Karen Hamling will retire from local politics in the fall

by Jan McMurray

Karen Hamling, mayor of Nakusp for the last 13 years and chair of the RDCK board for the last four, will not be seeking re-election in the local government elections this fall.

"There comes a time when someone else needs to take over to provide a fresh perspective," she said in an interview. "I've enjoyed the job and I've had a lot of support from the community, which I really appreciate."

Hamling was on council for nearly 24 years in total. She served as councillor from 1987 to 1996, and then returned in the 2004 by-election. She became mayor in 2005.

During the time she wasn't on council, Hamling was still very active in the community. She served as chair of Nakusp and Area Development Board for six years, and as a director of the Community Futures board on and off for 17 years.

In her retirement, Hamling says she is looking forward to a rest, a good night's sleep, some time with her family, and getting back to her music and art. She plays guitar and piano, and enjoys drawing and watercolour painting.

Under Hamling's leadership, the Village has brought in an amazing $10 million in grants to complete several projects: water and sewer, hot springs renovations, construction of the hot springs bridge, purchase of the Hot Springs Chalets, ice plant upgrades, arena roof replacement, the construction of the Emergency Services Building, and the installation of a microhydro system at the water plant, which brings $30,000 a year into Village revenues.

"I was fortunate to have a council and staff that worked to get funding for the projects we needed," she said. "I can't stress enough how one person doesn't do all of this – you have to have the support of council and staff. The mayor only gets one vote."

Some of the high points of her public career include receiving the Queen’s Jubilee Medal, receiving an honorary diploma from Selkirk College for community leadership, serving as vice-chair on the Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee, and being voted chair of the Regional District of Central Kootenay board of directors four years in a row.

"One of the things I've really appreciated is when Nakusp residents introduce me as 'our mayor' rather than 'the mayor.' That's a nice way for people to support you," she said. "One of the hardest things is when people hear a rumour and jump on the band wagon without checking it out."

Hamling says she got into local politics when residents approached her and asked her to run. She, in turn, asked Rosemarie Johnson to run as mayor. In Hamling's first term (1987-90), Johnson was mayor, and three of four councillors were women. "That was really different back then," she said.

"When I went off council in 1996, I said I'd never run again, and then people convinced me to run for mayor in 2002," she recalls. She lost by 49 votes to incumbent at the time, Bill Cowan. In 2005, and in the subsequent three elections, she won the mayoral race by a landslide every time.

She recalls her first year as mayor as "horrendous." At their first meeting in December, council had to shut down the hot springs. "Either we did or the Health Department would. It was supposed to be closed for six months but it was closed for eight. Then somebody burned down the youth centre two months later. Four months after that, the bridge at the hot springs was condemned. Then two months later, CBT decided to close the office in Nakusp and we had to fight to keep it open. That's a year I will never forget."

Hamling advises anyone considering running for mayor to attend some council meetings beforehand and to be aware that the job takes quite a bit of time. Also, a municipal council’s powers are determined by the Local Government Act and Community Charter. "Even though we'd like to do certain things, we can't always do them because of the limitations of the laws we work under," she said.

Finally, Hamling says the mayor's job is to provide council with leadership and guidance. "If you bring a wonderful project to council and they turn it down, you need to support that. The mayor only has one vote."

Karen Hamling will step away from local politics this fall after an impressive career – 13 years as Nakusp mayor, four years as RDCK board chair, and 11 years as Nakusp councillor.

Nakusp Citizens of the Year chosen for 2017

Rotary Past President Dan Nashidnien showed up to present Sandra With a bouquet of flowers for the Nakusp Citizen of the Year. Photos of the Lifetime Achievement and Youth Achievement winners appear on page 11.
Kootenay Lake businesses petition government on ferry

by Art Joyce

While the residents and business owners of Balfour may be happy with the BC government’s decision to maintain and upgrade the ferry landing, many others aren’t. The Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce, based in Crawford Bay, has sent the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) a letter with 70 signatories calling for a halt to the improvements until the ferry site issue can be revisited. A further 22 individual letters have been sent to the ministry and opposition leaders in the BC Legislature.

At a Chamber meeting held in March, a motion was passed requesting that the ministry “suspend action on the Kootenay Lake Ferry Project until the project fully addresses all land and marine safety issues and any other project addresses all anticipated cumulative costs to the Ministry as well as the detrimental economic impacts to the travelling users, including public, industry and community.”

In a previous issue, we noted the announcement that the Balfour ferry terminal plans include a 40% capacity increase in the vehicle lanes, a new bus lane, and an eventual replacement of the MV Balfour ferry. In order to make the site viable, the narrows on Kootenay Lake’s West Arm must be dredged, a move that has some East Shore residents concerned about the environmental implications.

“Dredging the Procter Narrows may well be a most dangerous change to our lake, as this will have to be done each year,” says longtime East Shore resident Tom Lymbery, whose father Arthur Lymbery was one of the founding settlers of Gray Creek. “This can affect fish as well as other species such as freshwater mussels.”

The Chamber letter cites an SNC-Lavalin feasibility study, which concluded that, “the relocation of the Balfour ferry terminal to Queens Bay North was not only technically feasible, it was a superior choice when critically compared under the categories of safety, service, community/stakeholder impact, environmental impact, and financial.”

The letter concludes on a conciliatory note: “Surely we can work with our neighbours in Balfour/Queen’s Bay to come up with solutions that work for us all,” pointing out that for East Shore businesses reliant on the ferry for supply lines, “viability and competitiveness can be negatively impacted.”

Another concern for East Shore residents is access to medical services and emergency evacuation during wildfire season. In his submission to MoTI, Lymbery noted that, “many with medical appointments have to arrive several hours early. Even when in good time for a ferry I have personally waited four hours.” In his submission to the ministry, he recommends that MoTI have one vessel parked overnight on the East Shore at Kootenay Bay.

The backup of parked vehicles on the highway waiting for a ferry during the summer can extend well past the Riondel turnoff. A faster turnaround on sailing time, he believes, would help remedy this situation. As owner of Gray Creek Store, Lymbery adds the ship’s loading and unloading time for both his staff and customers. East Shore residents are also unhappy with the level of local consultation provided by MoTI. Initial consultations in 2016 did not include any meetings on the East Shore, despite a request from the Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce and residents. Three meetings were held on the East Shore this March, attracting a total of 85 people. The ministry had by then announced its decision to proceed with the Balfour terminal and was only seeking feedback on the MoTI spokesperson. “However, there were a lot of concerns raised by the submission calls for a heated waiting room, extended hours for ferry employees supervising loading and parking, and adding space for up to 20 vehicles at the park-and-ride lot.

According to MoTI, Balfour ferry terminal improvements are expected to cost $36-40 million whereas estimated costs to build the Queens Bay terminal were about $25-30 million. In 2016, MLA Michelle Mungall presented a petition to the BC Legislature with 5,000 signatures in favour of retaining the Balfour terminal. An MoTI spokesperson says 1,766 surveys were returned during the 2016 consultation, which made online surveys available. The ministry estimates the total number of names submitted online and on paper for East Shore Queens Bay, “Keep the Balfour Ferry Landing’ petition to be 6,825.

The ministry recognizes that the decision to retain at Balfour was the more expensive option,” says the MoTI spokesperson. “However, there were a lot of concerns raised about the proposals for a new terminal at pristine Queens Bay, along with concerns over the loss of business for Balfour. The ministry had to weigh these concerns against the convenience of a shorter crossing, as well as the project costs.”

Celebrate Earth Day with free bus rides

In celebration of Earth Day, bus riders in the West Kootenay Transit System will be able to travel for free on Saturday, April 21.

While Earth Day (April 22) falls on a Sunday this year, the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, the Regional District of Central Kootenay, the City of Nelson and BC Transit are offering free service the preceding Saturday. They also encourage people in the West Kootenay Transit System to celebrate Earth Week by riding the bus from April 16 to 21.

For more information about schedules, routes and service changes in the West Kootenay Transit System, please visit bctransit.com/west-kooteany.
De Groot family responds to IIO report

by Jan McMurray

The family of Peter de Groot responded to the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) report of the October 13, 2014 police shooting of Peter in a statement released on April 5 by their legal counsel, Donald J. Sorochan.

“We have read the report issued by the IIO,” says the de Groot family. “We had been led to believe that the long wait was because the IIO was working to ensure that the entirety of facts and evidence would lead to ‘cooperative fully’ with the IIO.”

Sorochan also feels that the IIO should be provided with the resources necessary to do its job. “Similarly, the IIO should be properly resourced so that it does not have to beg or borrow the other varied forensic experts needed to do its duty. If this had been the case of the on-duty death of a police officer, the needed expertise would have been available in days, not years. The same allocation of resources should be available on a priority basis to the IIO, since the integrity of the even-handed administration of justice demands it.”

Sorochan says it is “regrettable” that the IIO report did not address: the October 9 police interaction with Peter, the “militaristic response” by the police that frightened many Slocan residents; and the fact that officers were sent into a wilderness area without radios in order to call for backup or medical assistance if needed.

“The lack of such radios has been given as an excuse for the failure to secure the perimeter around the cabin and seeking Peter’s surrender, with or without the assistance of family members who were waiting nearby, to assist in bringing about a peaceful resolution.”

The statement from the family also describes who Peter was and who Peter was not.

New trustee positions will give students a voice on SD 8 board

by Claire Paradis

What started as student symposia across School District 8 (SD 8) has resulted in a move to create student trustee positions to give high school students a way to directly inform the district about their concerns. “There’s a history in Canada of proactive students who have been successful in adding their voices to education boards,” said SD 8 Chair Lenora Trenaman. “It’s a proactive way to enable trustees to hear about concerns and suggestions directly. There’s no mechanism for that at the moment.”

Although not fully defined yet, the positions would require that student trustees visit four out of ten board meetings, and although they wouldn’t be entitled to move a motion, they are welcome to suggest a motion. The positions wouldn’t come with a vote, or give the student trustees access to private or in-camera meetings.

In a perfect world, the new positions would be ready for next year, said Trenaman, but there is a lot of work to be done first. “We still have to keep working on it,” said the SD 8 Chair. “We’re a very geographically diverse district. But we’ll figure it out.”

District staff will be consulting with high school principals across the district from Slocan, Nelson, Crawford Bay, Creston, and Castlegar.

“It’s going to take some time. Even when we get to the point of having student trustees identified, there will be wrinkles to work out as we go.”

Have you heard?

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Connect Hearing
A cautionary tale?

Our prime minister would have us believe that we can build all the dirty oil pipelines we want with little or no harm to our environment. Unless the pipelines are carrying unicorns farting rainbows, I would have to conclude his proclamations are just as mythical. 1984 was supposed to be a cautionary tale, not an instruction manual on ‘doublespeak.’

Leon Pendleton
Edgewood

Slim Pickens and pipelines

Kudos to Leon Pendleton for stating the obvious in the March 22 Valley Voice.

Commenting on Ed Varney’s thoughts in the same issue on pipelines and our environment, Pierre Elliot’s overly groomed and too well instructed son is riding the pipelines down to Earth’s perdition, much like Slim Pickens horse ‘bolero’ character did in the perhaps prophetic movie, Dr. Strangelove.

Has it been noticed that the oil in those proposed pipes won’t be filling up the tanks of Canadian commuters, but is slated for offshore? Treachery.

Gustav Russ Youngreen
Kaslo

Hot springs heaven

Nakusp Hot Springs. How is it so wondrous each time I soak there?

The water is always impeccably healing casual ambience.

The water is always right on and at the right volume, clear and clean, the music selection wondrous each time I soak there?

Hot springs

Those proposed pipes won’t be filling.

Treachery.

Gary Diers
Edgewood

Faces of the Past

Kaslo

Body: Bodies of the past

Faces of the Past, volume 1, is a great book about the history of the Arrow Lakes Valley, at least as far as the white man’s history is concerned. It is full of marvelous photos, depicting the first settlers and their hard work in the woods, but also their joyful social gatherings and their connectivity to the lake and its old steam-steamwhiners. It looks like they had solid fun, despite their very demanding lives. One aspect that strikes me is how lean just about everybody looks. Looks like the bellies of the present have replaced the bodies of the past. What will the world look like when thinking robots take over?

Richard Eichener
Fanquier

Goverance and the electorate

Our current electoral system can give a political party the opportunity to do as they see fit. This is satisfactory if your needs align with that party. However, the power dynamic in our current system is not necessarily reflected in the popular vote. Our current political system does not entertain collaboration and yet collaboration is how most of us engage in our daily business.

Fired up for the AJLFace inclusion

This is in response to Rik Valentine’s March 22 letter regarding fire, the Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face (AJL Face), and park status for the area. Mt. Willet Wilderness Forever, the group launching the campaign to include the AJL Face within the Parcel Wildness Conservancy (the Conservancy), is not “overlooking vital information” as regards the threat of fire on the mountainside, as Rik contends. Neither is the vast majority of the residents of our communities, who have signed a formal petition to the legislature for this inclusion, overlooking the fire issue. All of us live in the forest. We understand the situation.

Lisa Bramson
Nelson

Opinion

They raided the office of one of my personal attorneys.

It’s an attack on our country in a true sense. It’s an attack on what we all stand for.

Danger to our environment.

Nisga’a village saves ancient site

Was it suppose to be a cautionary tale? At least in the perhaps prophetic movie, Strangelove did in the perhaps prophetic movie, Strangelove.

Gustav Russ Youngreen
Kaslo

Sewer plan for Kaslo

Kaslo sewer

The Village has recently received confirmation of a grant that will provide up to $910,000 toward the expansion of the community sewage collection system in and around the commercial core. That could be good news for specified sewer member-owners, as user fees should generally decrease as the sewage collection system expands.

But the treatment plant capacity is fully allocated and “spoken for” by the existing specified service area. So how will the Village address the challenge of “fairness” to existing properties in the specified area who have contributed to the system capacity for the past 20 years?

The Liquid Waste Management Plan Stage 3 Report is currently being drafted. An explanation as to how “fairness” will be achieved in the future should be spelled out in this document. Fairness and equity is expected.

Anne Malik
Kaslo sewer member-owner

The Valley Voice

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Kinder Morgan
Premier Horgan and his various antipipelinists continue to promise how they will fix it and how they will do it. Kinder Morgan has said enough is enough, and they believe when they say they will cut their losses and bail entirely out of the BC pipeline expansion project. Given all the circumstances involved, quite reasonable in my mind is KM’s demand for a guarantee from the feds, for an unfettered right to carry on construction by May 31. I think Premier Justin Trudeau should give them that guarantee and enforce it, maybe even with boots on the ground, if necessary, as it now behooves him as we all stand on a purely environmental issue. 

Foreign governments are suspected of playing interference with Canada’s pipelines. With the announcement of environmental bad actors to cause chaos in our industry, the global competitors are eager to horn in on Canada’s crude oil market share, and historically speaking, acts that could be considered treasonous have been committed for similar reasons in the past. It behooves our government to step up here, as the oil industry is crucial in Canada and employs thousands of people. Foreign interests have no business meddling in our business.

Bottom line? If we allow environmental agitators and unsympathetic governments with arguably baseless concerns to put too much pressure on the industry in Canada, we will blow it for everybody. We’ve lost a lot of opportunity already! Foreign interests will reap benefits we could have enjoyed, and we will be left holding the bag as many look into the potential for quality employment that is in short supply, or watch the quality of local education slip further as our spending deficit grows.

Gary Weintz
Kaslo

NDP and LNG – a marriage of convenience

Recently, I sent a letter to Minister Michelle Mungall asking that subsidies to the fossil fuel sector be eliminated. Some time later, a letter from her office informed me that the fossil fuel sector receives no subsidies – no public money – but rather “targeted royalty programs” with the announcement on March 22 that LNG is back on the table. This news ispostgres how we can best utilize our natural resources. It has been 50 years since the Stanford Research Institute issued their cautionary report to the American Petroleum Institute. Both industry and government are still beholding its new concept. Expanding the extraction of fossil fuels and investing in an infrastructure for its off-shore sale seems far from being at best and ultimately irresponsible.

Ron Robinson
Kaslo

Wisdom
In these times of trepidation and morbid predictions, nothing is more to impart wisdom. This sacred knowledge comes from the Métis Prayer.

Méts Prayer
O Great Spirit whose voice I hear in every leaf and rock.
Make me strong but not stronger than my brother,
But strong enough so that I can fight my greatest enemies.
MISEEL.
And when my life fades away like the fading suns,
May my spirit go back to you without SHAME.
The Hence, I poetically endear you with my conclusion: “Once there was a time when divinity rode down upon the wings of the eagle and transcended human consciousness, released from the clutches of time and eternity. The Eagle is the master of the four elements: Earth, Air, Water, and Fire.” (Marsee, Manitou)

Jacques Savard
Winlaw

Open letter to Kootenay Lake Ferry Improvement Team

I read your April 9 apology for the inconvenience to ferry users for the delay getting the MV Osprey back into service due to low water levels. It is extremely difficult to accept an apology that is necessitated by the impacts of a series of bad decisions which severely damaged a key service. From recent consultations it seems that this pattern will continue.

The choice of the Osprey, which is a deep-water vessel, to serve in a channel subject to low-water periods was a bad one.

The proposed choice of continuing with the Ballfour terminal rather than the Queens Bay option, which is a deep-water, short trip option with cost savings and less environmental impact in the long term, is based on lobbying by a group and misinformation... another bad choice.

The decision to not replace the Ballfour years ago is not only a bad choice but has resulted in an extreme safety issue. The great reduced service results in having to arrive 40 minutes before sailing and then still having to wait an additional hour and 40 minutes to board the ferry (both ways) at times when corresponded to work, medical appointments, blood sample/lab tests, travel transport to planes, etc. Frequently, passengers are not able to get out of their cars due to crowded parking. This is not programs are not accessible to anyone with mobility issues. There is very limited seating space for walk-on passengers. This is not acceptable and an improvement is needed.

This is an essential service.

It therefore is essential that a plan must deal with these issues and serve the need for hydrogen to carbon, which significantly conscious system of transport... getting across the lake, not parking for long periods at the terminals.

The only positive in the plan is the proposed new ferry.

Shirley Wyngaard
Kaslo

Things to consider re: Kinder Morgan
Business community members and others who are thinking of or do support the twinning of the Kinder Morgan pipeline need to consider the following facts that were published in a recent Energy Mix article.

“Compared to conventional crude, bitumen contains 102 times more copper, 25 times more in cadmium, 11 times more sulphur, 11 times more nickel, six times more nitrogen, and five times more lead. It also has a much lower ratio of hydrogen to carbon, which significantly reduces its combustion efficiency.”

In 2017, 213 million barrels of tar sands type oil byproduct and waste was sent to the US Gulf Coast oil refineries to countries like India to be burnt as ‘pet coke.” “Pet coke has by far the dirtiest chemical signature of any fuel on the planet,” the article states. When it’s burnt, it emits 11% more GHGs per unit of energy than coal, and almost twice as much as natural gas. It also releases more heavy metals such as cadmium, mercury, arsenic, chromium and nickel, carcinogens, and higher amounts of smog pollutants compared to coal.

In 2017 “the Supreme Court of India delivered a scathing indictment of the country’s pet coke trade, found a direct link with endemic, deadly smog levels, and ordered an immediate ban on burning the sulphurous, carbonized waste within the New Delhi national capital region and three adjacent states.”

Noting that most of India’s owned refineries were guilty of selling pet coke to domestic industries, as well, the court left little doubt a country-wide ban might follow if the practice was not cleaned up.

Do we as Canadians and British Columbians really want to engage in exporting some of the filthiest and most polluting toxic byproducts from North America?

Then let’s consider the facts from a recent Frankfurt School UN report: “The $260 billion invested in new green power capacity. If all that money didn’t translate into hydrogen, far exceeded the $103 billion invested in new fossil fuel generators, the $42 billion allocated to additional nuclear reactors, or the $45 billion to large hydro dams.”

“...we may be heading for an economic crash that may be even more severe than the one we experienced in 2008.”

“The U.S., in 2017, in the average LCOE without subsidy for 94% of PV, with onshore wind at $51 per MWh, versus gas-fired generation at $49 per MWh, coal at $66 and nuclear at $174.5.”

Andy Shadrack
Kaslo

Increase in deaths due to ER closures

There is much to report on the issue of proposed closure of emergency room services at our hospitals, which would then operate only 9 am to 5 pm during weekdays, and be closed entirely on weekends and holidays. This will reduce the time we have emergency services by 72%.

Research published in the US National Bureau of Economic Research and the Journal of the American Heart Association (Shen, Y. and Hsia, R.Y., 2016) has documented an increase in deaths from heart attacks due to ER closure. In “Geographic Distribution of Emergency Department Closures and Consequences on Heart Attack Patients,” the authors stated: “Our study showed that patients with [heart attack] whose driving time to the nearest emergency room — in Canada, ER closures lead to increased burdens on staff were also a key factor. Patient overload, with crowded emergency rooms and increased burdens on staff were also possible factors, but in our case the driving time to Nakusp is enough to kill a heart attack victim, either in the hospital or as much as a year down the line, or to cause increased damage that could affect people the rest of their lives.

The authors report that this is conservative data, since the studies considered only patients who delayed seeking help because their local emergency room had closed, and who died at home, or in transit.

I have clipped letters on this issue from the Valley Voice and sent them to various government leaders, including Premier Horgan, leader of the Green Party Andrew Weaver and Health Minister Adrian Dix. I also sent them to the Vancouver Observer, which did a major article viewable at https://www.vancouverobserver.com/opinion-letter-editor-why-not-spend-billions-site-c-healthcare-remote-areas-instead.

I have now seen a response from Ian Rongve, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health to this material, which said: “At this time Interior Health Authority is delaying any formal changes to emergency department hours at the Nelson and Revelstoke Health Centre and the emergency department will maintain regular hours.”

Notice that this refers only to a “delay” in the closure. Nevertheless, at present the April date for the closure appears to have been set aside. This result derives from widespread action by many members of this community ever since the original announcement of closure was made. What has not been taken up by the government is the demand that the better financial terms be offered to physicians for rural area service, as set forth in my previous letters. With much gratitude for everyone who has been acting on this, I think we need to continue with our essential demands, as our lives are at stake, while the government pours billions into its big business ventures.

The information (and more) in this letter is being sent to Premier Horgan, the Ministry of Health and our MLA. In the event of any death arising from the reduction of emergency services, the appropriate authorities and the law courts and everyone else concerned will be “will the government know about these dangers, and when did they know it?”

Richard Cianelli
Silverton
Winter highway maintenance

To appreciate how much winter highway maintenance has deteriorated, you need to realize how well roads can be maintained. My second year at Selkirk College involved five days a week at Selkirk in Castlegar, five days a week at the sawmill (most times five or six hours a day, often longer on weekends) and two nights a week at the vocational school in Nelson. This was a rigorous schedule that allowed for 15 minutes from Vallican to Selkirk, 15 minutes from Vallican to the sawmill and 20 minutes from Vallican to Nelson.

It meant being on the road all hours of the day and night, seven days a week. It meant travelling well in excess of the posted 60 mph. Speed never had to be compromised for road conditions. People who know me can tell you this is no exaggeration. You may think this is BS and you would be right. But I am not Santa, 15 minutes was the time when the use of salt on BC Highways was prohibited.

Things were different then. Emergency vehicles (RCMP) were equipped with rear-wheel drive; in the cars, the same as I was driving, and roads were maintained so they could get around at high speed. So it only follows that, of the almost 50 years I have driven BC highways, the greatest reduction of highway maintenance came when the RCMP were issued four-wheel-drive vehicles. Now highways were maintained to a four-wheel-drive standard, long before privatization.

One maintenance standard was reduced and money spent reduced for a number of years, then this was the financial breakdown highway maintenance money to be spent. Hence, deplorable conditions is seen by the number of six months of winter. Now Victoria ICBC rates in the province despite well highways were maintained. The maintenance money to be spent design. People in government wanted to get around at high speed. So it only follows that, of the almost 50 years I have driven BC highways, the greatest reduction of highway maintenance came when the RCMP were issued four-wheel-drive vehicles. Now highways were maintained to a four-wheel-drive standard, long before privatization.

RCMP.

Another indication of deplorable road conditions is the number of ICBC rates reflect how else highways were maintained. The maintenance money to be spent design. People in government wanted to get around at high speed. So it only follows that, of the almost 50 years I have driven BC highways, the greatest reduction of highway maintenance came when the RCMP were issued four-wheel-drive vehicles. Now highways were maintained to a four-wheel-drive standard, long before privatization.

Six months of winter. Now Victoria ICBC rates in the province despite well highways were maintained. The maintenance money to be spent design. People in government wanted to get around at high speed. So it only follows that, of the almost 50 years I have driven BC highways, the greatest reduction of highway maintenance came when the RCMP were issued four-wheel-drive vehicles. Now highways were maintained to a four-wheel-drive standard, long before privatization.

The greatest threat to the Slocan Valley River bottom is not mosquitos, bears, or cougars. It is the presumption of people who think they know all there is about mosquito control. It is now 15 years later and we are once again faced with the mosquito control question.

Is it safe, is it safe? Science has come a long way, but not far enough to having read any informative or formal answering and dispatching fire and ambulance, sometimes travelling as ambulance attendants. We managed without cell service or internet, and helicopter transfers were almost unheard of.

During flu epidemics, it was quite possible for all beds to be full. Nurses ran almost as fast as laundry ladies to keep up. Some bright spark, elsewhere no doubt, thought to save money by ending all this scramble employment and centralizing services.

Bed linens, now sent to Nelson, might not make it back on snowy roads (commonly associated with flu seasons). And, plus fuel, plus landfill - are we actually saving any money?

If you’ve ever tried eating a steak with a plastic knife and fork, you’ll understand how humans can’t cope with the new world of disposable underwear, disposable waste care with disposable tools.

My own career as an RN was mangled by a combination of shift changes, an increasing laundry, and the boom and bust funding cycles of rural health care. Initiating a home care service, teaching in Nakusp, Kaslo, and Nelson was not enough. Supplementing my income with landscaping, museum curating, special needs child care, organizing craft in the street market barely kept the wolf from the door.

Piecemeal employment is a waste of skill, expensive training and experience. I hear there are more nurses working in other fields than any other professional group.

Village health care isn’t just about finding a doctor. Restoring local decision-making, teamwork, and providing reasonable workloads and sustainable funding of long-range home care programs is essential.

To do things differently here. That’s our challenge.

Let’s use it.
Public invited to comment on Retallack and Stellar commercial recreation tenure applications
by Jan McMurray

Public comments are now being accepted for two backcountry commercial recreation applications in our area, by Retallack and by Stellar Heli-Skiing.

Winter backcountry conflicts result in moratorium on tenure applications by Jan McMurray

A moratorium on Adventure Tourism tenure applications in an area within the Kootenay Boundary region is in effect for one year, until March 14, 2019.

The area affected includes the Larder, Columbia, Goat, Nakusp, New Denver, Silverton, Slocan Valley, and Castlegar.

According to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the reason for the one-year moratorium is “to address issues relating to winter backcountry recreation activities; particularly the increasing number of reported conflicts between public snowmobilers and guided commercial skiing operators, which jeopardize the quality of experiences for both user groups, impacting commercial operators, and contributing to public safety concerns.”

The Province has invited an external consultant, ALCES Landscape & Land-Use Ltd., “to conduct a geospatial analysis (i.e. cumulative effects) of the area under the moratorium. The goal of the analysis is to identify potential impacts to better support future resource management decisions.”

The Province says HeliCat Canada has participated in the cumulative effects study. HeliCat Canada is the trade association of the Canadian helicopter and snowcat skiing industry “and remains a key stakeholder in ongoing communications with the Adventure Tourism sector regarding this application restriction.”

When asked if the snowmobiling sector would be invited to participate in the study, the ministry replied that the district recreation officer will be involved in the process, “and will be in a position to advise with relevant local snowmobile club contacts regarding staging areas, use patterns, and the occurrences of any conflict.”

Reattallack application

Retallack, which currently holds Adventure Tourism tenure for cat skiing and guided mountain bike tours staged out of Retallack Lodge, is applying for a new restricted tenure on the east side of Kootenay Lake, south of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy, within the Purcell Mountains. The company is asking for a Licence of Occupation for a 45-year term.

Adventure tourism activities proposed for this new 71,000-hectare tenure area are: heli-skiing, ski touring, mountain biking, snowshoeing, dog sledding, guided horsetours, and filming.

All of the activities would be daytime activities, and Retallack would offer single and multi-day packages. Activities in the new area would be staged out of neighbouring communities, including Retallack, Ainsworth, Kaslo, and Crawford Bay and Kimberley and St. Eugene Mission. Future plans include the construction of a luxury lodge and spa overlooking Kootenay Lake in the Gray Creek area.

The tenure area has two operating zones: the West Purcell Zone (11,820 ha) and the South Purcell Zone (59,163 ha).

The application states that there are no overlap between any ‘wildlife habitat area’ as designated by the Ministry of Environment and any of Stellar’s existing or proposed tenure. Although there is no overlap between provincial parks/protected areas and Stellar’s existing and proposed tenure, several provincial parks share boundaries with the company’s existing and proposed tenure: Kokanee Provincial Park, Goat Range Provincial Park, and Purcell Wilderness Conservancy.

Retallack application

Stellar Heli-Skiing application

Stellar is applying for an amendment to its existing licence agreement – to add additional terrain to its heli-skiing tenure, and to offer guided ski touring within certain areas in both the existing and proposed new areas.

Stellar currently has six ski zones. It is applying for a new seventh zone in the Keen Creek area, on the west side of Kootenay Lake and north of Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. It is also applying for expansion of four existing zones: Milford, Davis, Rositer, Glacier/Hower, and Cascade. The proposed terrain totals 37,409 hectares.

Although there is a one-year moratorium until March 14, 2019 on Adventure Tourism applications in this area, a ministry spokesperson has confirmed that Stellar’s application will be considered, as it was received prior to the implementation of the moratorium.

Access to all of Stellar’s existing and proposed tenure is by helicopter, and all helicopters depart from the Kaslo Airport.

“An important reason” for the requested amendment is the need for further elevation terrain, more north facing runs, and the ability to link terrain together due to changing weather, the ministry says.

The application states that there are potential species at risk concerns with western toad, olive-sided flycatcher, Wolverine, little brown myotis, mountain goat, caribou and grizzly bear.

According to the application, there is no overlap between any ‘wildlife habitat area’ as designated by the Ministry of Environment and any of Stellar’s existing or proposed tenure. Although there is no overlap between provincial parks/protected areas and Stellar’s existing and proposed tenure, several provincial parks share boundaries with the company’s existing and proposed tenure: Kokanee Provincial Park, Goat Range Provincial Park, and Purcell Wilderness Conservancy.

“It is important to note that the additional areas that SSH is proposing to incorporate into their existing tenure area do not provide sufficient terrain for another heli-ski operation, but by adding this terrain into SSH’s existing tenure area, the company can ensure long-term viability as their business grows,” the application states.

Retallack application

While local perception of economic well-being may not be high, there is a strong sense of community well-being and the majority of residents think that community and quality of life is getting better in New Denver and area. Check out results from the recent community survey (http://newdenver.ca/documents/reports-and-studies/)

Nikkai Centre Garden Clean-up

Community members are invited to join us from 10 am – 2 pm on Sunday, April 29 as we get the Nikkai Intermemorial Centre gardens and grounds ready for the 2018 season. Bring your work gloves, pruning and weeding tools – refreshments and door prizes will be provided.

115 Slocan Avenue · P.O. Box 40, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0 · (250) 358-2316 · office@newdenver.ca · www.newdenver.ca
Slocan council, April 9: Council receives IIO report on Peter de Groot's death

by Barbara Curry-Macleod

• A subdued council voted that the report of the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) on the death of Peter de Groot be received for information. “It’s unfortunate,” Councillor Pelletier said, and Mayor Lunn replied, “It did take a very long time.” Councillor Perriere said, “No comment.” Mayor Lunn offered, “It has been covered by all the newspapers and media. If folks have concerns, we do have the contact info.”

• The Village will receive $25,000 from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. The money comes from the Province and is administered by UBCM. Slocan’s grant will cover its portion of an RDCK Emergency Operations Centre Upgrade & Training project.

• In response to a letter from the EcoSociety, council agreed to write letters to the 20 largest fossil fuel producers, asking each to contribute toward costs created by climate change. Mayor Lunn compared the proposed contributions to the recycling fees consumers pay.

• Councillor Pelletier reported on the Slocan Affordable Housing Commission meeting. Tyson Cormack, SAHC chair, has asked the Village for a map of Slocan with info on Village-owned land available for housing projects. The commission is “trying to figure out a way to have more houses in town” but has been stymied by the minimum two lots required for each residence. Pelletier asked if the Village had ever considered a sewer system. The answer was no. Councillor Perriere said residents would be “devastated if we have to throw our waste into the lake.” Mayor Lunn pointed out that stormwater management would also be impacted if density were to be increased. Pelletier said the commission was planning to study innovative systems for sewage (especially one in Christina Lake) and that funders were more likely to support grants for an innovative system. During public participation Denise Dufault supported project-based seaweed systems, saying human waste could be an “asset.”

• Councillor Van Byen reported that a lot of people did not like his comments at last month’s council meeting on the dog issue, especially his suggestion that Dog Beach was closed. People told him if the beach was closed, people would take their dogs to the main beach. Van Byen said “It’s an issue that should be closed in that case.” Mayor Lunn suggested that the Village “should be looking at an awareness campaign before summer.” CAO Gordon pointed out that Dog Beach was on Crown land and so the Village would need to consult with the Rail Trail before taking any action.

• Brought forward from a March 19 in-camera meeting was news that council had formed a Climate Advisory Commission. Due to a potential conflict of interest, Mayor Lunn had removed herself from the vote at the in-camera meeting on appointments to the commission. After low cost or no cost, LACE plans to repaint the interior walls, improve the courtyard, and improve the sound system.

• Council received for information the Closing Summary of the provincial Office of the Ombudsperson’s report on the vault toilet issue; a letter from Ron Huss re: forest fire prevention through less-costly sewage operations; the April 6 revenue and expense report; and the 2018 Bosun Hall project update. The Ombudsperson’s office said the Village had consulted with citizens “but we also noted some improvements that could be made to the Village’s procedures.” It said clearer information could have been provided to allow residents to “meaningfully participate in the decision-making process.” They asked the Village to consider developing and adopting a written public consultation policy which would outline the process to be followed when undertaking various types of consultation. The Village committed to this, wrote a letter to the complainant and to the Ombudsperson’s office concluded the investigation as, it said, the complaint was settled.

• The Slocan Lake Garden Equipment and aesthetic options that are low cost or removable. LACE expects to receive proposals from all the interested funders and the annual cost of electricity is about $600, which means the SLUGs have to fundraise to pay the bill. The Village will pay BC Hydro from the SLUGs. In that case. Mayor Lunn suggested that a lot of people did not like his human waste could be “an asset.”

New Denver council, April 10: Feasibility study for Bosun Hall replacement

Society requested the Village help with the installation of the Christmas lights in the Kohn Garden. Instead, council decided to transfer the entire account to the Village to “meaningfully participate in the decision-making process.” They asked the Village to consider developing and adopting a written public consultation policy which would outline the process to be followed when undertaking various types of consultation. The Village committed to this, wrote a letter to the complainant and the Ombudsperson’s office concluded the investigation as, it said, the complaint was settled.

• The Slocan Lake Garden

by Katrina Campbell

• This was the first council meeting held under the new procedures policy, which moves press/public questions and comments to the beginning of the meeting instead of the end, to give people a chance to comment on issues in the agenda before council makes its decisions. There were no questions from the eight people in attendance.

• The Village will contribute up to $3,000 towards the cost of a feasibility study for the replacement of Bosun Hall. The estimated cost of the study is $6,000; CBT has offered to contribute $3,000. A previous Bosun Hall report includes estimates on the cost of renovations, but no replacement. During public consultation, opinions from residents were mixed: some wanted to tear down and replace, others wanted to renovate. Without knowing what a new building would look like and cost compared to upgrading, council can’t make a decision.

• “Our intent is to get full information on all options,” said Councillor David Hodell.

• As the future of the Bosun Hall is still up in the air, the Village has encouraged LACE to use available funding to improve the hall with

Free Me Inc. Workshop

Have you Ever Considered Being an Entrepreneur?

The Basin Business Advisors Program can help you get started. Tuesday, April 24th from 1:00-3:00 pm

Where: Bosun Hall – New Denver

For more information and to register, visit bbaprogram.ca or call 1.855.510.2227 ext 6.
April 19, 2018   The Valley Voice

COMMUNITY

by Art Joyce

The Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) held a public meeting April 10 at Silverton Memorial Hall, outlining its ongoing wildfire mitigation plans. Manager Stefan Martineau said SIFCo’s recent stages of its wildfire interface work in the New Denver area, Balfour/Harrop Fire Chief Norbert Hannon said, “is their new role as Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator and the Regional District’s free homeowner’s FireSmart evaluation service.

Martineau opened the meeting with an overview of climate science. Research done in 2011 correlated the future impact of climate change on the New Denver area. Behind its sleepy façade, New Denver is a happening place. Small town can be a particular challenge for volunteers but thanks to the New Denver and Area Youth Centre Society and the Outlet Youth Centre, downtown, there are lots going on.

Now in its seventh year, the society includes youth input during its monthly board meetings. At a time when voluntourism generally is in decline, youth here are given opportunities to give back to volunteer. During the past year, youth have contributed 80 volunteer hours to the community.

Martineau said he hopes the youth centre is right downtown is something the kids really want to do.” says the society’s founding member, Paula Shanord. “I think they felt valued that we aren’t tucking them away in some corner. And it makes them more accountable.”

SIFCo reveals wildfire mitigation plans at Silverton meeting

by Art Joyce

New Denver Youth Centre news: so much to do!

Newly elected Slocan Regional District Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD) FireSmart Coordinator Norbert Hannon said 2017’s Wildfire Season in the region resulted in overgrowth in treated areas. This could seriously hamper the overall effectiveness of mitigation efforts.

During the winter, in court into a skateboarding society’s April 10 AGM it is our amazing supervisors, very fortunate to have Harriet Adams as our AGM. Martineau said he hopes the Outlets Youth Centre has a provincially accepted plan that lays the basis for continued funding. A dedicated Wildfire Mitigation plan will be created that anyone can understand.

One objective is to improve community wildfire preparedness and residency through better public awareness and how to reduce risk on private property. Hannon said the Regional District is already starting to work with schools to create a Wildfire Resilience Plan. Another objective is to improve wildfire equipment and the training available to the public.

Another issue is the number of properties in the valley adjacent to the highway, which the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure does not treat for wildfire mitigation. Martineau said it would make sense for the ministry to update its mandate to do mitigation work there.

Hannon said 2017’s record-breaking fire season meant the RDCK’s Wildfire Mitigation operations centre was activated for 66 days. Just the Southeast Fire Centre district alone saw 90,000 hectares burned, with 10,000 hectares burned in the RDCK. Previously, it took 10 years for wildfires to consume 40,000 hectares in the regional district. Accordingly, the RDCK last year created the Wildfire Mitigation Department in BC. Over $1.3 million in grant funding was invested in fuel treatment.

The Regional District works on community wildfire protection plans, fuel treatment prescriptions, collaborative stakeholder planning, and has partnered with FireSmart Canada. This year the plan is to begin treatment at Trozzo Creek near New Denver, completing other mitigation work began in 2017. Application is being made to treat 834 hectares in Areas D, E, F and L.

Funding has been received to hire up to nine wildfire mitigation specialists to deliver the FireSmart home partners program. In 2017, there were 177 FireSmart assessments provided by the RDCK for private landowners. The home assessments are free of charge. Once you’ve done the work you can get a certificate, which could be used for insurance reductions.

Some insurance agencies in North America are requiring these certificates in order to grant homeowner coverage in high-risk areas. Hannon recommended changing your insurance renewal period from summer to winter. During last year’s wildfire season, some agencies refused to renew homeowner policies for homes still at risk. The provincial government has asked fire authorities to remove ‘or make’ private land from their landscape mapping due to insurance concerns. Hannon advises homeowners to have their 72-hour evacuation kit ready.

To schedule an assessment, contact Hannon at nhannon@rdck.bc.ca or 250-352-8177.

Calling all non-profits!

Newly elected Slocan Regional District Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD) FireSmart Coordinator Norbert Hannon said 2017’s Wildfire Season in the region resulted in overgrowth in treated areas. This could seriously hamper the overall effectiveness of mitigation efforts.

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There’s a poetic flow to the novel Mountain Blues, Sean Arthur Joyce’s latest book. No surprise, because the Kootenay writer is a poet as well as a novelist and journalist. This, his seventh book, is a different beast because it’s fiction, it’s fun, and it’s a different book. Joyce’s seventh book, Mountain Blues, is a different beast for the writer.

Mountain Blues reflects Joyce’s long history of political activism, a milieu where it can be easy to lose a sense of joy. But the process of writing this book helped reverse that loss, said the author. While writing this novel, Joyce learned he had a “hidden sense of humour.”

Although the novel is still an activist story, it’s one that is lighthearted and fun. Not only was it a joy to write, the book also came together very quickly. Mountain Blues’ first draft was done in a month.

“IT was serendipitous,” said the author, “it seemed to happen almost on its own. A writer can start with an intention, but it doesn’t always turn out that way. This one did.”

It is the divide between urban and rural life and the misunderstandings that Joyce mined for humour in the novel.

“Tinfoil and the rural-urban division as the ‘two solidities’ for the 21st century,” he said, and compared them to the small community like being in a romance. At first it’s all rainbows and love, and then you learn to just live with all the small things that irritate you and drive you crazy. Fundamentally to the difference between urban and rural life is the awareness of nature and the relative scale of human concerns in daily life, said the writer.

“The awareness that occurs when you live in proximity to nature and learn to develop relationships with other creatures puts you in a humbler place.”

The divide is also a political one, he said, and Joyce continues to wonder how urban decision-makers in their government offices can make decisions for rural dwellers if they don’t experience life outside of big cities. The struggles that rural communities face tend to crop up again and again over time, such as the ongoing search for good doctors.

But the Kootenays have always had a DIY mentality that appeals to adaptable people that will do whatever it takes to keep living in their beloved mountain homes. And that independent and innovative mindset of the Kootenays appeals to an amazing collection of people, said Joyce, who just keep coming back.

“Like many people, I had to leave the Kootenays for work, and then I came back. Once you hear the call of the Kootenays, you can’t refuse it.”

Mountain Blues is intended as a “loving tribute to small villages and communities across the area, and the community it depicts could be any small West Kootenay town. I think some people will see themselves in this book,” Joyce conceded. “At the same time, the fiction writer combines qualities from different people in one character.”

Mountain Blues is well received, the author has outlines ready for a series of future books.

**Driving After 80 and Alternative Transportation**

**Passmore Seniors Monthly Meeting**

**Free Workshop**

**Afternoon Tea/Potluck**

**Sunday, April 22, 2018**

at 2:00 pm

**Passmore Hall**

3656 Old Passmore Road

**Guest Speakers**

**Theresa Buchner**

Cosco Seniors Health and Wellness Institute Facilitator

**Dana Burgess**

West Kootenay Seniors Transportation Coordinator

**“Time for Tea with your Friends and Neighbours”**

**SILENCE OF THE OWLS**

Owls fly silently because airflow over their wings is broken up by serrated leading edges and fringed trailing edges. Sound is quietest when the wings are sharply angled, as they are when swooping in for the kill. Ultra soft wing and leg feathers absorb residual noise. Acute hearing and familiarity with their home fief makes hunt silent at night.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING: MOSQUITO CONTROL FEASIBILITY STUDY AND POTENTIAL PROGRAM**

WINLAIL HALL 5897 Hwy 6

Thursday, April 26th, 2018

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The Regional District of Central Kootenay would like to invite Area H residents to a public information meeting to learn about a mosquito control feasibility study conducted in the area and a potential mosquito control program for a portion of Area H (north of Vallican to the southern boundary of the Village of Slocan).

For more information please visit our website at www.rdkc.ca (search for ‘mosquito control’) or email us at info@rdkc.bc.ca.

**WCMC, Winner - Edmonton Music Prize**

Celebrates the love of family, community, and humanity that connects us and motivates us to create the world we need for ourselves, for the planet, and for future generations. Her previous works have also been nominated for several prestigious awards.

In addition to developing and touring four multimedia people’s history shows, Maria performs (solo, duo, ensemble) at festivals and theatres in Canada, Europe (UK and Ireland), Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, and the USA.

**Mountain Blues**

by Claire Paradis

Mountain Blues

The Valley Voice April 19, 2018

Slocan Valley

a playful love letter to Kootenay communities

10 SLOCAN VALLEY

10 SLOCAN VALLEY
Large snowpack could lead to flooding if temperatures rise

by Claire Paradis

Snow measurements across the province as of April 1 were 127% of normal, up significantly from the 119% measured on March 1. But a large snowpack isn’t a guarantee of flooding, says Travis Abbey, Regional District of Central Kootenay’s (RDCK) Emergency Management Supervisor.

“A lot of people focus on snowpack levels but really it’s more about how the moisture comes out of the mountains,” Abbey said. “There have been years with snowpack at less than 100% that have resulted in flooding when there’s a fast melt.”

Most people could have told you temperatures in the interior of the province fell well below normal this past February, with far more precipitation than normal. That perception is backed up by snow survey data collected from 132 snow courses and 74 automated snow weather stations around the province by the Ministry of Environment Snow Survey Program, BC Hydro and other partners.

Overall, the province’s snowpack was above normal for April in the West Kootenay (127%) and East Kootenay (119%). Nelson data shows the snowpack at 123% of normal, and Sandon was at 135% of normal as of April 1.

This year’s large snowpack could contribute to the risk for flooding, if temperatures warm up quickly. The key is being aware and prepared, says Travis Abbey.

“Certainly some areas are more prone to high water levels than others. Slocan Valley, the north end of Kootenay Lake. It all depends on how rapidly the snow pack leaves the mountains.”

Abbey recommends RDCK residents sign up to receive emergency alerts via landline or cell phone call, text, or email. People who are concerned and would like to prepare sandbags can find them at their local fire hall.

“Historically, we have a cache of sandbags throughout the region,” Abbey said. “If things get serious we can set up sandbag stations at fire halls.”

The best thing you can do is pay attention to the water level and quality and be emergency prepared.

“It’s good to have a situational understanding of what’s happening around you,” said Abbey. “If there’s a rapid change of colour and flow of moving water, that can mean the ground upstream is letting go.”

For more information about being prepared for emergencies, visit the RDCK website.
Saturday evening saw the Lodge at Arrow Lakes closed off for the 5th Nakusp Wine Festival – the annual fundraiser organized by the Rotary Club of Nakusp and the Arrow Lakes Grape Growers Society.

Over 150 guests and volunteers enjoyed an evening of wine-tasting with appetizers served by the Lodge, and platters of meats, cheeses and veggies provided by Save-On Foods.

Ten wineries from around the region presented a wide variety of local wines and certified sommelier, Aidan McLaren-Caux, was on hand to coach budding tasters through the ‘blind’ tasting contest, a new feature for the 2018 event. Three winners out of 16 contestants correctly identified the four hidden wines and were rewarded with a bottle of wine each, generously donated by the wineries.

New residents to Nakusp were especially impressed. “I had no idea that a little place like Nakusp could put on such a professionally run evening,” commented one guest who only arrived to live in Nakusp last summer. “The event was extremely well organized and great fun. I am glad I didn’t miss it.”

Thanks to the generous donations from many local businesses and individual citizens, the silent auction was once again a highlight of the evening for many people. With more than 80 items on display, there were many bargains to be had and bidding for the popular items was as frantic as ever.

The Nakusp Wine Festival is the Rotary Club’s biggest fundraising event of the year and typically raises about $9,000. This year was no different. The funds raised this year will go towards local projects and the End Polio Now campaign, which has helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children against polio in 122 countries.

The Nakusp Wine Festival is organized and operated entirely by volunteers, some of whom are Rotary members and others who are simply kind-hearted citizens, pleased to get involved and help make this important community event a success. The evening is a notable example of what the people of Nakusp can achieve through imagination, cooperation and hard work. Many thanks to all the volunteers, wine reps, wineries, the Lodge, Chef Brent Dillon and staff, Save-On Foods, all businesses and individuals who made donations, and last but certainly not least – to all the people who attended. Roll on Wine Fest 2019!
New housing coordinator introduced at Kaslo Housing Society AGM

by Jan McMurray

Interest in the Kaslo Housing Society is growing. About 40 people attended the AGM on April 4, and board member Debra Barrett reports that the society’s membership has tripled since last year. Eleven people were elected by acclamation at the AGM, and the society’s first housing coordinator was introduced.

Kevin Flaherty has been hired to fill this part-time position, which has been funded for a two-year term by CBT ($50,000), the Kaslo and Area Economic Development Commission ($13,410), and the Kaslo Housing Society ($5,000).

In an interview, Flaherty said the job is about building capacity. “There’s ample evidence that housing needs are not being met very well in this area, so this position was created to provide assistance in whatever way possible,” he said.

If the society’s proposal to build a new multi-unit housing facility is supported with funding, Flaherty said that project will take a lot of his time. The society has submitted an Expression of Interest to the Columbia Basin Trust/BC Housing partnership, which has $28 million to create 225 affordable rental units in the Columbia Basin.

Flaherty said he’d like to connect with tenants and people seeking affordable housing. “There may be opportunities they don’t know about, programs they don’t know they qualify for,” he said.

Flaherty says housing, and particularly affordable housing, has always been one of his interests. He has worked and lived in co-op housing, and was involved in developing co-op housing in Saskatoon some years ago. He also did some research on housing as a university student. “It’s been a thread throughout my life, so I hope some of my background and experience will help to serve the society and the community.”

Flaherty feels there’s a need for collaboration among communities in the region, “and I’m hoping my experience in collaboration on projects over the years will be an asset.”

At the AGM, the society board also bid goodbye to Tara Lynne Clapp, who served the maximum three consecutive two-year terms.

Save the Date

We’re Coming Back! Researchers from the University of Victoria will return to share findings from “A Cup Half Full: Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Project on Healthy Aging for Older Adults in Rural Communities.”

You may recall that researchers from the University of Victoria, and collaborators from your community including members of the general public, municipal government and the health authority met one year ago to gather your views and insights about healthy aging in your local area. We are excited to be coming back into your community to share our final report recommendations. Please save the date of May 16, 2018. The report back will take place in Knox Hall as before, and the time will be from 4-6:30. We hope to see you there!

You’re at home here. CO-OP

Food Specials

- Cantaloupe
- Pineapple
- Russet Potatoes (lbs)
- Co-op Gold Juice Boxes
- Co-op Gold Pizza
- Heluca Dips
- Co-op Cranberry Cocktail
- Ukes Pickled Peas
- Armstrong Cheese Sticks
- Co-op Equity Allocation & Cash Rebate

Earth Day Beach Cleanup & Art Challenge!

April 21: Crawford Creek Beach
April 22: Kokanee Creek Park
All ages welcome
Sign up to enter the Trash to Art Challenge
1st prize is $500

Lil’ Dosschyshyn of Kaslo is 100 years old! A birthday party was held for her at the seniors hall on March 30.

Film, student art to deal with anxiety

J.V. Humphries School and North Kootenay Lake Community Services hope to shine a light on anxiety with a must-see documentary, Angst: Raising Awareness Around Anxiety. This new film was created to start community conversations about anxiety and to provide tools, resources and hope.

The Langham will feature a screening of the 56-minute film, and art exhibition created by J.V. Humphries students. Find out what anxiety looks like from a young person’s perspective, and what you can do to build your resilience and bounce back from adversity. Afterwards there will be refreshments and an opportunity to share your response to the film and the students’ art. Thursday, April 26 at 6:30 pm at the Langham, 447 A avenue, Kaslo. Tickets available at the door on a $0 - $10 sliding scale.

10% off all Spring Cleaning & Maintenance!

Spectrum Cleaning & Maintenance

10% off all Spring Cleaning & Maintenance! Our team at Spectrum is fast and meticulous.

Give us a call on Ph: 250-265-3842 or email at specumvcares@telus.net.

Some conditions may apply. Offer ends June 1, 2018.
The Last Spring Festival takes place May 4-6 in Johnson’s Landing

1978 when Castlegar’s Society for Self Awareness decided to host a festival of workshops on the spring equinox weekend. For six years, the festival became a marvelous Kootenay event, drawing people from all over to join in a celebration of life, love, peace and awareness. The work was all done by people happily volunteering their energy. Workshop leaders graciously gave their time and Selkirk College hosted the event.

In 1984, the healing group in Nelson sponsored the seventh Spring Festival of Awareness at the former Notre Dame University site.

In 1985, the eighth Spring Festival took place in Vernon, where it was coordinated by the Halos Metaphysical Society decided to continue on and host the 11th Spring Festival. It took place near Penticton at the Naramata Centre. During the following years, the attendance reached over 300 people and the spirit of the Festival of Awareness protection and landscape level management.

“Wildfire and climate change are new realities, ones that could have a dramatic impact on our lives,” says SIFCo manager Stephan Martineau. “Addressing these issues needs a multi-level approach, working and coming together locally, with experts from across North America, to share knowledge, learn from each other and create a blue print for action locally is of utmost importance.”

Conferences will hear about the latest scientific research and initiatives from the Kootenays and from the international arena on climate change, wildfire behaviour and why this leads us toward an urgent need to take action at a landscape scale to create a more resilient ecosystem. Given the scope of the challenge, speakers will present the need for community emergency preparedness and steps residents can take to best be prepared for wildfires.

Day one and two of this conference will have multiple keynote presentations delivered to all attendees; throughout the two packed days attendees will be divided into two streams of presentations. The first stream will be targeted at licensees working in forestry and the second at community members and local decision makers.

The final day of the conference will be a workshop for all attendees, who will break off into the community and licensee streams. Licensees will participate in a half-day workshop that will focus on wildfire impacts from the forestry/industry perspective. After this workshop licensees will go on a field trip to the SIFCo community forest to look at different Wildfire Management and end this day with a site visit to learn about best practices they can implement in their communities and on their private land.

If you would like more info about to be a sponsor or exhibitor, please contact Avery DeBoer-Smith at 250-777-3858 or kootenaywildfire@gmail.com. To register for the conference as a licensees or community member, please visit the conference website at www.kootenaywildfire.ca.

Valley man to be charged in hit-and-run

Castlegar RCMP are seeking charges against a 27 year old Crescent Valley man after a woman and her dog were injured by a hit-and-run driver.

Police say the accident happened April 5 at 9:20 pm in Castlegar. The woman and dog were struck by a truck, whose driver fled the scene. The pedestrian was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, and the dog was taken to an emergency veterinary clinic for treatment for a broken leg.

Approximately 20 minutes later, while attending a complaint of a possible impaired driver, RCMP located a vehicle matching the description.

Charges being sought include failure to remain at the scene of an accident, impaired driving, refusing to provide a breath sample, and dangerous driving causing bodily harm. The RCMP continue to investigate and ask anyone who witnessed this incident, or have information about it, to call the detachment at 250-365-7721.
Climbing walls may be coming to Nakusp Secondary School

by Jan McMurray

The students in the senior outdoor education and entrepreneurship program at Nakusp Secondary/Burton Academy School are no strangers to ambitious projects and are working on yet another one—to get climbing walls installed in the NSS gym and weight room. The Valley Voice visited the class on April 9 to find out more.

The students explained that the class has raised almost $70,000 to build two climbing walls—one ‘bouldering wall’ in the weight room for use by free climbers of all skill levels (8’ high by 21’ long), and one ‘top wall’ in the school gym for use by harnessed climbers (22’ high by 32’ long). If the class raises more money, the walls could end up being longer.

“Linkage Climbing, the engineering consultant the class has been working with, will be visiting the school towards the end of April to make sure the two proposed locations for the walls are workable,” teacher Dorian Boswell said.

“We’ve done the preliminary work. We’ve got the funding. Now we have to figure out the details, and we’d like to collaborate with the community at this stage,” said Boswell.

The class would like to hear from people who can provide input or hands-on help with the design, build, and installation of the walls.

Perhaps there are certified Climbing Gym Instructors in the community. Students would also like to reach out to community groups for help solving a liability insurance issue. Climbing wall users from outside the school community would not be covered by school district insurance, but could be covered under a community organization.

The students have worked hard to get the project to this stage. They have sought quotes, written four grant applications, and put together a package to introduce the project to potential supporters. They did presentations to PAC and the school board this year, and to Village council last year. On their request, Rick Allen, who is in charge of the CBT Recreation Fund program, skyped in to the class to teach the students how to write grants.

The students also approached businesses for donations of funds and supplies.

“We had to go out and talk to different community members. We were nervous at first, but quickly realized that everyone wants to help out,” said one student.

“We’ve learned a lot about climbing walls,” added another student. “We found out what would work in the school.”

The class has visited three climbing walls in schools in Duncan, Victoria, and Vernon, and will soon take a field trip to ‘the Cube’ in Nelson at Selkirk College. The class is also looking into instructor certification, as the ‘top wall’ will have to be supervised by a certified Climbing Gym Instructor. Boswell stresses that no matter the outcome, the process has been very educational. “We might find out this isn’t going to work,” he said. “But that’s OK because it isn’t about building the wall. It’s about giving the students hands on experiences. If the wall never gets built, they have learned something.”

NYS principal Peter Gajda added that the project may carry over to next year’s class, with the end of this school year fast approaching.

Funding secured so far is from CBT ($30,000), RDCK ($20,000), HA Friedenberger Logging ($1,500), NACFOR ($2,000), Interfor ($2,000), Galena Contracting ($1,000), Burton Academy ($10,000), Inquiry Grant ($1,000), Senior Outdoor Ed budget ($1,000), NSS ($500), and PAC ($500). The students are hopeful that if all goes well, the plan would include in-kind support from SD10 maintenance personnel.

“Thank you to everyone who has donated money, and thank you to SD10,” said one student. “The school district is really supportive of the project.”

This year, the class went to the Vancouver, Victoria and Portland Boat Shows to sell their triflasher fishing lures and E-Z Lite Tinder Block Kits. They did $30,000 in sales. All proceeds go back into the outdoor ed and entrepreneurship program.

“The community really supports us and we want to thank them for it,” said Boswell. “It’s not just the community of Nakusp who support us, but also people and businesses in the Kootenays, BC, and even in the USA often reach out to help us. They are so impressed with the students and what they are doing that they just want to help. We couldn’t run the program without it. For example, Drop Design at the junction cuts the flashers and Industrial Paints and Plastics in Kelowna sell us Lexan at cost. Thank you to the wider community. We really appreciate the support.”

Smoky Creek Salvage
24 HR TOWING
New & Used Auto Parts, Body Work
Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Renewal
WE BUY CARS & TRUCKS
359-7815; 1-877-376-6539
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1001 Harold St., Slocan
New Computer Lab Hours
Sun, Mon, Tues Open 1 - 4 PM
Wed: CLOSED
Thurs, Fri, Sat: OPEN (Used by KCDS 9:30 AM – 4 PM)

BC Hydro
Power smart

Climbing Gym Instructors in the community.

Concept image of the climbing wall in the Nakusp Secondary School gym. The senior outdoor ed class is working hard to make this concept a reality.
Nakusp CBT Community Initiatives vote funds 25 community projects

by Jan McMurray

There were 29 projects to vote on for Nakusp and area CBT Community Initiatives and Affected Area funding on Sunday, April 15 at the arena.

Nakusp CBT Community Initiatives vote funds 25 community projects

16 COMMUNITY

All 23 applicants who showed up to do presentations received their funding, totalling $205,446.44. There was $212,183 in the pot, so the $6,000+ left over will be added to next year’s funds.

Successful applicants, in order from the largest to the smallest grant, were: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 for Legion building improvements ($30,000); Nakusp & Area Bike Society for Mt. Abel Youth Bike Skills Park & Trail Boardwalk ($30,000); Arrow Lakes Historical Society for coffee table book of historical photos ($23,000); Rotary Club of Nakusp for Waterfront Landscape Lighting Project Phase 3 ($20,000); the Old Firehall Collectors Society for the tool lending library ($17,284); Kootenay Sufferfest Society for Adaptive Camp - trail work and subsidy for youth ($8,660);

Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services for Nakusp Food Bank and school breakfast program ($7,700); the Old Firehall Collective Society for Riding and Branch Harvest ($7,680); Society for Nakusp Community Events for July 1st Celebration ($7,000); Nakusp Community Radio Society for content revitalization ($6,578); Arrow Lakes Environmental Stewardship Society for office equipment ($6,500); Nakusp and Area Youth Society for Supper Club ($6,060); Kaslo Search and Rescue for rapid response vehicle ($4,999); Nakusp Senior Citizens Association to replace the flooring on the main floor of the clubhouse ($4,999); Nakusp Elementary School for a commercial dishwasher ($4,850); North Slocan Trails Society for the Butler Trail Extension Project ($4,788); Advanced Coronary Treatment Foundation for high school CPR and AED training ($3,600); Nakusp Childcare Society for children’s furniture upgrade ($2,898.44); Arrow Lakes Fine Arts Guild for 2018 Alla Art Walk ($2,600); Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club for Making Tracks Phase 3 ($2,000); Nakusp and District Museum Society for collection management software ($2,000); Halcyn Assisted Living Society for growing connections and relationships between seniors and youth ($1,500); and Nakusp Youth Society for a new bursary program fund ($1,500).

Seniors transportation in the West Kootenays is a difficult option for any senior who has a mobility challenge. Learning all the options is important for adjusted life without driving.

The West Kootenay Seniors Transportation Project consists of transportation stakeholders from various sectors working together on resolving gaps in transportation services for seniors. The working group includes representatives of municipal and regional governments, transportation providers, health and community services agencies, seniors’ organizations, and individual seniors/community members with special interest in or knowledge of the issues. The West Kootenay Seniors Transportation Coordinator is available to answer questions, connect seniors to available transportation options, and educate the region on seniors’ transportation issues.

The event, which includes the meeting and a free workshop ‘Driving After 80 and Alternative Transportation Options’ will be held April 22 at 2 pm at the Passmore Hall, 3656 Old Passmore Road. For more info call Linda, 250-526-7758.

WANTED TO BUY:

CEDAR AND PINE POLES

Brian Major

• 250-938-3900

Please contact:

Gormans Pole Division

250-547-9296

Root & Branch Harvest is hiring a:

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

~Connect growers who have surplus food with volunteer harvesters and share among growers, volunteers and community groups~

Location: Nakusp & area

Hours: Seasonal, part time

Duration: June, 2018 - June, 2019

Coordinator will:

• Be able to work flexible hours
• Possess excellent organizational and computer skills
• Demonstrate well developed communication skills; orally and in writing
• Have access to a reliable vehicle at all times
• Use own computer and cell phone
• Be able to work productively in an unstructured environment
• Strong interpersonal skills; ability to develop and maintain relationship with growers, volunteers and community members

Financial compensation to be negotiated.

To request a detailed job description, please email: bc_bracken@yahoo.ca

Root & Branch Harvest thanks all who apply, however only those chosen for interviews will be contacted.
Silverton highlights: wildfire protection, affordable housing, expanded transit

by Claire Paradis

• Silverton will request that Kootenay Boundary Regional Transit Committee establish a fourth service day on which it would connect Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton to South Slocan.

Councillor Main told council that the transit committee’s three-year planning process is about to begin, so now would be the time to request any changes. Main said she would be contacting Nakusp for support of the suppression of the service.

Councillor Carol Bell commented that the request is timely, in light of rising gas prices.

• The Health Community Society’s Affordable Housing Committee sent council a letter informing them about their Affordable Housing Plan project. The committee has received funding to contract a feasibility assessment of affordable housing options in New Denver and Silverton. The committee is also working on the project in principle, which Mayor Jason Clarke said will give council

Willa mine sold for $1?

by Katrine Campbell

Silverton is selling all its mining assets and going into cryptocurrency mining.

Maybe.

The corporation, which owns the Willa gold property on Red Mountain Rd. and the MAX mine and mill in Trout Lake, sent out a news release April 5 which announced a “proposed sale of Willa and Trout Lake and a $730,000 reclamation bond.”

The Willa property is a bargain; MX Gold has signed a non-binding letter of intent and four binding agreements that collectively propose to sell the company’s entire mining portfolio in an arm’s length transaction to a private numbered company for the aggregate purchase price of approximately CDN$14,952,000.00.

MX Gold said it had agreed to sell to the anonymous purchaser for $3 million all the shares of its wholly-owned subsidiary Forty-Two Metals Inc., which holds the MAX molybdenum mine and mill in Trout Lake and a $730,000 reclamation bond.

The Willa property is a bargain; MX Gold is selling for $1 and will assign “certain legacy obligations associated with the Willa Property, including a net smelter royalty, advance royalty payments, and the requirement to retransfer the property back to the original optionees of the property if it is not in commercial production on or prior to September 28, 2020 with the underlying mineral claims in good standing for a period of not less than three years.”

Some shareholders are not convinced and doubt the company’s word. To read some of their comments, go to stockhouse.com/companies/bullboard/vix/discovery-ventures-inc/postid=27858387.

The Valley Voice contacted Brian Mills of Genex Mining in Silverton, who has worked on the Willa several times for different operators. He has no idea what is going on.

“I only hope something starts up here,” he said. “It’s a big asset. The MAX mill and the Willa are pretty valuable. Locals should know” what is going on and who the possible new owners will be.

Located in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services hires men’s outreach coordinator in our April 5 issue, we made two errors. First, Cameron Gordon, the new men’s outreach worker has reconnnected with his high school sweetheart and they are now engaged. They were never married to each other. They went to high school together in Nakusp and have reconnnected after 30 years. Second, Gordon’s parents have never owned the old Coates farm. The current owners of the property, now called San Lodge Farms, are his fiancé’s family.

Councillor Main reported that a doctor has committed to working at the Slocan Community Health Centre for May and June as a “trial period.” Interior Health Authority is considering letting the community take over the caretaking of the doctor’s house located on the hospital property. IHA has the ability to lease buildings on long-term lease via the hospital auxiliary, said Main.

SIFCo, RDCK FireSmart coming to Hills

Staff from SIFCo and the RDCK Wildfire Mitigation program will be in Hills on Saturday, May 5, to help residents learn how to reduce wildfire risks and assess and reduce wildfire hazards in the area surrounding Hills, making it possible to reduce those risks, and next steps in the CWPP process.

RDCK Wildfire Mitigation staff will then lead a workshop based on the nationally-recognized FireSmart Homeowner’s Manual to show residents how to assess and reduce wildfire hazards around their own homes and property.

The event is sponsored by the Hills Emergency Services Society and Hills Fire Brigade. Organizers are hoping for a good turnout so residents can learn about and get input into the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and pick up practical measures to better protect their homes and property.

• Silverton council also voted to support a proposal from South Okanagan-West Kootenay MP Dick Cannings declaring the first Saturday in June as National Health and Fitness Day.

COMPUTER

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COMPUTER
Wolf conservation discussed in Argenta Speakers Series

by Art Joyce

Our complex and often destructive relationship with wolves was the topic of the latest Argenta Speakers Series presentation by Sadie Parr, executive director of Wolf Awareness. Parr has an honours degree in biomedical science and has studied conservation biology and post-graduate molecular genetics. She is currently involved in wolf management in BC’s Chilcotin region as well as northeastern Alberta. Parr spoke extensively about the latest science regarding calling or “wolf calls,” permeating sounds heard in caribou and wolf conservation efforts. “A lot of what I do in my role is dispel myths,” she said. “There’s a lot of misinformation out there about wolves. And human attitudes can lead to the eradication of whole species.”

Historically, wolves lived all across Canada, including the Great Bear Rainforest, Vancouver Island and PEI. Wolves were in more parts of the planet than humans at point one, but in some ranges have been exterminated. First Nations respected wolves for their loyalty, leadership and hunting abilities as well as a totem animal. Some First Nations like the Blackfeet see them as brothers and wouldn’t kill one.

When Europeans arrived, wolves were viewed as competition for food or a threat to livestock. Whole communities went on wolf hunting expeditions. The idea was to move the herds of ungulates, which creates wetlands, nature’s great carbon sinks.

Wolves only returned to the central Canadian Rockies after decades of absence. The entire restoration process took only about eight years. Parr said this was due to wolves being “apex predators,” key to the balance of an entire ecosystem. Aside from keeping deer, caribou and elk populations from overbreeding, wolves’ hunting pressures on BC’s Chilcotin region for the many other animals sharing that space—foxes, cougars, ravens, coyotes, wolverines, and even beetles. When overpopulated, caribou herds became endangered — largely due to the fragmentation of habitat due to clearcutting and increased backcountry recreation – another approach was tried. The Quesnel Highlands wolf sterilization experiment was done to try increase caribou numbers but failed; caribou numbers have gone down.

Culls and sterilization are misguided, said Parr, because apex predators such as wolves and grizzlies are self-regulating in terms of their population. They have evolved traits that allow for this, including behaviourally induced suppression of breeding when food stocks are low. Another misconception about the predator-prey relationship is chronic wasting disease (CWD) — similar to mad cow disease – which has spread across North America and Europe. Although not currently in our range, CWD has reached the edges of it. Wolves, by taking out the injured and sick, become a natural system against the disease. Despite all this scientific knowledge, the BC government in 2015 announced a new wolf kill program, including aerial culls. Last winter, it was announced that a third zone would be added near Revelstoke.

“Wolves are being used as a distraction while we continue to erode and destroy the habitat and native populations,” Parr said. “Some herds are now living in isolated ecosystems. I call them islands of extinction.”

The ultimate cause of caribou decline is habitat loss; scientists and the government agree on that point. Parr said there’s a growing body of evidence that shows wolf management is not the solution; it takes a toll on mountain caribou. The 2007 Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan gave with one hand and took away with the other, adding only about 180,000 hectares of newly protected caribou habitat in BC while later removing 6,000 hectares to the logging industry. Scientists are recommending a minimum of 34,000 new hectares be added to caribou habitat.

biannually.

• that Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society provide public notice of the closure of the public boat launch during the festival. It is not clear if the Boat Launch was zoned non-motorized.

• that the Village consider amending the Special Event Permit application to include reference to the use of water staffing and equipment hours for special events, and for enforcement of VIVID bylaws due to additional pressures on parks during special weekends.

The report in part because of concerns about non-compliance with Village bylaws and provincial regulations in Kaslo’s parks, such as open fires, overnight camping, vehicle access and negative impacts to areas below the natural boundary of Kootenay Lake and Kaslo River. The strategy concludes that more regulation is not the answer for the Village of Kaslo, with its limited resources. Instead, non-compliance issues can be addressed through park design, education, and communication.

“The concept is to discourage non-

KASLO & DISTRICT

Wolf conservation discussed in Argenta Speakers Series

Kaslo's Waterfront and Parks Strategy released

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo’s Waterfront and Municipal Parks Strategy has been released. The strategy was prepared by Mountain Pacific Environmental Consultants out of Vernon and VIVID Consulting of Kaslo for the Village of Kaslo and its parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Commission.

The 199-page document includes guidelines for park maintenance and operations, a beach grooming plan, an environmental management plan, and an assessment of the parks. The parks covered are: Lighthouse Beach, Dog Beach, Kaslo River Trail, Waterfront Trail, Front Street Park, Municipal Campground, Vimy Park, Baseball Park, Skate Park, Kaslo Bay Park, Moyie Beach, and Logger Sports Grounds.

The strategy also has a section with a review of relevant federal, provincial, RDCK and Village regulations, as well as a review of Ktunaxa Nation values.

The Village commissioned the report in part because of concerns about non-compliance with Village bylaws and provincial regulations in Kaslo’s parks, such as open fires, overnight camping, vehicle access and negative impacts to areas below the natural boundary of Kootenay Lake and Kaslo River. The strategy concludes that more regulation is not the answer for the Village of Kaslo, with its limited resources. Instead, non-compliance issues can be addressed through park design, education, and communication. “The concept is to discourage non-compliance using appropriate design,” the report states. “For example, if fire pits are not permitted on the beach, it is recommended that a well-placed and designed fire caisson be provided for use during appropriate times of the year (i.e. not during a fire ban). If parking is not permitted at a certain location, the space should be designed to discourage or not allow the parking of vehicles rather than only placing a ‘no parking’ sign.”

Some of the recommendations in the plan are:
• to develop focused, formal access points for areas along the waterfront between Dog Beach and the Kaslo River estuary. “Formal access points will alleviate stresses on sensitive areas and impacts to residential areas close to parks. Localized access will assist in encouraging a ‘park and walk’ environment for areas from the Lighthouse Beach to the Kaslo River. As the area near the Kaslo River Trail Park is already widened to encourage parking, it is recommended that residents be directed here (via applicable signage) from other locations. This would require moving the locking gate slightly north due to proximate residential property and limited access.”
• that one of the campground washrooms be renovated.
• that the Village request that the Campground washrooms be open year round.

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Nakusp council, April 9: Nakusp 2018 budget finalized with 1.6% tax increase
by Claire Paradis

Two citizens of Nakusp arrived early to ensure they found seats, but the Nakusp 2018 budget presentation wasn’t the crush they thought it may be. They were the first and last two members of the public seated in the gallery. Village CAO Laurie Taylor presented the budget to council and the public and press gathered. The presentation slides are available on the Village website under the ‘Agendas and Minutes’ heading.

The whole presentation took 90 minutes, the CAO was clear that having the same level of services would require an increase in taxes, and that the alternative to raising taxes would have to be a reduction in costs, services or staff. The total $6.1 million budget allot $4.4 million to operating costs and $1.7 million to capital costs. Of the $4.4 million in operating costs, only roughly $1 million comes from taxation revenue.

In the revenue column, it was a mistake in Nakusp’s favour, but the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has realized it’s been overpaying its contribution to the municipality for fire service by $27,000 per annum. Nakusp’s fire department will be receiving $70,000 instead of the usual $97,000.

The RDCK will receive the extra $27,000 from the Regional District from now on. The decrease won’t have an immediate effect on the running of the fire department, or during operating vehicles or service, but will result in less money going into its reserve fund. CAO Taylor commented that the Village was fortunate that the RDCK doesn’t intend to claw the money back.

Running an election costs roughly $12,000, said CAO Taylor, but because the Village has been squirrelling money away each year, it will only cost the Village $3,000 for the next election. The Village will have access to grants that require an inventory, and will know how much it can afford to put away in capital reserves each year.

There will be roughly $800,000 remaining in reserves after this year’s expenses have been removed, said CAO Taylor.

One Nakupsian noted that the micro-hydro plant brings in $31,000 in revenue, and asked if it would be worth it to put in another one. Mayor Hamling replied that the Village was able to build the existing one thanks to grants that were available at the time the water treatment infrastructure was built, and that further funding would have to be found to build another one. She also noted that BC Hydro is oversubscribed for micro-generators, and isn’t currently accepting any more uploads to its grid.

Ah prominent member of the public asked if there were any way to expand everything into the proper aisles. “It was unbelievable what they did!” McMullen said.

The store may have switched over to Save-On, but Overwaitea has not been forgotten. Watch for a new display at the museum.

“The museum reached out to us prior to the change and asked us if they could have the teapots in front of the store,” McMullen says. “Normally, we send them back, but the sign company approved us keeping them. We donated one to the museum and one to an ex-team member. The big ‘O’ was donated to the museum, too.”

Overwaitea opened in Nakusp in 1927. The Nakusp and Golden stores were the last to convert to Save-Ons. There are over 150 Save-On stores, in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Yukon.

On Thursday, March 22, the Overwaitea in Nakusp closed at the usual closing time, and opened on Friday, March 23 as Save-On-Foods.

Save-On Foods replaces Overwaitea in Nakusp
by Jan McMurray

On Thursday, March 22, the Overwaitea in Nakusp closed at the usual closing time, and opened on Friday, March 23 as Save-On-Foods.

“IT was a major undertaking and I can’t say how proud I am of the team in Nakusp,” said store manager Todd McMullen. “I’ve been with the company 23 years, and that was the smoothest conversion I’ve ever seen.”

There were two shifts throughout the night to get the job done – new exterior signage, new interior aisle signage, new price labels, and sorting Village boundaries to increase its tax base. Hamling responded that the subject has been broached before, but the residents within the proposed expansion area were “unhappy” with the proposal. Although there are some RDCK Area K residents that receive Village water, they are not part of the Village. Those residences do not receive other Village services and pay the Village for the water utility, but pay property taxes to the RDCK.

You may have already noticed that the Spicer Garden along the waterfront is missing its lumber trellis. Construction of the new trellis, a $30,000 item in the 2018 budget, is scheduled to begin the week of April 16.

The Downtown Revitalization Project, which has $1 million in funding earmarked for work this year, will likely be coming to a public meeting at the end this month. The Village will be looking for input from Nakusp residents about design options.

• Of the 755 surveys the Village sent to residents about the conditions around the sale and consumption of recreational cannabis, 42 have already been returned, the CAO told council. The deadline for responses is April 27, after which Taylor will compile, analyze, and bring the results to the first council meeting in May.

• Council amended the Personnel Policy on Alcohol/Drug Abuse to add recreational and medical cannabis as banned substances on Village property or in Village vehicles or equipment. Medical cannabis use will be allowed with a doctor’s note, but not before or during operating vehicles or equipment. Councilor Tom Zeleznik recommended that all staff take a drug and alcohol program to educate them about how to detect impairment and the effects of drugs and alcohol on the mind and body.

“We’ve taken this course, and it’s a really exceptional course,” said Zeleznik about the industry class he attended.

• Mayor Hamling reported that the BC Columbia River Treaty Local Governments’ Committee met with Canadian negotiator Sylvain Fabi, who said he will try to visit the area. Fabi said both Canada and the US are interested in improvements to the treaty. Hamling said the negotiator is currently setting up meetings with Basin First Nations, and expects negotiations to begin in the spring.

He reassured local politicians that NAFTA conflicts will not play a part in the Treaty negotiations, and that there will be lots of public communication and input during the lengthy process.

• Councillor Bill Tobey told council that NACFOR will have a float in the parade and a FireSmart info booth during July 1 celebrations, and that Recreation Commission 6 is looking for volunteers from defined Area K (around Nakusp) to join the commission.

• Councilor Tom Zeleznik reported that the Chamber is working on new signage to be installed at Quarter Mile, and that the Municipal and Regional Destination Tax (MRDT) application is now waiting for approval from the Province.
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里程。4 车门，标准配置。靠近全新的 Michelin Kaslo EDC。

感谢 CBT 和 RDCK 社区协调员的协助，居民在 Kaslo。

周四 9-12 或预约。#23 The Office

办公时间：周二 1-3, 周三 & 周四。

KASLO HOUSING SOCIETY

社区协调员，协助 Kaslo 居民。

由于健康原因无法

或者只是感觉困

参加的活动

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四月的第四个星期五。野餐

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在 Silverton 在五月 19 (五月天六日星期六)。在十二月，

在 Sandon 七月 28 下午 4:30。到十二月，


BETTY’S PIZZA, Kaslo: 赢得

在 Kaslo 烧烤。

好吃的比萨饼，手工制作的比萨饼。

获奖，手工制作的比萨饼。

获奖，手工制作的比萨饼。

获奖，手工制作的比萨饼。

获胜，手工制作的比萨饼。

获奖，手工制作的比萨饼。

获奖，手工制作的比萨饼。

HIKE FOR HOSPICE, Sunday, May 6, Crescent Bay. 11 am. Support New Denver Hospice, enjoy a spring walk, and have a hotdog. $10 on the day or better yet, print up a pledge form. Email info@newdenverhospice.ca for a pledge form or come to the Hospice Office Monday 1-3 pm.

HILLS WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS DAY – Saturday, May 5, at the Fire Hall, 9 am-noon. SICPC presentation on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. RDCK Wildfire Mitigation staff on assessing and reducing wildfire hazards around your home using the FireSmart Homeowner’s Manual. All Hills residents welcome – Hills Emergency Services Society / Hills Fire Brigade.

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Classified/Community

Interior Health promotes team approach to health care

by Katrina Campbell

Interior Health is promoting a new model for patient care called the Patient Medical Home/ Primary Care Network. It says it’s trying to head of a looming crunch, between lack of doctors and soaring health care costs.

Cheryl Whittleton, Hospital and Communities Integrated Services (HCIS) Manager, for Interior Health, said the PNH is “a fancy name for the doctor’s office.” The office will become a hub for health care practitioners to work as a team, reducing demands on the doctor’s time.

“We’re thinking about other ways to provide health services,” Whittleton said. “Patients often don’t need to be seen by a doctor. Maybe they need a social worker, maybe they need something signed, maybe they need a dietician for diabetes, maybe they need a nurse for information on high blood pressure.” Whittleton adds the current doctor shortage is not going to be better.

“What we know is there are never going to be enough doctors to meet demand. Even if more [medical school] seats are created, it doesn’t guarantee doctors are going to come to certain communities.” The PMH will be a primary care clinic, with the doctor being the gatekeeper to care “allowing health care professionals work to the top of their scope,” Whittleton says.

The province puts 41.5% of each dollar in its budget, and “if we continue to spend it will consume the entire budget,” meaning higher taxes. Other jurisdictions have recognized that and are moving to create new models for patient care called the Patient Medical Home.

“If IH has challenges with recruiting doctors, “we have to look at a model that will appeal to new physicians who don’t want to work 24/7,” Whittleton says that when the Kaslo health centre reduced its emergency room hours, it was able to bring four new physicians to the community.

“I know that’s not what people want to hear, but we have to face reality.”

She commended the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce who “produced that great video” and “the people who are out pounding the pavement trying to recruit new doctors.”

“Hospitals are the centre of the community in small towns,” she acknowledged. “If we can’t recruit, we have to look at other options.”

Classified/Community
by Jan McMurray

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society 2018 AGM report

The Kaslo & District Community Forest Society AGM was held April 10 at JHV, with 36 voting members present. This year’s board is Steve Anderson (chair), Ross Lake (vice chair), Tara Clapp (treasurer), Steve Fawcett (secretary), Marie-Ange Fourmier-Beck, Chris Webster, Stephen Neville and Robin Mercy. There was no election, as there was only one nominee. Stephen Neville was elected by acclamation. There is one vacant seat.

Jeff Shadrack, retiring treasurer, gave the financial report. “We had a very difficult year dealing with the backlog of silviculture and very little income. We’re looking forward to brighter times ahead,” he said.

The financial statements show a loss of $1,099,010 in 2017. On a brighter note, they also show that the Legacy Fund funds were recovered from last year, with $71,274 in the Legacy Fund this year, compared to $14,838 last year. Andy Shadrack pointed out that the society had $429,000 set aside to cover its silviculture obligations, but that $345,000 worth of silviculture to do—a shortfall of $58,000.

“We’ve had eight managers in 20 years and it’s been fraught with a few costly errors,” Mattes said in reply. “Because we’re a society and directors turn over and managers turn over, we aren’t doing the best business we could be doing, input from the membership and a serious discussion with the board is probably needed.”

Chair Ross Lake gave the directors’ report. He said that early in the year, “some concerns were recognized about some of the historic interplay between managers and contractors.” The contract with Porcupine Wood Products was terminated, and the board decided to call for proposals for a new manager.

Three proposals were received: one from Kaslo, one from Balfour, and one from out of the area. The Kaslo proposal from Jeff Reyden and Sabrina Mutterer was accepted, and the new team started October 10. “They very quickly created a full management concept with the board,” said Lake. The management team is now involved in all facets of the society, not just the woodlands operations.

Lake said the board agreed to implement one of the team’s recommendations right away—the virtual online AGM. “I think the board heard those concerns and for the most part has mitigated them.” The society’s records can be viewed in print or online at the Mel B Digital office in the Kootenaian building on Front Street. Historic records will be at the library, and mapping will be available through the management team.

Lake said the board continues to invite community members to its meetings to help update the society to three to five meetings per year to provide general information to the public. He said the board would like to once be in a position to provide funds for community projects.

Director Marie-Ange Fourmier-Beck went to the BC Community Forests Association (BCCFA) AGM. “We expect them to help us in the future to help us with three to five meetings per year to provide general information to the public,” said Lake. He said the board would like to once be in a position to provide funds for community projects.

Lake said that the CBT funded a consultant to do a governance review of the society, and a report from the consultant will be coming. Director Marie-Ange Fourmier-Beck went to the BC Community Forests Association (BCCFA) AGM. “We expect them to help us in the future to help us with three to five meetings per year to provide general information to the public,” said Lake. He said the board would like to once be in a position to provide funds for community projects.

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