s theme and the continuation of the Winter Blues Boogie!

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COUNSELLOR: Sue Mistretta, M.A
10 years experience helping clients working with anxiety,

Walter J. Grob

20 years experience helping clients working with anxiety,

Walter J. Grob

20 years experience helping clients working with anxiety,

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20 years experience helping clients working with anxiety,

Walter J. Grob

20 years experience helping clients working with anxiety,

Walter J. Grob
March 8, 2018   The Valley Voice

BELLONGING, PREMIERE of a highly original and oh-so-personal portrait about being a woman in the Slocan Valley, written and performed by Martina Aris and Marya Folimage. March 10, doors open 7 pm; $20-

LUCKY ST. PADDY’S DAY FLEA MARKET – We’re organizing a spring flea market on March 17 at the St. Silvretta General Store (Bigway). Come sell your items! Anything from your closet clean-out to studio art, to artisan products or baked goods. All will be considered gold at the end of this month! $10 per booth space. Call Danika at 250-358-2284.


SLOCAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY presents Nelson writer, researcher and speaker, Eileen Dolechuk Pearman. Sunday, March 11 at 1 pm. Come to learn more about the history of the Columbia River and the opportunity to help in healing.


WAYS TO A BETTER DOG! build focus for you, have fun. Learn more at www.proudofmydog.ca

March 8, 2018   The Valley Voice

BE/LONGING

LAKES Hospital. For more information, 250-354-8562.

FOR RENT

MEETINGS

FOR RENT AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY: Self-contained office space approximately 20’ x 25’ 210 Ave. in Silverton. $325 per month + utilities. Call 250-358-2597.

HELP WANTED

PAVILION MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE is looking to hire a gardener to help maintain and care for the Pavilion Gardens. Contract begins May 1 2018 - October 15, 2018. You must have WCB coverage. Payment of $20 per hour five hours per week. Applicant must make a minimum of 2 visits per month. All interested applicants are encouraged to submit a letter of interest to Box 217 New Denver V0G1S0 – attention to Sue Davies.

LOOKING FOR VISION: KIDWELL – George Brinkman is looking for him re: His garden hose hookup. 250-365-6887.

PETS


NEXT VALLEY VOICE DEADLINE: March 16, 2018

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Setting the Stage: 30 years of making a scene

To honour the Capitol’s 30th re-

brith a special gala event is in the

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give-aways. On Saturday, March 10
at 7:30 pm, celebrate your community
theatre!

“The board is excited that so
many talented performers are able to
give their time to honour our beloved
theatre and the community that makes
it so special,” says board president
Bessie Wapp.

It wouldn’t be possible to fit every
local who’s ever walked the stage into
one evening, but the diversity of the
community’s disciplines and talents
will be well represented. Performers
include Allison Girvan, Kathleen
Neudorf, Sydney Black, Pat Hennan,
Roger Ley, Michael Graham, Slava
Doval & DanceFusion, Dance

Unbrella, Lucas Myers, Cotswod
Choir, KLDH Doctors, Noemi Kiss,
Stephen Fowler, David Edgington,
Bessie Wapp, Susie O’Donnell,
Karen Agnew, Mary Stacey, Mary
Audia, Christoph Martens and more.

In addition to in-house
productions, the Capitol hosts more
than 100 community group events –
performing arts, social service,
environmental, medical, educational,
and more – plus professional touring
productions which are carefully
chosen every year to provide
something for everyone’s taste and
enjoyment.

“Programming the Season Series
is a puzzle that comes together over
two years of planning – no
small feat when you know your
patrons range from four to 90 years
of age,” says executive director

Stephanie Fischer. “But planning the
March 10 festivities has been a lot of
fun and we’re excited to share it with
our dedicated audience members
on the night.”

In addition to the star-studded
stage show, there will be a Season Series
ticket giveaway ($280 value),
a 50/50 draw (sky’s the limit!), and
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The playbill is full. Rehearsals have
begun. All they need is you!!

Tickets are $30. All proceeds go
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to 4:30 pm.

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The Valley Voice March 8, 2018
Not Extinct launched at the Vallican Whole

by Moe Lyons

It was a project nearly five years in the making, and it grew out of a conversation between Marilyn James and KLinda Kivi as they were standing together on a blockade. On Sunday, March 4 at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, the Blood of Life Collective proudly launched Not Extinct: Keeping the Sinixt Way. More than just a book, this is a multimedia project based on traditional stories as told by Marilyn James and her daughter, Tareess Alexis.

“This was a collaborative effort,” says James. “It was all about opening up space for dialogue and imagination.”

The book is richly illustrated with the work of over 20 artists, and written reflections from many others, rounding out each chapter. Around 120 people attended the event, many of whom were there to be honoured for their contributions to the book as artists, writers or supporters of the work.

KLinda Kivi is the publisher at Maa Press, and a member of the Blood of Life Collective. “We hear a lot of talk about reconciliation,” she says, “but I say, reconciliation to what? We need rather to be working on decolonization, to change the system fundamentally, not just tinker with problematic colonization. This book is an act of decolonization, and every act of decolonization creates an energy within the community.”

Only brief versions of the stories are contained within the book. Because this is an oral tradition, the reader is given a link and a password to go online and listen to podcasts of the entire stories. Putting these together was the work of Catherine Fisher, from Kootenay Coop Radio.

Catherine has done an amazing thing here,” says KLinda. “If you listen to only one of these podcasts, pick the one about Frog Peak. She has woven together the voices of Marilyn and Tarees in English with Eva Orr’s rendition in Sinixt. It is beautiful.” Eva Orr was the matriarch who led the Sinixt return to the Slocan Valley. As well there is an audio series, which is different from the book. Several podcasts are already up on kootenaycoopradio.com, with more being added over time.

The shape of the project originally was conceived by Kivi and artist Amber Santos, who became the artistic director. Eventually it morphed into a full-on collective undertaking. Kivi refers to Santos as her “collaborative maverick.”

“She’s not my partner, she has a husband, but I think of her as my better half,” she says.

She is also particularly grateful to Alison Christie, who worked alongside her every step of the way.

“She’s a star,” said Kivi. “I want to thank all of you here and the entire Blood of Life Collective. It takes an entire community to do something like this,” she says. “We are all part of it. Keep speaking your truth, in whatever way is in your heart.”

“This book is a call to action, for each one of us to find our voice, our vision, our music, our love to stand up for the Sinixt. This can be done in a number of ways. First, always acknowledge you are on Sinixt territory. Second, sign the petition to the federal government. We have just started a petition to reverse the extinction of the Sinixt, and our MP, Richard Cannings, has agreed to present these signed petitions as they come to him. (A link to the petition will be found on Facebook at FB/bloodoflifecollective and at www.maaapress.ca.) And finally, please help us get the book out there in any way you can.”

The evening wound up with stories. Alexis regaled the audience with a delightfully gruesome Coast Salish tale about the origin of mosquitoes. James told the Frog Peak creation story, “I was conflicted about this for a long time,” she says, “because this is an oral tradition. Even though Eva gave me permission to write it down, I wondered, ‘What are you doing?’ But eventually I came to peace with it. I feel telling this survival story underlines the great responsibility we have to this land and all the things of this land.”

Both James and Alexis expressed their gratitude to the community for their support. “This is an opportunity to honour the stories, the land and the contributors,” says James.

Tareess Alexis and Marilyn James proudly display Not Extinct in front of the Vallican Whole Community Centre.
STEAM learning space at Nakusp Elementary

Nakusp Elementary School (NES) has established a new learning space to facilitate interactive, problem-solving focused learning. Students and staff refer to this space as the STEAM room.

The concept of STEAM learning is a relatively recent educational innovation and it is new to NES this year. The greatest benefit in the elementary years is that it fosters the love of learning, instills a passion and a drive to learn new things.

The acronym STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math.

The learning that takes place in the new STEAM room is activity-based and focuses on a student-centered learning environment. Students from all grades in the school visit the learning space in small multi-aged groups of three to six students. Learning activities in the room encourage these small groups of students to complete challenges and tasks together. The activities are designed to facilitate group collaboration and problem-solving while being practical, fun, and engaging.

The educational resources in the room promote student creativity in all facets of activities. The room provides students with the resources in a learning environment that helps to develop inquiry skills and technology skills while developing math, engineering and science conceptual and design thinking. Students advance their literacy skills by providing evidence of their learning through drawing and writing about their project plans and outcomes.

NES students have embraced the STEAM room as a place where they can enjoy hands-on and interactive learning activities. The students are engaged in learning through coding activities, math problem solving, robotics, science and building challenges, as well as reading and writing tasks and creativity using a variety of art media. This learning process fosters inquiry, creativity, curiosity and a passion for problem solving. It also develops positive personal, social, communication, creative and critical thinking core competencies, key components of our new BC re-designed curriculum.

The inquiry learning focuses on students’ early interests and experiences. By building on what our students know, their interests, and passions, STEAM activities and challenges motivate students to engage in conceptual and design thinking. The greatest gifts teachers can give students during the elementary years are a driving curiosity, a belief in their own skills and abilities, and a thirst for knowledge. The addition of the STEAM learning space has enhanced Nakusp Elementary students’ educational experience with a new dimension of interactive learning.