Japanese Canadian internment signage unveiled at Slocan, New Denver and Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

“It was a heartfelt and moving day,” Laura Saimoto of the Japanese Canadian Legacy Committee said about June 15, when three interpretive signs were unveiled near the WWII Japanese Canadian internment camps in the West Kootenay, followed by an evening event in Kaslo.

The three signs are located along highways – at the pullout just north of the Village of Slocan on Hwy 6, at the Village of New Denver pullout on Hwy 6, and just south of the Kaslo bridge on Hwy 31. The back side of each sign is the same, with a map of all Japanese Canadian internment sites throughout the province. The front side tells the story of the local camp.

“This is what happens when governments turn on a portion of their population,” said Saimoto. “We hope that people stop by the signs and read about this history that happened in our own province to our own citizens. Today, we value diversity and inclusivity because of our past history. We can’t take it for granted. We have to understand our past, to learn the lessons from it. The majority of families forced to relocate to the West Kootenays were separated from their dads and husbands, who were sent to road camps. This happened in Canada and we all should know that it can happen again, as it is happening to our neighbours to the south today.”

There are eight signs in the Highway Signage Legacy Project of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Japanese Canadian Legacy Committee. Signs have also been unveiled at Tashme (near Hope) and Lillooet, and there will be three more – at Greenwood July 29, Hope-Princeton Roadcamp September 7, and Revelstoke-Sicamous Roadcamp September 28. The unveilings are part of the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Japanese Canadian internment from 1942 to 1949.

The Japanese Canadian Legacy Committee formed in 2016, when the provincial government’s Heritage Branch announced the Japanese Canadian Historic Sites Project, to create an online registry of Japanese Canadian historic sites. Saimoto explained that the committee, a coalition of eight Japanese Canadian community organizations in the Lower Mainland, worked with the Heritage Branch to create a registry of 56 sites. “But this was just an online registry. The community’s dream for many decades was to have permanent markers at the actual camps where they were interned, to remember that this happened right here, in our own backyard, to our own citizens. So we kept working with the Liberal, then NDP government once they got settled, for a commitment for signage at the actual internment site locations.”

Saimoto said the local contacts were “amazing” and very instrumental in the project. They collaborated with the committee on the content of the signs and the organization of the unveilings. Key local contacts were Greg Nesteroff of the Slocan Valley Historical Society, Amanda Murphy of the Village of New Denver, and Paul Grace-Campbell of the Langham in Kaslo.

The evening event at the Langham commemorated both the 75th anniversary of the Japanese Canadian internment and Kaslo’s 125th anniversary as an incorporated municipality. Saimoto was very impressed with the performance by New Denver duo Freya. They played two pieces commissioned by the Langham, one called Internment, and the other called Rosebery. “They really captured the feeling and emotion of the war period and I’m hoping they’ll come to Vancouver,” Saimoto said.

After all of the unveilings, people will be able to view the signs on the Heritage BC website (Japanese Canadian historic sites).
Columbia River Treaty negotiations set off another round of public meetings

by Jan McMurray

Now that Columbia River Treaty (CRT) negotiations have begun, another round of consultations with Basin communities has been launched. There were nine meetings around the Basin this month, with the last meeting held in Nakusp June 21. More meetings are expected as treaty negotiations progress.

Steve Gluck from Global Affairs Canada and Kathy Eichenberger, executive director of the CRT Review Team with the provincial government, made brief presentations and answered questions at the recent meetings.

Eichenberger is on the CRT negotiating team, along with representatives from Global Affairs Canada, BC Hydro, and Natural Resources Canada. Sylvain Fabi of Global Affairs Canada, Canada’s lead CRT negotiator, was unable to attend the meetings as Gluck read aloud a message from him.

“The goal is to have a modernized treaty that’s fair to both sides,” Fabi said in his message.

Fabi’s message reported that at the first negotiating session held May 29-30 in Washington, DC, the parties agreed to have the second session in the Canadian Columbia Basin August 15-16. “It’s important to start the Canadian round in the Basin,” Fabi’s message said.

Fabi noted that management and hydropower continue to be the main issues, Fabi said, but the parties have also agreed to discuss ecosystems, and are both interested in salmon.

Eichenberger said that during the first round of public consultation meetings in 2012-13, the message the CRT Review Team heard most was to include ecosystems as the third main component of the treaty. She warned that although the two negotiating teams have agreed to discuss this, “our idea of ecosystem might be different from the US idea of ecosystem.”

In preparation for the negotiations, she said the Canadian team has been gathering scientific information on riparian ecosystems, wildlife, aquatic species, and has been modelling alternate reservoir operations. She also said salmon restoration, a common interest in all Canadian Basin communities, would be discussed during the negotiations but may not end up being “a CRT issue per se.” This issue is being led by First Nations groups.

Concerns and suggestions brought up at the meeting included the fact that the US benefits from the treaty at our area’s expense, ensuring adequate compensation from the US, the fear of the “American thirst” for water, stabilizing Arrow Lakes levels, and First Nations participation in negotiations.

US benefits at our expense

Both Gluck and Eichenberger said they understand the US benefits greatly from the treaty, not just for power generation and flood control but also for irrigation, navigation, and recreation. At Lake Roosevelt, Eichenberger said that after living with the treaty since 1964, Canada wants to make some changes.

Eichenberger explained that the Canadian team has done a financial valuation of all the benefits of the treaty to the US, and will use that valuation in the negotiations. She couldn’t share the valuation, as it is a negotiating tool, but assured the meeting participants, “We won’t be forced into an agreement we don’t want to be a part of.”

Canadian Entitlement

The enormous benefits enjoyed by the US also came up during the 2012-13 round of community meetings, Eichenberger said. The CRT Review Team heard that the Canadian Entitlement should take into account all the downstream benefits that the US receives, and the communities most impacted by the treaty should receive their fair share of the Entitlement.

Eichenberger said the Canadian Entitlement used to be about $200 million worth of power annually, “but those days are gone” and we received about $105 million worth this past year. The price is tied to the price of natural gas and is expected to remain low for the next 10-20 years. The Canadian Entitlement is half of the hydropower the US can produce as a result of the extra flows across to the border, and is either distributed by BC Hydro or sold on the market, with the proceeds going into the BC government coffers. Although the Columbia Basin Trust earns $50-560 million per year to invest in the Basin as a result of its partnership with Columbia Power Corporation, residents told the CRT Review Team in 2012-13 that the most impacted areas should get their fair share of the Canadian Entitlement, as well.

American thirst for water, NAFTA

This concern was voiced several times at the meeting, and also at the 2012-13 meetings. “People are afraid we will sell our water for the right price to the detriment of our own needs. People want assurances there will always be ample water for Basin communities,” Eichenberger said.

Gluck explained that there are laws against selling bulk water in Canada. “We are not in the business of selling water like that,” he said. He explained that bottled water—water that has been removed from its natural source—falls under trade rules. But the CRT is not a trade agreement—it’s about power and flood control—so NAFTA has nothing to do with it.

Eichenberger pointed out that all of the water in the Columbia system flows downstream and ends up in the US. The CRT regulates when and how much water will be released. “So it’s a question of flow shaping,” she said.

“We are working with how you shape the flows, which is different from a tradeable commodity,” Gluck said. “People from the Basin need water first, so we want to make sure of that.”

Arrow Lakes concerns

Stabilized Arrow water levels and a minimum level below which the water cannot go were suggested as priorities for treaty negotiations. Eichenberger said the team is working on these through the modelling exercise, where alternate reservoir operations are being modelled.

In 2012-13, Eichenberger said the team heard that Arrow levels should be at about 1440 feet for recreation, 1430 feet for agriculture, and 1420 feet to enhance ecosystems—and people wanted the reservoir to be as close to a natural system as possible.

In Nakusp, we heard that this is the hottest hit area—nobody will argue with you about that—with arguably the least compensation,” Eichenberger said. “There needs to be fair and equitable compensation.”

Another issue raised in Nakusp both in the 2012-13 round of consultations and at this meeting was the need for a fixed link to replace the ferry crossing in the Upper Arrow. Eichenberger said she knows many people are dedicated to a fixed link, but the government also heard from her years of telling people they don’t want it. “The community has to come to a consensus on this,” she said.

First Nations

Eichenberger reported that Canada, BC, and three First Nations—the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and the Syilx—have been working together on treaty issues since 2016 and have been meeting biweekly since 2018. Between 2012 and 2016, they were working separately. People at the meeting noted that First Nations don’t have a seat at the negotiating table, and suggested that the Canadian team advocate for this.

American team’s priorities

What do the Americans want? Eichenberger said some of their priorities are an assured flood control regime, a new formula that will reduce the Canadian Entitlement, and assured flows for navigation, recreation, and irrigation. They also want salmon above Grand Coulee dam.

The US negotiating team includes representatives from the US Department of State with Jill Smail as lead negotiator, Bonneville Power Administration, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of the Interior—a very large department with responsibilities ranging from irrigation to tribal issues to wildlife.

CRTC Local Governments’ Committee

Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamilton is the vice-chair of this committee, and Nelson Mayor Deb Kozak is the chair. Committee members are appointed from each of the Regional Districts in the Basin. The committee is working to help Basin residents and local governments engage in decisions about the future of the treaty. The committee has created presentations with photos that show the impacts of the treaty in this area, and Eichenberger said American people are shocked when they see them. The committee submits recommendations to the provincial and federal governments in 2013, and is now updating those recommendations. Toprovide input, visit www.akblg.ca/columbia_river_treaty.

Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee

As a result of the 2012-13 public consultations, the Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee was formed to facilitate communication between the public and BC Hydro about dam operations. The committee consists of 30-35 members who were appointed by Creda Eichenauer, who is the Nakusp Visitor Centre Manager, sits on this committee. More information on this committee and the treaty negotiations: engage.gov.bc.ca/columbiahriver.treaty.
Colville Tribes teams with War Pony Pictures to tell Sinixt story

The Colville Business Council has approved a contract with the documentary production company, War Pony Pictures, for a film about the Colville Sinixt (Arrow Lakes) people and their struggles to regain their rights and territory in British Columbia.

“We hope this film will capture the essence of our struggle for the restoration of Sinixt rights, lands and culture in Canada,” says Chairman Dr. Michael E. Marchand, a direct descendant of the last hereditary Sinixt chief. “The story of the Sinixt on both sides of the international border is, at its core, about how we were dispossessed of much of our traditional territories, even declared extinct in Canada, and separated from our families and cultures by artificial boundaries. But it is a story of hope, because we are going to right that wrong.”

Marchand said the Colville Tribes has long pressed for Sinixt recognition in Canada, and in recent years has focused on the Rick Desautel hunting case, which lead to the historic victory in March 2017, establishing a Sinixt right to hunt in Canada, and reversing the infamous declaration of extinction in 1956. The case is now on its second appeal, set to be heard later this year in Vancouver, after the Tribes successfully defended the first appeal by the BC government.

Marchand said this case is a major step forward in the journey to establish Sinixt rights and land claims in the future.

“We can’t thank Rick Desautel enough for his tenacity and bravery on behalf of the Sinixt and the Colville Tribes,” Marchand said. “But this is only part of the long story of our struggle to be recognized and restored to our homelands in Canada.

“So many Colville tribal members played a key role in putting our Arrow Lakes people back on the map in British Columbia. They have protected sacred sites across the border, often at great personal risk, and continue to practice our ceremonies in the area. We intend for this documentary to capture the larger history of Sinixt people and our struggles, and our perseverance and determination over the years to reclaim our lands and reunite with all our relatives in British Columbia.”

War Pony Pictures created the 2018 documentary United by Water about the importance of the Columbia River to Tribes in that region. War Pony’s Derrick LaMere is a member of the Rocky Boy Band of Chippewa Indians and a Colville descendent.

“This story is very close to my heart and I am truly honoured to work for The Colville Confederated Tribes, the tribal bloodline of my mother’s family, to produce a film on such an important subject,” LaMere said. “As a director and producer I have spent the past 10 years documenting native communities and the issues they face every day. I believe these experiences have led me back to my people and I am happy to use my strengths as a filmmaker to focus on the issues at the heart of both our history and our future.”

LaMere said his company is in the early stages of pre-production for the documentary film. In the coming weeks, War Pony will be setting up websites and social media pages on this project. These sites will be used to provide updates on the film and will provide a way for the production crew to contact anyone who would like to contribute or share their Sinixt story.

“LaMere said he is looking for other informational resources which people may have about the Sinixt band and the Colville Tribes as a whole, including documents, maps, photographs, home movies and videotapes. War Pony will respond to any and all offers of stories or other resources, LaMere said, and will return all documents, photos, and film to the owners in its original form as well as in digital copies.

“We hope to hear from Colville members and others who would like to help us tell this important story,” LaMere said. “We believe this will become a community effort to celebrate the Sinixt community, past, present and future.”

FibreFeelia
A Kootenay Fibre Arts Event

When: weekend of June 30 & July 1, 2018
Where: New Denver, BC
• Workshops & Classes
• Demonstrations
• Displays
• Market Place
• Website: fibrefeeliacanada.ca

Canada Day Fireworks

10 pm
Day Park, no dogs at Creekside

For more information call 358-7283 or 358-2129 www.silvertoncommunityclub.ca

Sponsored by the Silverton Community Club with Funding & Assistance from the Village of Silverton, New Denver & Invermere Fire Department, Slocan Lake Recreation Commission #6, RCSA: Area B and Canada Heritage
Fuel spill: time for integrity
My family has land on the river that has been impacted by the jet fuel spill. The Province is responsible for what happened, no matter who is passing the buck. We are no longer in grade 2. Due to obvious negligence, this disaster has occurred.
It is time to fairly compensate the affected individuals. It is time for integrity.

Nadine Nevochshoff Heiberg
Grand Forks

Caribou conservation
In your May 3 issue, you reported that the BC government is committing $2 million of public money to the Caribou Habitat Restoration Fund to aid in caribou habitat restoration, and that the government is looking to fund and build a comprehensive program to protect and preserve BC’s caribou herds. Even our government in Victoria knows that the caribou are under serious threat in this province, let alone our other wildlife. So why are we allowing the Retallack-province, let alone our other wildlife. Even our government is looking to fund and build a preserve BC’s caribou herds. Even our government is looking to fund and build our other wildlife. Let’s do something that we know will harm our wildlife and, in the case of the caribou, ensure their disappearance?

Pendeleo Yeo
Kaslo

358-Exchange in a new form?
I did get some feedback about the end of the 358-Exchange and had an idea, which got reinforced by others with the same kind of idea. I know a lot of people in the Villages do not use Facebook, but do use a computer and Facebook is where a lot of the ads went that had previously gone to the 358-Exchange. So the suggestion is that people can email their ad, or phone me, and I will immediately post it to the 358-Exchange webpage. It will be like Facebook in its simplicity – people could check it day every. I will also post Anne’s group emails. I can print a few copies once a week and put them up on bulletin boards and on the window of the coin laundry. So I am offering this, and will start immediately. Email me at the same email address: 358.exchange@gmail.com and check the site 358exchane.com. This might take a while to catch on, and it may not, but let’s give it a try.

Wendy Harlock
Silverton

Re: Joe Martin – Respected Elder and lifelong resident of the Tofino area
The Perry River Water Users Association agrees with Mr. Martin’s belief that environmental protection trumps all. Mr. Martin’s statement: “It’s about our most precious resources and that is water. It’s the first thing we have when we are born and the last thing we have when we die. The risk is not worth it.” The article was in reference to the Kinder Morgan pipeline. Our association is against the pipeline and the risk it puts to the precious resource of water.

Closer to home, our association since 1983 has worked for the protection of Perry River, the water sources to hundreds of people. We continue to do this work and over the years have seen the climate affect the runoff and the groundwater, and we have seen the associated landslides. We also stand in solidarity with other watershed groups working to protect their water. Marilyn James, a Sinixt Elder, has worked for many years to protect water and wildlife and is the representative to the Commission on Resource and Environment project planning table in the Slocan Valley, stated clearly to the government that she supported the XR.

It is time for the precautionary principle to be applied for pipelines and for the effects of climate change to water – an NDP-Green Party government should remove domestic use watersheds from the ‘working forest’ and realize that the forests are already ‘working’ to protect our homes and water.

Marilyn Burgoon, president
Perry River Water Users Association

Not an apartheid state
In his letter, Jacques Savard refers to the practice of apartheid in Israel, which has often been unfairly compared to South Africa. In Israel, everyone is equal under the law and any open racist agitation is illegal. Charges of apartheid brought up by Arab states have been flatly rejected in the UN, itself not exactly Israel-friendly.

Many Palestinians, integrated into Israeli society, enjoy prominent positions. Many are university professors and police and serve in the judiciary, in which Israelis have been successfully prosecuted for crimes against Palestinians. They are represented in the Knesset, where they speak out against Israeli policy in Gaza and West Bank, and are free to do so. The commander of Israeli forces in the Golan Heights is an Arab.

Arabs and Israelis receive the same medical treatment, tended to by both Arab and Israeli doctors. The two peoples work side by side in peace gardens, pressing ethical olive oil. All unshakable for Blacks in apartheid South Africa!

Arabs enjoy more rights in Israel than anywhere else in the Middle East. Most Palestinians polled by Harvard University would not want to live anywhere but in Israel. Small wonder when they look next door at Syria under the Assad regime.

The general image of the Palestinians is of a downtrodden and impoverished people. But there are wealthy Palestinians. Trouble is, they financially contribute to Hamas and Hezbollah, already bankrolled by Iran, instead of putting it toward infrastructure, education and employment, providing opportunity for Palestinian youth. Corruption in the Palestinian Authority has also contributed to the plight of many in the Occupied Territories.

No, Israel is not blameless, with excesses of its security forces in dealing with protests, and Jewish settlements continue to hinder peace. However, many women and children are killed because they have been used as human shields, the more collateral damage, the better public relations for the Palestinians. Many Israeli commanders have tried to avoid inflicting such grievous losses; they are not all unfeeling brutes.

Unfortunately, the media often focuses more on Israeli than Palestinian wrongdoings, giving the impression that Israel is an apartheid state. It is nothing of the sort.

Brendan Bendis
Kaslo

Gaza needs to be liberated from Hamas
Yes, I agree Gaza needs to be liberated, but not from the Israelis. They need to be liberated from Hamas, a terrorist organization whose intent is to destroy Israel.

I am writing this for the following reasons.

1. These weren’t democratic political protests. They were riots equipped with sophisticated weapons and armed terrorists. Hamas and other Palestinian terrorists used AK 47s, molotov cocktails, knives, grenades, IEDs, and kite bombs with fire, lighting large parcels of valuable agricultural land in Israel.

2. The so-called ‘protests’ were meant to camouflage the intended terror attacks, which were designed to allow hordes of Palestinians to breach the border to massacre innocent Israelis.

3. Palestinians were used as human shields. Terrorists hid behind civilians, women, and children while trying to attack civilians.

4. Hamas bears ultimate responsibility for all violent attacks coming from Gaza, such as the hundreds of rockets and mortars fired at Israel in recent weeks.

5. Israel has no choice but to respond to the terror attacks and stop them. The Israel Defense Force is doing everything in its power to safeguard the lives of innocent, even dropping leaflets warning civilians to leave when they have to bomb where Hamas is hiding and storing artillery.

6. The blockade of Gaza is only in place to stop weapons and dual-use materials that could be made into weapons. Israel does not stop any food parcels or humanitarian aid. To the contrary, Israel allows thousands of tonnes of aid and medical supplies continued on page 5
7. Lifting the blockade would pose a clear and present danger to Israel and would give Hamas free rein to try to carry out the destruction of Israel. There are 1.5 million Jews in Israel working in chosen professions, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, Members of Parliament, etc. and with freedom of religion.

New Denver

BC Green Party update: Nelson resident honoured

At the beginning of June, the BC Greens held their annual convention in Kaslo. After a year of watching our three Green MLAs weather disappointments and joys, it was inspirational to hear them talk about their work. Wow! It is amazing.

The three Green MLAs and their maguey staff cover the same number of portfolios and committees as 23 ministers and seven parliamentary secretaries, as well as represent four constituencies with astounding attention and passion.

The party is growing, both in membership and in capacity to support more local riding associations. To honour the many volunteers working for a sustainable, prosperous future, they have created a set of three awards: one for a dedicated young member, one for lifetime achievement, and one for a new ‘rising star’ of any age.

The rising star this year was an amazing volunteer from right here in the Kootenays. Rik Logtenberg captured the award for his work in helping to develop a new data management system to keep track of both the provincial and federal Green parties. Rik and his young daughter was his motivation for getting involved during the election last year. Congratulations Rik! It is the future that we are leaving to our children that inspires many who decide it’s time to get involved.

Meanwhile, in the legislature, the battle around Kinder Morgan highlights some of the arguments that divide us.

The Green perspective is that we are not arguing about the environment versus the economy, but rather shifting the economy to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the green sector – while getting out of industries that have no future. Andrew Weaver characterizes the purchase of Kinder Morgan as “purchasing a Horse and Buggy company at the dawn of the automobile age.” Yes, we are making decisions about our gas infrastructure for environmental reasons, but it also happens to be the best economic strategy.

I am delighted to be able to announce that South Selkirk MLA, Katrine Campbell, attended a presentation from Fair Vote BC reps to include Revelstoke. This past year, in the fourth of a planned five years of experimental wolf control, the killing expanded to the Narraway caribou herd, a transboundary group animals numbering fewer than 100 individuals.

In Alberta, aerial gunning of wolves, which began in the Little Smoky caribou range northeast of Jasper National Park in 2005, has now spread to four other local changes in the province, including Narraway.

Aside from habitat destruction and disturbance, additional factors that contribute to ungulate declines include weather, nutrition, and food availability, other predators, gene flow, population size, stress induced by humans and infrastructure, and perhaps most important, the carrying capacity of the remaining habitat.

For these reasons and more, many expert non-government organizations are working together to remove wolf killing from the toolbox of options as new recovery plans are developed for caribou.

Sudie Pursue, executive director Wolf Awareness Inc
Retallack and Lower Kootenay Band partnership Adventure Tourism proposal update

The Lower Kootenay Band and Retallack wish to thank the public and user groups who have provided feedback thus far regarding their joint 50/50 adventure tourism partnership proposal within the Southern Purcell Mountains. The proposed tenure area, located in the Ktunaxa Traditional Territory, encompasses a traditional connectivity corridor and trade route between the indigenous Ktunaxa peoples who have resided in the Kootenays since time immemorial. The multiple use taproot proposes guided hiking, horseback riding, climbing and mountain biking in summer; and guided ski touring, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing and dog sledding in winter. The proposed tenure area is non-exclusive and will remain open to the public.

Based on feedback received to date, several amendments have been identified for future consideration to further improve the application. To ensure that as much public and user group feedback as possible is considered, the proponents are currently awaiting the end of the provincial government public comment period on July 13, 2018 prior to publicly proposing any new amendments. Public comments may continue to be submitted via the government website at https://arfd.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/viewpost.jsp?posID=54966 or directly to the proponents at sustaisnabetleuret@gmail.com.

With the conclusion of the public and government comment period, the proponents have committed to review all directly received public comments or summary comments that are made available to the proponents by the Province. From there, the proponents are committed to identifying and proposing future project amendments. In particular, the amendment proposal will reflect usage statistics and additional proposals to further reduce potential helicopter impacts to wildlife and local residents in surrounding communities.

When the review has been completed, any resulting new amendments (including new high resolution maps) will be published alongside the project’s currently proposed management plan and maps located at https://arfd.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/viewpost.jsp?posID=54966.

Locations and dates of any future public meetings in neighbouring communities will also be announced at that time.

About the Lower Kootenay Band

Historically and since time immemorial, the people of the Lower Kootenay Band were the original inhabitants of the Lower Kootenay area. The name of the band literally means “where the rock stands” and refers to an important place in the Creston Valley.

The Lower Kootenay Band is one of six bands that make up the Ktunaxa Nation. The traditional territory of the band is located in southeastern British Columbia and encompasses a traditional connectivity corridor and trade route between the indigenous Ktunaxa peoples who have resided in the Kootenays since time immemorial. The multiple use taproot proposes guided hiking, horseback riding, climbing and mountain biking in summer; and guided ski touring, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing and dog sledding in winter. The proposed tenure area is non-exclusive and will remain open to the public.

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About Retallack

Retallack is a Kootenay-owned business based in Nelson that provides world-class backcountry cat skiing, snowboarding, and mountain biking adventures in the Selkirk Mountains. In addition to being a significant local employer, Retallack supports local business, suppliers and trades workers and also sponsors local public recreation and youth groups. Retallack assists with public trail and road maintenance and provides backcountry emergency response and rescue for members of both businesses and local operators. Retallack is also the first operator in its industry to receive a prestigious 4-Green Key Eco-Rating for demonstrating “national industry leadership and commitment to protecting the environment through wide ranging policies and practices.”

New chef at Kaslo Golf Clubhouse Restaurant

Susan has just completed two years at Selkirk College in Culinary Management and is working towards her Red Seal. With extensive experience working in restaurants, both in the kitchen and out on the floor, Susan decided to pursue a career as a chef. She has enjoyed the course at Selkirk College and has achieved top marks. “I like the creativity and the challenge,” she says. Susan lived in New Denver for 17 years before moving to Nelson to study at Selkirk College. She now lives in Kaslo.

Kaslo Golf Clubhouse Restaurant

The Kaslo Golf Clubhouse Restaurant is set to open its doors on July 13 to the public. A diverse selection of menu options is available to suit the tastes of all golfers and non-golfers alike.

Sloanc After School Sports & Art Initiative- ASSAI

We would like to thank the many supporters of this unique program:

Prov. of BC, Ministry of Tourism, Art and Culture

Silvertone Gallery

The Slocan Legion Hall is the focus of a heritage restoration project and the history. To learn more about all the Silvertone Gallery.

The Arrow Lakes Historical Society will get $30,000 to review its collection policy and process and give volunteers training.

The Arrow Lakes Historical Society has two grants: $17,970 to publish three books on Arrow Lakes/Lardeau history and $3,340 for waterfront sign replacement.

The Trust is delivering on its strategic priority to improve the value of cultural heritage of the Basin is celebrated by vibrant arts, culture and heritage. It has committed $7.8 million over three years to support the Basin’s heritage values. The Trust will continue to work with BC Heritage to support a Basin-based heritage planning who helps local groups and organizations increase their capacity for conserving the region’s heritage. To learn more about all these opportunities, visit ourtrust.org/heritage.
by Moe Lyons

The Convergence Writers’ Weekend started off at Silverton Hall on Friday, June 15 with a pair of speakers on the weekend’s theme: keeping a civil tongue.

Donna Macdonald, former Nelson councilor was joined by James Hoggan, noted publicist for environmental causes and former chair of the Suzuki Foundation. Both were also promoting their books, Macdonald’s Surviving City Hall, and Hoggan’s I’m Right and You’re an Idiot: The Toxic State of Public Discourse and How to Clean it Up.

The evening began with an introduction by Therese DesCamp, who said the intent of Convergence, which started in 2012, is for writers to hone their skills in order to discuss and further social justice. “Writing carries a message about our values, intended or not,” DesCamp remarked.

Macdonald reminisced about navigating her way through difficult waters throughout her 19-year career at city hall. One of her original inspirations was a sign that said, “Combat Misanthropy.” She said she always tried to keep that in mind, although admittedly not always successfully.

“Those people,” she reminded herself when struggling, “are our neighbours and not our enemies.” Sometimes when she was fielding angry phone calls, being barrageed on the street, head-buttting with colleagues, or being accused of being a “commie-lover,” it was a challenge.

She says she was glad to get out of politics just as the level of vitriol was ramping up, fueled especially by social media. “It’s way more vicious now,” she says. She believes that politics is all about community building, and points out, “We won’t get excellent leaders if people want to beat up on them.”

James (Jim) Hoggan is a well-known public relations expert. He has worked with clients as diverse as Shell Oil, Al Gore, and the Dalai Lama Centre.

The business is shut down but still for sale.

“We had someone who was interested [in buying] but things didn’t pan out, unfortunately.”

Now Casey is inviting people to think of ideas for the space if they want to rent or lease.

“We’re entertaining all ideas, but we won’t be opening under our own name any more. I’m looking forward to some down time, and to work in the community.”

The loss of the Mountainbri will leave a hole in the community, he says. To the community, Casey says “Thanks for all the support over the years. Without it, we wouldn’t have gotten as far as we did it.”

Cash, clubs, and Corona stolen from Slocan Lake Golf Course

by Katrine Campbell

Some very selective thieves broke into the Slocan Lake Golf Course overnight June 15-16 and made off with a variety of items.

The thieves came in through a kitchen window and stole liquor and beer from the bar. Chef Barry Coles says they took three bottles of hard liquor, some Corona and Stella Artois beer, and

Smirnoff ice.

“I got off light compared to the rest of the place,” he says.

They smashed the office, pulling a cupboard door off its hinges and removing the safe. Using tools they had brought with them, they ground the door off its hinges and made off with about 20 high-value drivers, according to club president, Gary Willman. Older and less valuable clubs were scattered all over the floor when staff arrived Saturday morning.

The RCMP are investigating the incident and the police are asking anyone with information call them at 250-385-2222 or, if they want to remain anonymous, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (5477) or online at crimestoppers.ca.

We Graffiti Community Service Society 1001 Harold St., Slocan

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Thu: CLOSED
(Used by KCCS 9:30 AM – 4 PM)
Fri, Sat: Open 12 – 5 PM

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– Open daily –
(Closed Christmas & New Year's day)
by Katrine Campbell

• Martha Nicholls, secretary of the Hidden Garden Gallery Society, asked Mayor Ann Bunka to cut the ribbon at the gallery’s official opening in its new location on July 3, directly across from the Village office. She also invited councillors and Village staff to the opening reception.

• Council approved letting BC Hydro install a climate monitoring station on the old dump site near Hwy 31A and Denver Siding Rd. Councillor Nadine Reynolds asked if the station would link to Environment Canada; Woodbury said it fed information would link to Environment Canada; Woodbury said it fed information received $5,000 from the Regional Development Fund. The two other artists who submitted proposals will be asked to supply more information and council will re-consider their proposals at a special meeting on June 25.

• Three artists submitted public art proposals to the Village. CAO Michelle Gordon removed herself from the meeting to avoid a potential conflict of interest during discussion on the proposals. Council chose to go ahead with Kai Cabodaya’s proposal to paint a mural, Interwoven Patterns, on the exterior of the Slocan Beach washroom. Village staff will work with Cabodya to complete the CBT Public Arts grant application. If approved, the CBT will fund 80% of the $1,500 budget and the Village will fund 20% (from the RDCC Community Development Fund). The two other artists who submitted proposals will be asked to supply more information and council will re-consider their Grant application.

• Council gave conditional approval to two applications (one for Kim Rutley Clark and one for Rowan Baal) for licences to operate mobile food carts at the beach this summer. Clark will sell frozen desserts in addition to her regular menu of burgers and drinks. Baal, a teenager, will sell drinks and snacks from a cooler on his bike.

• Mayor Jessica Lunn reported on the first meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee. Lily Yumagulova was elected chair with Yumagulova being the proposed logging area apparently implying the health centre of the large public protest about an IH representative discouraging a variance to build a six-foot high chain link fence around their 900-square foot garden to discourage bears and deer raiding it. The normal height allowed is four feet.

Slocan council, June 11: Municipal grants to go ahead with Kai Cabodya’s proposal to paint a mural, Interwoven Patterns, on the exterior of the Slocan Beach washroom. Village staff will work with Cabodya to complete the CBT Public Arts grant application. If approved, the CBT will fund 80% of the $1,500 budget and the Village will fund 20% (from the RDCC Community Development Fund). The two other artists who submitted proposals will be asked to supply more information and council will re-consider their

SLOCAN VALLEY

GRANT APPROVED

The Village of New Denver has been given grant funding of $210,694 through the Columbia Basin Trust’s Built Heritage Program to continue improvements on the Knox Hall. The Knox Hall Revitalization Project will provide funds to restore many heritage features and upgrade systems throughout the building to improve its functionality for end users. The Village will contact all renters affected by the project when further information is available. The hall will remain open until further notice.

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Municipal garbage collection takes place every Tuesday for residential properties in New Denver. Residents are reminded that solid waste must be bagged, tagged and placed in a garbage can before being placed curbside for collection. Bags placed curbside without a container are prohibited. Please assist the Village in its efforts to remove bear, dog and crow attractants by ensuring that solid waste is placed in secure containers.

PROPERTY TAXES DUE

Village of New Denver property taxes bills have been issued and are due by 4 pm on Monday, July 16, 2018. A 10% penalty will be applied to all amounts that are outstanding after the payment deadline. Eligible residents must return the completed Home Owner Grant claim form to the Village Office by the July 18th deadline, in order to avoid penalty. Payments may be made in person at the Village Office (by cash, cheque or debit), by mail, or online through the Kootenay Savings Credit Union.

New Denver council, June 12: Mayor Bunka will cut the ribbon July 3 at the new HG

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

• Two council members were authorized to attend the Kootenay Wildfire Conference in Nelson June 26-28, with travel and expenses paid.

• A development variance permit was approved for a residence at 1110 Kildare. The owners asked for a variance to build a six-foot high chain link fence around their 900-square foot garden to discourage bears and deer raiding it. The normal height allowed is four feet.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

PUBLIC NOTICES

WATERING RESTRICTIONS

No use of sprinklers between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on any day

KNOX HALL BUILT HERITAGE

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The Valley Voice: June 28, 2018

Amanda Murphy met with Hiro Okusa and Edzard Teubert re: the Nikkei Centre garden. Previous budgets were “usually huge and we don’t know where to start.” This time, the work planned and the budget had been broken into more manageable chunks of $2,500 to $5,000, “so less overwhelming” and made it easier to plan, said Bunka.

• She met with the Village of Silverton to discuss local logging plans. Silverton is hiring a consultant to do an independent hydrological report as the proposed logging area affects both its back-up water supply and bull trout spawning grounds.

• Bunka met with IH and “it kind of blew up.” This was at the time of the large public protest about an IH representative discouraging a locum from moving to New Denver, apparently implying the health centre might not be there.

• Bunka attended the Rural Health Conference in Nelson May 30-June 1. The highlight for her was hearing about the proposed federal budget and the Village will fund $400,000 to complete the CBT Public Arts grant application. If approved, the CBT will fund 80% of the $1,500 budget and the Village will fund 20% (from the RDCC Community Development Fund). The two other artists who submitted proposals will be asked to supply more information and council will re-consider their meetings since the last council meeting.

She, the CAO, and Recreational and Cultural Services Coordinator
Stellar Heli-Skiing tenure expansion proposal discussed at public meeting

by Jan McMurray
Stellar Heli-Skiing owner Jason Remple held a public meeting at Stellar’s Kaslo Airport hangar on June 19 to discuss the proposed expansion of Stellar’s heli-skiing tenure on Crown land.

Remple explained that the tenure application process takes months and involves developing a management plan for the proposed tenure, with maps, to the government. Stellar hired a consultant to prepare the management plan, and worked with a professional biologist for the plan’s Wildlife Mitigation Strategy section. There is a three-month period where “you try to draw out all the people you want to consult with,” Remple said, reporting that Stellar has had both one-on-one chats with people and bigger group meetings. The government then reviews all comments from the public, First Nations, government agencies. The process is supposed to take 140 days, but it often takes much longer, Remple said.

Stellar is applying to add land to some of its existing areas, and to add a new proposed area. Remple said the company has applied to add 260 square kilometres to its current 320-square-kilometre tenure, for a total of 580 square kilometres. They would also like to offer ski touring as well as heli-skiing, as not everyone can afford heli-skiing, Remple said.

“We are the smallest heli-ski operation in Canada. With the new amendment, we’ll be the half size of the next smallest operator. It’s not our intention to be a big McDonald’s of operation. It’s a small micro-brew operation so we can maintain safety and quality,” Remple explained that the company is consulting with the communities and doing everything it can to maintain safety and quality.

“Sometimes stability takes away most of your areas so it’s important to have safe places – tree skiing and escape routes to roads,” Remple reported that they have contacted other users and operators to review the boundaries, and have had over 70 meetings. “We have already made some adjustments based on consultation with different folks.” He listed the benefits Stellar brings to Kaslo. The company operates from December through April and does a considerable amount of business with local accommodations, restaurants, gas stations, etc. A quick calculation, he said, is approximately $315 per person per day, so $315,000 a year if Stellar is running at capacity. The company employs three full-time people year round and over 25 people in the winter. When there was a feasibility study in the backcountry, Stellar has been called out to assist. The Kaslo infoNet Society (KiN) has asked for helicopter support from Stellar, which also provides information about snow conditions, weather, and stability.

“We are committed to Kaslo,” he said. “We strongly think about tourism as an economic activity, as we move away from the resource-based economy,” adding that many businesses in Kaslo benefit from tourism.

During the Q&A, Remple explained that High Terrain owns two helicopters that Stellar uses. He said Stellar plans to continue using just two helicopters, with the possibility of using a third one occasionally. The helicopters can take four guests each, and can each take three loads per day, so loads of 24 people per day is the capacity. He said the season usually starts out slow, peaks in February, and slows down again in March. “In February, we’re at capacity so we hope to fill in the edges so we can have a full season... Hopefully we’ll get to capacity. We’re a small business that’s trying to fill up.”

As a result of the consultations Stellar has had so far, some adjustment has been made to the proposed tenure boundaries. Remple said he “backed off some terrain” after discussions with Retallack. However, comments have been made about tenured ski touring users at the meeting were not happy with the Stellar proposal. Although many prefaced their comments with thanks to Remple for holding the meeting and providing the opportunity for input, the proposal was described as “not neighbourly” and “a betrayal.”

Chris Webster said the Empire and Lost Lodge crews are adamantly opposed to the plan because Stellar has added areas in very close proximity to theirs. In response, Remple said the reasons those areas were added were to add tree skiing and road access for safety. He also said a meeting with the groups’ designate, John Cathro, was in the works.

Although Remple had already consulted with Brian Cross of Mt. Carlyle Lodge (ski touring), Cross said they are “still at loggerheads... Your business gets to expand at the expense of our business. It should be a win win for you, me and the community.”

“Future generations have to have somewhere to go,” Cross said. One man said he wants to see the whole area designated a public recreation corridor. Another said, “If you include all the tenures from here to Kimberley, it’s the end of the Kootenays as I have enjoyed it, and I would have hoped my children could enjoy, too.”

He advised people to provide these comments to government. He said people can contact Compliance & Enforcement (FLNRO) if there is ever a public consultation on this or, “you can just phone me.” Remple and others at the meeting clarified that members of the public can recreate everywhere in the backcountry, regardless of whether the area is tenured or not. However, people indicated they prefer not to ski in an area with helicopter traffic, as they are looking for a peaceful experience in the backcountry and feel helicopters create an added hazard.

Kellie Knoll urged people to think about “the big picture, not just your own life. What will we do if we don’t have business and economic activity in the winter?” He pointed to the changing demographic, and the need to attract young people.

Area D Director Aimee Watson said she is able to provide input as the RDCK representative, and said she hadn’t received many emails on the Stellar application. She invited people to email her so she can incorporate their comments into her submission. She also encouraged people to go to the website and make their own comments. The deadline is July 3.

To make comments, go to arfd.ca and do an advanced search for file number 4404298.

Food Editor moves to Vancouver
by Dan Nicholson
Andrew Rhodes, the long-serving Valley Voice Food Editor, is moving to Vancouver. He will be missed for his sense of humour and passion for local food. His column, Cool Eateries of the West Kootenay has been a feature of the Valley Voice since 2010.

Rhodes will also be missed by the Sandon Historical Society, who have had over 20 years of working with his historical research and publication. His abilities as a raconteur have led many to say that he brings the history to life.

Silverton council, June 12: Co-work space feasibility study contract awarded
by Claire Paradis
• Leah Main was at the helm as Acting CAO and the mayor. Councillor Bell noted that the Arts Council would no longer be operating from the Village bulletin board.
• The council voted to direct-award the contract for a feasibility study of a co-work space project to Capati Consulting Inc. due to a time crunch. The $9,000 contract was direct-awarded because the feasibility study needs to be completed in time for the Municipalities partnership agreement deadline of July 31, 2018. The vote overrode the Village’s guideline for a competitive process to award contract in amounts over $5,000, but does not contravene any bylaws.
• Arquest from Slocan Lake Arts Council President Birgit Schinke for the Village to consider installing public art in the future was referred to the Committee of Whole for further discussion, as was Councillor Bell’s request to use the Silverton Museum space to exhibit a “sixties era” display.
• The Silverton Gallery lease as approved for signing. Deputy Mayor Main said the lease had been “deeply researched” by the former

COMMUNITY

by Claire Paradis
• Leah Main was at the helm as Acting CAO and the mayor. Councillor Bell noted that the Arts Council would no longer be operating from the Village bulletin board. Main pointed out that the lease agreement does not include the museum space. The parties will meet annually to review the agreement and the building.
• Councillor Bell said she has been busy “rescuing canoes” from rising water. Bell showed council stickers made available by the Village of New Denver for people to identify their boats in case they get carried away. CAO Elliot said she would research a solution for Silverton.
• Deputy Mayor Main told council that she had voted against the creation of a Federation of Blackwater and Canadian Municipalities partnership agreement recommendation with Alberta that took away the ability to specify funds for species preservation. Main said she believes the resolution “ties our hands” and takes away a key conservation tool. The resolution passed with a rough 60-40 split, reported Main.
• FireSmart information will be
How will legalization affect rural BC communities?

Because of the top-notch quality, BC Bud is world renowned. So is craft cannabis from the Kootenays to the rest of Canada.

With recreational legalization, civil rights advocates rejoice (although concern for decriminalization of previous non-violent cannabis crimes continues to exist). Benefits of legalization include quality standards and promised reliable product, taxation revenue that can be put back into essential services and arguably more product availability for medical patients, while law enforcement and the courts should have extra time for more pressing issues than simple cannabis possession charges.

But how will our youth be affected by recreational legalization? After all, cannabis gummy bears are likely to be legally available soon. How about the safety of our roads? Will more people drive under the influence? And is cannabis a gateway to harder drugs or a gateway off harder drugs? What about the well-being of communities that have quietly participated in the free market for 50 years? Will a place like the Kootenay region benefit from dismantling their largely peaceful and well-functioning black market? Is there room for them to participate in the legalized regime?

With legalization, there are likely to be issues, but there have to be more opportunities.

Understanding how rural regions of British Columbia will be impacted by legalized recreational cannabis is incredibly important, particularly for the socioeconomic well-being of the disenfranchised communities that have largely peaceful and well-functioning black market employed hard working people who spent their earned cash back in the local economy. Somehow, many of these disenfranchised rural areas of BC have operated almost silently for decades, growing cannabis for the love of the plant and because they didn’t have other viable employment options. Exploiting the warm, moist climates, the southern half of rural BC specializes in outdoor and indoor weed, producing such large quantities that an estimated 80% of the black market product leaves our province, destined for other locations both within and outside national borders.

Blue Alert: Howard returns to Studio Connexion

Artist Maureen Howard returns to Studio Connexion with her new show, June 26 - July 14.

Howard’s love of the outdoors is reflected in her bold and dynamic acrylic paintings of local geography including Nakusp and the Arrow Lakes. The always changing lake vistas have been an inspiration for her and are a focus of this year’s work. New for this show are semi-abstract oil paintings that utilize a cold wax medium to give the pieces a lustrous patina.

For decades, three gifted artists from the same family, Senia Howard, Lois Howard-McLean and now Maureen Howard, have plumbed the depths of the natural wonders of Sunnybrae, a small community west of Salmon Arm. They all searched for ways to interpret that beautiful environment onto canvas and, like some well-aged wine of the region, the artistry has evolved and grown for ways to interpret that beautiful environment onto canvas and, like some well-aged wine of the region.

Sunnybrae Studios, has showcased her work process and what is flying off the easel.

As an active member of the arts community, she has participated in juried and invitationals shows. Social media has also offered great exposure and her Facebook page, Maureen Howard, have plumbed the depths of the natural wonders of Sunnybrae, a small community west of Salmon Arm. They all searched for ways to interpret that beautiful environment onto canvas and, like some well-aged wine of the region, the artistry has evolved and grown for ways to interpret that beautiful environment onto canvas and, like some well-aged wine of the region.

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by Jan McMurray

The Mt. Sentinel graduation ceremony began with graduates Cassidy Ilen and leading the singing of O’Canada.

In her opening remarks, Vice-Principal Shelli Maloff urged the students to bring passion to whatever they do and to make a difference for themselves and those around them.

“Congratulations, Wildcats. I’m so proud of you!”

Kim Morris, secretary-treasurer of SD9, brought greetings from the board of education and Superintendent Dr. Christine Perkins. She told the grads about two questions that are important to Elon Musk: How can I be useful? How can I have a positive impact on others? “We look forward to you impacting the world in so many ways.”

Scholarships, bursaries and Major Awards

Shasta Barkman: Brent Kennedy Memorial Award (scholastic achievement, extra-curricular participation, service, leadership, citizenship). Jenna Beauchamp: Selkirk Board of Governors, District Authority. Selkirk Board of Governors, District Authority.


Jesse Aaron Cork: Selkirk Paving. Law Corporation, District Authority. Service Award. Scholars Entrance Award, Mt. Sentinel.

Adriana Burton: Mt. Sentinel Service Award. Adriana Burton: District Authority, Selkirk Board of Governors.

Jesse Aaron Cork: Selkirk Paving. Law Corporation, District Authority. Service Award. Scholars Entrance Award, Mt. Sentinel.

Kira Stoochnoff and Brenden Skerratt: chosen by their peers to be the Valedictorians, gave their address.

The Class of 2018, like the two classes before them, decided to make a $1,000 donation to the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Fund.

The Major School Awards were presented. The Governor General’s Academic Medal and the Paul Poochachoo Memorial Award (Mt. Sentinel academic award) went to Cassidy Ilen and Kira Stoochnoff.

The Mt. Sentinel Service Award for school service and volunteerism was presented to Adriana Burton.

The Ken Savinkoff Memorial Award for citizenship, positive and caring attitude, and friendship was given to Jeremy Lerch.

The Brent Kennedy Memorial Award, Mt. Sentinel’s highest award, for scholastic achievement, extra-curricular participation, service, leadership, and citizenship was awarded to Shasta Barkman.

The graduates were presented with their diploma and scholarships, and then with a candle and a rose in Mt. Sentinel’s traditional Candle and Rose Ceremony.
Congratulations to the Mt. Sentinel graduating class of 2018. May your future endeavours take you places!
Mountain Valley Station
250-355-2245

Congratulations Graduates!

Don’t be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated; you can’t cross a chasm in two small jumps.
– David Lloyd George

Best of Luck, graduates!

Congratulations to the Class of 2018!
You’re at home here.
Slocan Valley Co-op

Congratulations to all the 2018 Graduates!

Congratulations to the Class of 2018 on your success!
Slocan Valley Branch • 3014 Hwy 6 • Slocan Park
www.heritagecu.ca • 250-226-7212

Congratulations to the Mount Sentinel Class of 2018 and best wishes for your future from

Walter Popoff
Director, Area H, RDCK (Slocan Valley)

SIFCo - Your Community Forest
May the Forest be with You!

Herd’s Bakery & Bistro
wishes the 2018 Graduating Class every success!
Slocan • 250-355-2433

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wishes the 2018 Graduating Class every success!
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Slocan Village Market
Groceries, Organics, Lotto, Liquor

Emery Herbals
Botanical Dispensary, Healing Suites & Teaching Centre
Units 1, 2, 3
15729 Hwy 6
Winlaw
226-7744

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Scholarships and bursaries

Hadyn LeFranc: PAC, Alan Hoshizaki Memorial, Kaslo Masonic Lodge, RHC Insurance, Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Hospital Employees’ Union, Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake, Ernie Gare, Legion Poppy, Legion Gaming, Western Community Foundations.

Jesalyn Tremblay: Kaslo Jazz Society, Kootenay Lake Teachers’ Association, J McDowell Memorial, Aboriginal Education, Columbia Power, Loran Scholarship.

Gisele Tarini: Kootenay Lake Teachers’ Association, JV Humphries, H Green Memorial, YRB.

Charlene Lay: H Green Memorial, KSCU, Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Rotary Club of Nelson, KSCU Champs, CBT Youth Community Service, North Kootenay Lake Arts and Heritage, Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Kootenay Co-op.


Principal Dan Rude, Brooklyn Neufield, Jordan Hill, Hadyn LeFranc, Jesalyn Geche-Clarke, Charlene Lay, Julia Carlson, Morgan Fay Bukowski, Jesalyn Tremblay, Megan Foley, Ella Davis-Guy, Ash Mason-Legebokoff, Gisele Tarini, Celine Schroeder, Missing: Andrea Orlining.

Congratulations & best wishes to the 2018 Graduating Class of J. V. Humphries School!

Charlene Lay: H Green Memorial, Kaslo Golf Club.

Celine Schroeder: Hiltrud Rohlmann, first generation.

Julia Carlson: H Green Memorial, Kaslo Golf Club.

Megan Foley: Dogwood.

Congratulations, graduates!

Jones Boys Boats
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You did it!
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Congratulations, Graduates

Kaslo Community Pharmacy
IDA 250 353 2224
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Congratulations, graduates!

From the crew at Woodbury’s and JB’s Pub

May you be guided by your heart, inspired by your dreams and motivated by your knowledge. All the best!

Aimee Watson
Director Area D
RDCK

May you experience every success in life, work, and further learning.

Vince DeVito
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You have brains in your head. 
You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself any direction you choose.

- Dr. Suess

vincedevito.ca

www.facebook.com/pages/Vince-DeVito-Specialist-Footwear-LTD/
Kaslo Class of 2018 a diverse group of 14 graduates

Feeling underdressed in the presence of the grads, Mr. D put on a tie, a hat, and with the help of Ms. Holland, a tutu. (Talk about quirky!) A self-confessed chocolate addict, Mr. D compared the class to a box of chocolates, with different sizes, decorations and flavors—but all good quality. “Each has its own flavour and each is worthy,” he said. Mr. D gave each grad a gift of a beautiful box of chocolates, and advised the class to “get ‘it’ on life, positivity, and the endorphins you’ll find in that chocolate.”

Graduate Brook Neufield thanked Mr. D for being the guest speaker, and on a personal note, for helping her get through math. Ash Mason-Legebokoff thanked JHV and Lakeside Learning staff for their help and support throughout the years, and Jesalyn Tremblay thanked the community. Megan Foley delivered a special thank you this year, to Kendall and Denise “for all their years of unending support to every student at JHV. You have been there as long as we can remember.” The grad class has purchased a bench that will be installed in front of the school with an inscription that says, “Kendal and Denise, the Grad Class of 2018 appreciate you.”

Valedictorian Morgan Fay Bukowski gave her address, followed by the candle lighting ceremony. Scholarships were presented, with Ms. T endorsing the West Kootenay community for providing over $35,000 in awards this year.

There was also a special presentation of the prestigious National Loran Scholarship to Jesalyn Treblemay. Vice-principal Victoria McAllister said she was incredibly proud to present the largest Canadian four-year graduate award of $100,000 to Ms. Treblemay. The award is based on character, service, and potential of leadership. Jesalyn accepted the award, and performed a song on guitar with Mr. Rude (guitar) and Ms. Rielle Oswald (voice, piano) that she wrote for the class when she found out she had won the Loran Scholarship. Jesalyn said she was stranded in the Calgary Airport when she found out. “Many of you would think that I started thinking about my family and moving away from home, but I thought about you guys, the grads, and how we’re each going to have our own lives,” she said. Jesalyn received a standing ovation after the performance.

Diplomas were presented, and Mr. Rude gave a big thanks to Mr. Steve Anderson and Ms. McAllister for their service at the school. Mr. Anderson is retiring, and Ms. McAllister will be the principal of Redfish Elementary next year.

JHV Humphries Valedictorian Address

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2018; we accomplished this milestone, let’s let our futures begin. In the immortal words of Jean-Paul Sartre, “L’existence, c’est l’acte de se choisir.” We are now faced with endless options, with little to no idea of how to take advantage of them. The end of school has been the light at the end of the tunnel for our entire adolescence; now that it’s here, it is not as bright as it once appeared. It has been dimmed by the prospect of responsibilities, and the pressure of knowing what you want to be. The world we are entering is a strange one—personally, I am still trying to wrap my head around the United States’ choice to elect Donald Trump. Having a president with a more trivial Twitter feed than my own is something I will never understand. The world is looming, but I know we can handle anything that comes at us— we did survive English with Ms. Holland after all.

We are leaving JHV with an identity we have carried through high school. Now that we have finished, we are faced with the option of becoming something new—to start fresh, and design a new path. To quote William Shakespeare, “We know what we are, but not what we may be.” Who knows what our futures may hold, and who we will become. Only time will tell, and I am excited to see where life takes us all.

Now let’s enjoy our new found freedom, before the English provincial exam, and our inexorable adult responsibilities.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2018; we accomplished this milestone, let’s let our futures begin. In reference to the movie Caddyshack, “In the immortal words of Jean-Paul Sartre, au revoir.”

We are proud of the entire graduating class of 2018 from the Village of Kaslo Mayor and Councillors

Congratulations Grads
Go confidently in the directions of your dreams

Valedictorian Morgan Fay Bukowski gave the address at JHV graduation ceremonies.
The 19th Starbelly Jam Music Festival will take place July 20-22 at Crawford Bay Park on the East Shore of Kootenay Lake.

Starbelly Jam is a non-profit charitable society that has adopted a culture of sustainable awareness, working closely with its partners to plan a festival reflecting ‘green event’ best practices. The society says it has successfully minimized its environmental impact through a number of innovations and helps to educate suppliers, artists and thousands of festival goers about the importance of sustainability.

Starbelly Jam’s audience is as eclectic as the music. The festival thrives on providing an environment where individuals can safely be themselves while simultaneously surrounding themselves with other diverse personalities and cultures. Its goal is to assist in building a diverse, tolerant, and positive community.

The 2018 line-up includes every type of music from folk-rocker Stephen Fearing to Lemon Bucket Orkestra, a guerrilla-punk-Balkan-folk-brass band, from Petunia & the Vipers’ hillbilly-flavoured, swing-inflected, ragtime-goodtime something-in-between-1920s and Steampunk sounds to Nelson-based Heavy Airship, a Led Zeppelin tribute band.

Starbelly also offers a wide range of workshops. There will be master classes with several of the performers, as well as an array of movement, dance and children’s activities. The annual parade is on Sunday afternoon and festival goers are asked to come dressed in festival finery!

Starbelly Jam thrives on volunteer participation; sign up and earn a weekend pass.

Advance tickets available until July 19 at www.starbellyjam.org, where you can also find the full line-up of acts and more information on the festival.

Advance weekend passes are $130 for adults, $90 for seniors, and $85 for youth aged 13-18. Children 12 and under get in free. Day passes and special family combo passes are also available online.
The Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver will be open for business on July 3. It has been a journey to get open for business on July 3.

Twelve artists prepare to exhibit at the Hidden Garden Gallery

Four of Kootenay Co-op Radio’s volunteer programs have won National Campus and Community Radio Association awards for 2017. Every year the NCRA的手 awards the hosts to celebrate the best in campus and community radio from across the country.

Show hosts and producers Jeff Pilser and Ana Bokstrom won the Women’s Hands and Voices Award for their show Shift Happens. They have been doing this show for five years; you can hear ‘Shift Happens’ every Tuesday from 2 – 4 pm.

Tanya Coah, host and producer of A Climate of Change, won for Best Current Affairs Program; this is her third NCRA award.

Jeff Flood, host and producer of ¡Oye!, won for Best Third Language Program. This is his first show on Kootenay Co-op Radio. Flood is taking a break from the radio show as he is busy being on KCR’s ¡Oye!, a one-hour program dedicated to the music of Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

ARTS

COMMUNITY

 considering Nakusp Rotary

Visitor Information

GALLERIES

Hidden Garden Gallery - New Denver

Kootenay Lake

Kootenay Lake

LA RIOJA

La Côte Est

Lac Kootenay

Alfa Art Walk - Nakusp

ALFA Art Walk - Nakusp

Hidden Garden Gallery - New Denver

The Langham Cultural Centre - Nakusp

La Côte Est

The Hidden Garden Gallery will be holding an exhibition of a different regional artist every week, from July 3 to September 9, and is open 10 am to 4 pm.

Kootenay Lake

La Côte Est

La Côte Est

Lac Kootenay

Lac Kootenay

La Côte Est

La Côte Est

Lac Kootenay

Alfa Art Walk - Nakusp

Alfa Art Walk - Nakusp

Experience the Nakusp art scene on the ALFA Art Walk with local artists works showing in various participating venues. Pick up your brochure at different downtown businesses and online. See above for information. A free gift for you and your friends. ALFA Art Walk - Nakusp

The Hidden Garden Gallery has won the Best in Show award at the 2019 Penticton Art Festival for a piece by artist Nadine Stefan.

Twelve artists prepare to exhibit at the Hidden Garden Gallery

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Alfa Art Walk - Nakusp

La Côte Est
Kaslo council, June 12: Legacy Park perimeter wall contract awarded by Jan McMurray

• Hoover Masonry was awarded the contract for engineering services for $52,621 for the sanitary sewer expansion project phase one. This part of the project is for the design and tender oversight work. The municipal purchasing policy is applied to the tendering phases of the capital works.

• Mayor Hewat noted that the Liquid Waste Management Plan feedback package from the Sewer Specified Waste Management Plan feedback was received and that a response and meeting would be scheduled with them in a few weeks.

• The Village will apply to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development (FLNRO) to berm the park areas, applying for provincial and federal funding for the entire park project through the Communities through Art Development Program.

• The Kaslo Public Arts Select Advisory Committee has submitted a $19,000 application for the wall project. The offer of donated artwork of City Hall towards a new hot water tank was approved in the name of Kaslo Bay Independent Schools Society for the remaining funds required to undertake the Periwinkle basement insulation project.

• Vimy Park’s 2nd St. modifications were approved in the name of Kootenay Lake Independent Schools Society for the remaining funds required to undertake the Periwinkle basement insulation project.

• The Village will resubmit its previous proposal to the Rural Dividend program concerning the resurfacing of the A Avenue waterline replacement project, the municipality committing 26.67% of funds from reserve or borrowing if successful.

• The Village will issue a letter of support for Royal Canadian Legion’s proposal for the New Horizons for Seniors program for funding a modern heating and cooling system.

• A $2,000 application to the RDCK Community Development Program was approved in the name of Kaslo Branch 74 Royal Canadian Legion for a contribution toward a new hot water tank project for the Ladies Auxiliary.

• A $1,000 application to the RDCK Recreation and Open Spaces Committee.

New tourism business in Kaslo offers unique experiences by art Joyce

The injection to “walk lightly on the land and leave no trace” has been given living form in a new “experiential” tour called Between a Lake and a High Place. This is tourism for the 21st century, less about checking items off a bucket list and more about connecting with the land. Proprietors Dana and François Blouin are building on their backgrounds as “birders,” the Blouins provide a tour of the night sky. With the gentle, acoustic musical element. The Meinakoptain Music and Moon Stories will coincide with the full moon in July, August, and September, taking visitors to the lake and up high.”

The Blouins arrived in Kaslo last August, having specifically chosen Kaslo to settle. In their work as biologists they saw “gradually making our way west.” François hails from Quebec while Dana originates from Ontario. “One of the concepts of the business is to provide a Lake and a High Place hopes to provide an unforgettable, specially designed experience for the winners of the Escape the City contest sponsored by the BC Rural Centre.

For more information and to book a tour visit https://www.betweenlakesandhighplace.ca

Dr. Bonnie Bessem, psychikosopher, and medium, at the Langham submitted

This July, Kaslo will receive a special visit from internationally celebrated psychologist, author, spiritual consultant and gifted medium Dr. Bonnie Bessem. For more than 20 years she has guided individuals, using conversations, visualization techniques and spiritual awakening, towards a deeper healing.

Bessem is the co-founder of Levens College in Holland, a holistic training institute for awareness and life wisdom. She teaches mediumship, healing and awareness and The Life Initiations, a practical healing model, described in the book Underway to Enlightenment.

An evening lecture Friday July 6 at 7 pm is followed by a guided medium and meditation workshop Saturday July 7 from 10 am-3 pm. Admission to the lecture is $10 donation at the door; the workshop is $50.

Dr. Bessem is available for group healing or one-on-one personal medium readings from July 8 – 11.

To attend or for more information call 250-353-2130. www.bonniebessem.com

KASLO & DISTRICT

Energy Tips...
“Wall warts” (AC adapters for electronic appliances) use electricity continuously, even if the device they power are turned off. Plugging wall warts into a power bar allows you to switch them all off when not needed. Be careful to inspect and reroute the electrical wires that connect them to appliances; they can easily be damaged.

Jaden Woodland (250)366-4316
Lardeauvalley.wordpress.com

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HAY AND MANURE for sale in the Lardeau Valley
Cord Bauer
Grass hay for sale from July 1st through winter while supplies last. Specializing in round bales – upick up, we load. Square bales also available to order and load off the field. Contact 250-366-4394.

The Grange Farm
Selling composted cattle manure from the farm gate—upick up, we load. Available spring and fall. Hwy 31, Meadow Creek. By Appointment. Contact 250-366-4699

Up the Lake Farm
Square bales of grass hay for sale, available year-round. Also available is natural and chemical-free composted horse manure, which is bagged for and sold at the farm gate. Contact 250-366-4119; fiona@lardeauvalley.com, 12837 Hwy 31, Cooper Creek

Van Tuyl Farm
Currently available for sale from the farm gate are square/round grass hay bales and manure. Contact 250-366-4381, 13261 Hwy 31 Meadow Creek.

The Lardeau Valley Agriculture Showcase Project
Lardeau Valley is a West Kootenay bread basket! Support your local farmers and buy local!!

Brought to you by

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Brought to you by
by Jan McMurray

Some of the first certified passive house units in BC are located on Nakusp’s waterfront. Passive houses are highly energy efficient and have excellent indoor air quality.

Owner Molly Bell hired local builder David Madden for the project. In the development stage, Madden says it became clear that energy efficiency and environmentally friendly construction were priorities for Bell. In the process of hiring an architect, they chose Cover Architecture of Nelson because of their expertise in passive house design and certification. Madden has now taken courses in passive house energy modelling and design, and is certified in passive house construction.

“It was really energy efficient this winter,” owner Molly Bell said during an on-site interview. “I moved in in October, and my mid-December through mid-February BC Hydro bill was $250. That would be the highest bill of the year.”

There are three 1500-square-feet Passive House units in the multi-family building, all heated with electricity. There’s in-floor heating in the foyer and main bathroom, and three auxiliary wall heaters on regular thermostats. Bell lives in one of the units, and the other two are for sale.

Nakusp schools on soft lockdown while RCMP investigate online threat

A video produced by NSS teachers as part of their Grade 12 English Graduation was posted on YouTube, where it elicited a threatening comment on the evening of June 13, the Wednesday after graduation.

Nothing came of it, but the threat was taken seriously and all precautions were taken.

The local RCMP issued a press release reiterating the threat: “The threat did not seem credible, but that they would have a presence at both Nakusp schools the next day.”

Nakusp Secondary School principal Trent Taylor reported in an interview that the video and comment were deleted from the internet four hours after the threatening comment was posted on Wednesday. “Big shout out to our staff for good things to a resurrection of life.”

Madden explains that each passive house unit in Nakusp requires only 1,500 watts of power, although 3,000 watts is available. Comparatively, a conventional house in the Kootenays would require 10,000-15,000 watts.

“This translates to a 90% energy savings,” says Madden. “Unlike some of the greenwashing initiatives and certifying programs, Passive House Institute consists of cutting edge building science that provides predictable energy efficient and healthy homes.”

Certified Passive House units built in Nakusp

The idea behind the passive house is to have as well insulated and tightly sealed a building envelope as possible. Bell says her building has double walls, triple pane windows, and the roof is two feet thick. A very high-efficiency heat recovery ventilation system (HRV) extracts stale air and brings fresh air into the building. It captures the heat from the exhaust air and uses that to heat the fresh air coming in. She says all the heat generated in the house – by the cook stove, the shower, the computer, etc. – is recycled via the HRV.

The HRV also filters pollen and dust from the incoming air, resulting in excellent indoor air quality.

Madden explains that HRV systems are commonplace in all new buildings in Canada, but Passive House insists on using a high end HRV system that costs $3,100-$5,500. This is about double the price of a common HRV but recovers much more heat, meaning less heat escapes to the outdoors.

Renewable energy technologies can be used on passive houses and are often installed if the budget permits. Bell said she looked at solar, but decided it would take too long to pay off the up-front capital costs. “There’s no point because the power bills are so low,” she said, adding that there is less incentive now that BC Hydro has revised the net metering program.

The cost of building to Passive House standard is estimated at 10%-20% higher than conventional building.

Bell says she thinks it was higher, but definitely worth it for the energy savings and the air quality. Madden sees Passive House building becoming less expensive as it becomes more common in Canada.

Alice Doreen Hamling

We wish to announce the loss of our wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. Alice Doreen Hamling fell asleep in death on June 13th with her husband, son and daughter-in-law by her side.

Doreen was born in Strathmore, Alberta, and lived in other parts of BC, but eventually the family made their way to Nakusp. With one glance of her eyes, she captured the heart of Bob Hamling and they married and started a life together on March 29, 1956. Living as husband and wife for 62 years, they raised 4 beautiful children and enjoyed life at Box Lake, the family homestead.

Doreen was known for her love of people and sharing the good news from the Bible with them. She loved the older residents of Nakusp, often visiting them and making small meals. Her heart was large and caring, she never had a harsh word or negative thought, positive and courageous till the end. One of her favourite expressions was, “oh well, things could always be worse”.

Doreen will be missed, because of her love, her unending enthusiasm, and energy, but she knew, and taught her family and others that Bible holds out a promise of the resurrection hope at John 5:28,29 where it says: “Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life.”

We wish to thank the nurses at Arrow lakes hospital and Dr. Goranson for their care and support during this difficult time.

As per her request, there will be no memorial service.

Considering an electric bike?

Stop by for a test drive

All of Your Cycling, Biking, Sking, and Outdoor Sporting Needs in Nakusp, BC

409 Broadway St.
Nakusp, BC
250-265-3332
info@shons.ca
The Valley Voice  June 28, 2018

SLOCAN MASONIC LODGE meets at Knox Hall in New Denver on the fourth Friday at 7:30 pm: March 23, April 27, May 28, June 22, August 24, September 28, October 26, November 23. On July 28, we have a picnic in Sandon at 4:30, and on December 8, we meet with the Nakusp Lodge. Interested new members contact: diamondmaker@gmail.com.

LECTURE & WORKSHOP - Dr. Bonnie Bessem - Friday July 6, 7pm. A spiritual coach, psychologist and gifted medium, Dr. Bessem will speak about communication in spirit and mediumship. Lecture $10 donation. Saturday workshop July 7, 9am-3pm. For more info call/text 250-353-2130.

THANK YOU to the campers at Wragge Beach who helped me out to the road and called 911, New Denver Fire Rescue, ambulance crew, doctors, nurses and staff at Slocan Community Health Centre, the Arrow Lakes Hospital and the Trail Hospital, and everyone who offered assistance. It is wonderful to live in such a caring community.

- Harold (Ray) Scheerschmidt

COMMING EVENTS

- Mama Sita’s, Winlaw. Free. Live Music, Dance Performances. Art created to the music. Performances, Art Installations and Live Art created by Western Flyer. The Hidden Garden Gallery is open 10 am–3 pm, Tuesday through Sunday. For more information visit hidengarden-gallery.ca.

Business Classifieds start at $10.00
Call 250-358-7215 for details

Your ad could be here for only
$11.00 + GST

BREWING

Your ad could be here for only
$11.00 + GST

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription
Only $10-$30
Send Cheque or Money Order to: The Valley Voice Box 70 New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

Your ad could be here for only
only $19.50

The Hidden Garden Gallery
helping artists grow
AT THE HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY: Rabi’a, ‘The Shape of Things’, July 3-8, steel sculptural pieces, bronze, glass, drawings and vinyl art, installation by Carl Schlichting. Reception July 3, 7-9 pm, music by Freya. ‘A Journey in the Making’ featuring traditional and contemporary quilt making by Denise Battagin, July 10-15. Reception July 10, 7-9 pm, music by Western Flyer. The Hidden Garden Gallery is open 10 am–3 pm, Tuesday through Sunday. For more information visit hidengarden-gallery.ca.

Next Valley Voice
Deadline: July 6, 2018
Lucerne School in New Denver welcomed students from all schools in Arrow Lakes School District 10 to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 20. About 350 students from Edgewood Elementary, Nakusp Elementary, Nakusp Secondary, and Lucerne participated in activities such as making bannock, medicine pouch sharing, Metis jigging, storytelling, making noisemakers, archery, fire lighting, and Red River cart journeying. A delicious lunch of woodland stew and soups was prepared by the Healthy Community Society’s school lunch program staff.

Congratulations to Cedra Eichenauer, manager of the Nakusp Visitor Info Centre, who was nominated for an Influential Woman in Business Award this year. The Kootenay Business Magazine calls for nominations for this award every year, and presents the award to three women from the West Kootenay and three from the East Kootenay. An article in the magazine says they salute all the nominees “as exceptional contributors to their communities both in business and in life.”
Kaslo students help clean up local hiking trail

submitted by Peter Jonker

The 1918 museum building was built in Gerrard, now a ghost town on the south shore of Trout Lake, as a staff residence for the federal fish hatchery there. When the hatchery program was terminated in 1954, the Hatchery Residence sat empty for some time until Mrs. Brandon ran her new home not unlike a modern-day B&B until old age forced her to leave. Meanwhile, the Leardale Valley Historical Society (LVHS) had formed in 1978, and was desperately looking for a building to serve as a museum. In 1991, they purchased the empty residence for the federal fish hatchery at Gerard in 1927.

The museum building at Meadow Creek turned 100 years old this year, and everyone is gathering there Sunday, July 1, to celebrate. Hundreds of people are expected – some daring to come in period clothing – to enjoy free barbecue food and birthday muffins, family games, face-painting, live music, heritage displays and demonstrations such as loom-work and weaving, show ‘n’ tell collector tables, an in-museum treasure hunt, and a full-on Sunday Market. The fun starts at 10 am. Everyone is invited.

The museum at Meadow Creek is situated on the site of a decommissioned open-pit landfill, and some garbage remains in the area. Cleaning up the site is an important task, and RDCK staff were all for supporting a volunteer clean-up.

Watson contacted JV Humphries Secondary School to find out if any students would be willing to participate in the clean-up and learn about our garbage and recyclables are handled. She also contacted Wildsight to see if there were any educational components that could be added to the event.

“I had such a positive response, from the students and from Wildsight, and it was great to hear that everyone was on board. I worked with RDCK staff to pull together a list of supplies and a timeline, and we were ready to pitch in. The RDCK team provided all the essential tools and equipment, including a truck.”

The RDCK also made a cash donation to the class. Early afternoon on May 25, 17 students – along with JVH teacher Meleana Terlingen and Wildsight educator Gillian Sanders – joined Watson, environmental technologist Amanda Kletchko, and Megan Stone, the Resource Recovery Educator from the RDCK at the site. The crew was split into four groups and spent two hours collecting garbage, metal and old glass containers. By the end of the morning, they had collected two truckloads’ worth plus a bin of metal.

Sanders and Terlingen kept the groups focused and provided the educational aspect of the day. The class learned about illegal dumping and the impacts on the ecosystem when people don’t dispose of their garbage appropriately.

After the clean-up work was done, Colleen, the Kaslo Transfer Station attendant, gave everyone a tour of the facility. She talked about the rules for separating refuse, what is accepted at the site, and what each load of garbage costs to dispose of in the landfill. The students were engaged from the beginning, and were quizzed at the end. Their responses indicated they had been listening attentively.

“I’d like to thank Ms. Terlingen’s class, Gillian from Wildsight and RDCK staff for taking part in the clean-up and doing such great work for the community,” said Director Watson. “Everyone who joined in did an amazing job, and the area is significantly improved. I have already heard from trail users how much better it looks!”

Lardeau Valley celebrating museum birthday

submitted by Peter Jonker

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“I had such a positive response, from the students and from Wildsight, and it was great to hear that everyone was on board. I worked with RDCK staff to pull together a list of supplies and a timeline, and we were ready to pitch in. The RDCK team provided all the essential tools and equipment, including a truck.”

The RDCK also made a cash donation to the class. Early afternoon on May 25, 17 students – along with JVH teacher Meleana Terlingen and Wildsight educator Gillian Sanders – joined Watson, environmental technologist Amanda Kletchko, and Megan Stone, the Resource Recovery Educator from the RDCK at the site. The crew was split into four groups and spent two hours collecting garbage, metal and old glass containers. By the end of the morning, they had collected two truckloads’ worth plus a bin of metal.

Sanders and Terlingen kept the groups focused and provided the educational aspect of the day. The class learned about illegal dumping and the impacts on the ecosystem when people don’t dispose of their garbage appropriately.

After the clean-up work was done, Colleen, the Kaslo Transfer Station attendant, gave everyone a tour of the facility. She talked about the rules for separating refuse, what is accepted at the site, and what each load of garbage costs to dispose of in the landfill. The students were engaged from the beginning, and were quizzed at the end. Their responses indicated they had been listening attentively.

“I’d like to thank Ms. Terlingen’s class, Gillian from Wildsight and RDCK staff for taking part in the clean-up and doing such great work for the community,” said Director Watson. “Everyone who joined in did an amazing job, and the area is significantly improved. I have already heard from trail users how much better it looks!”
by Jan McMurray

A beautiful mural graces the walls of the new pedestrian tunnel that goes from the Dam Inn to the village of South Slocan. Local artist Peter Vogelaar was hired to design the mural, and many community volunteers helped with the painting.

"The new tunnel connecting the Slocan Valley Rail Trail and the community is a work of art," said Craig Lawrence, Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS) director. "Peter Vogelaar has created an amazing design that reflects the essence of the Slocan Valley."

The mural is 3200 square feet, and depicts ‘life on the trail.’ The mural on one wall of the tunnel is dedicated to the Slocan River, while the other wall is dedicated to the trail throughout the seasons. Vogelaar says he wanted to highlight fish on the river wall, especially the salmon we no longer have, and various animals came to mind while painting the seasons wall. A train is painted on the part of the tunnel that juts out on the Dam Inn side of the tunnel.

"It turned into a beautiful success!" Vogelaar said. "I urge people to have a look."

Vogelaar says the mural had to be completed in a very short time, and volunteers were key to getting such a large area covered in paint. "Thank you to the many volunteers from the trail society," he said.

Helen Dostaler, SVHTS president, says there must have been about 60 volunteers all told, ranging in age from children to seniors.

Before Vogelaar became known for his sand and ice sculptures, he was an accomplished painter in both watercolour and oil. His background in the sign business also gave him lots of experience working on a large scale.

The mural project was funded by the Slocan Valley Community Arts Council and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and YRB provided the paint.

The tunnel is part of the Slocan Community Recreational Greenway Project, a partnership between SVHTS, the RDCK, Rec Sites and Trails BC, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. There are just some benches, picnic tables, and signs yet to be installed, and a grand opening is expected this summer.

The Greenway Project included paving the rail trail from South Slocan to Crescent Valley, developing Crescent Valley Beach park, building the tunnel, and developing the trailhead at the Dam Inn side of the tunnel at South Slocan.

Dostaler stresses that there are no plans to pave the rest of the trail. The section that was paved runs past the two schools and several businesses in South Slocan, so it has a very different feel from the rest of the trail. Local people expressed interest in having that particular section paved, and it is being well used by the schools, as well as by cyclists, skateboarders, roller bladers, and people ski training, she said.