Kootenay Wildfire Conference inspires action

by Jan McMurray

If there was one thing that came out loud and clear during the Kootenay Wildfire Conference June 26-28 in Nelson, it was this: there is an awful lot of work to do.

“We awakened people to the reality of the challenge and the scope of the problem, and if that’s all we achieved, that’s good – but my sense is that people are ready to take action,” said Stephan Martineau, manager of the Slocan Valley Community Forest and one of the conference organizers, in an interview after the conference.

The conference was sold out, with more than 200 people from all over BC in attendance. Stephan attributes the huge interest to the 2017 fire season. “It was the biggest fire season in recorded history, so it really got people’s attention. The timing was right [for the conference].”

Attendees included representatives from forestry companies, community forests, woodlots, environmental organizations, local government, fire departments, and the general public. “Most of the attendees were there on behalf of many more people, so they will all go back to their communities and share the information,” said Stephan. “That was the intent.”

Another benefit of the conference was the networking that happened. “We often work in silos, and we want people to realize that the wildfire challenge will require a multi-stakeholder approach and lots of collaboration across all sectors.”

The outcome of the conference, a Call to Action, will be posted on the conference website at the end of July, Stephan reports. “The Call to Action will focus on the broad strokes that everyone agreed on,” he said. “There were people there from diverse perspectives, so the Call to Action will be a base that we can all work from.”

The five areas that will be covered in the Call to Action are: climate change, landscape level planning, emergency management, private property wildfire risk reduction, and forest carbon management.

Nakusp Ambassadors Kimberly Roberts and Makayla Teindl assist Mayor Hamling with cake-cutting and distribution duties at Nakusp’s annual Canada Day festivities.
Ktunaxa elder touring with traditional canoe and crafts

by Art Joyce

With a generation of older Ktunaxa passing away, elder Wayne Louie wants to make sure their cultural knowledge doesn’t die with them. Louie will be touring the West Kootenay as part of his CKCA-sponsored Touring Our Ancestral Homeland Project, bringing demonstrations of Ktunaxa craft to the public. A traditional tipi will be at each stop on the tour but the real star is of course the iconic sturgeon-nosed canoe.

“I’ve probably built over 100 canoes in my lifetime,” says Louie. “The 12-foot canoe is new so this will be its christening journey, if you like. Everything started from here, from the lower Kootenay flats, down to the Pend Oreille and back. The rivers were the thread that held us together.”

Tour locations include the Lower Kootenay Band flats near Creston on July 12; Kokanee Park on Kootenay Lake on July 14; and Burton on Arrow Lake on July 15. Louie will also be demonstrating a red willow fish boat, which he calls a “nosed canoe.”

“I’m retracing our involvement in the Arrow Lakes, sharing our heritage with the Lakes and Okanagan,” says Louie. “The canoe played a big part of that; before cars the rivers and lakes were our highways.”

Keeping the beat for Louie will be drummer and canoeist Richard Jacobs, along with Alan Eneas of the Okanagan Nation. Richard is the son of the late Wilfred Jacobs, who helped keep the Ktunaxa nation’s canoe craft alive, landing one of his canoes in Kaslo with Ike Basil as part of Canada’s centennial celebrations in 1967. Wilfred was the featured cultural ambassador for the Ktunaxa at Expo ’74 and built canoes for movie actor Jackie Chan in one of his films. But with both the senior Jacobs and Louie’s grandmother Marion Ernest now gone, it was time for him to take the show on the road. He says his dream is to build a fleet of sturgeon-nosed canoes for every Ktunaxa community along Kootenay River.

“My mom, my sisters have all passed on, left me on my own, so here I am trying to preserve and pass on our traditional knowledge before it goes extinct. And hopefully somewhere along the line, I can inspire people in this journey.”

Louie will be bringing a 16-foot and a 12-foot sturgeon-nosed canoe and giving people rides to demonstrate their smooth-as-glass ride in the water. In part, the design was built for the needly waters of the marshes near Creston, slicing neatly through the thick vegetation. His canoes are built of traditional materials, including white pine bark sealed with fir pitch and bindings of bitter cherry bark and cedar roots. He says he felt honoured to be a part of the Canada 150 celebrations last year in Vancouver, where he worked with the Musqueam nation to demonstrate the art of building a sturgeon-nosed canoe.

Using maps designed by Louie, the journey is also meant to draw attention to the Kootenay and Okanagan territories overlapped historically. He’ll speak about the history of the Upper Ktunaxa nation, but he can also talk about his films. “I’m going to try to stay out of the political stuff; I’m just a grassroots traditionalist. Culture at its best, Ktunaxa style.”

Louie has also been active in helping schools develop curriculum that teaches knowledge of Ktunaxa culture. But at 60, he’s starting to feel his age, and thinks this may be the last tour for his tipi. He’d like to take time in retirement to write a book about his experiences, which include being part of the infamous ‘Sixties Scoop’ of aboriginal children.

To watch a video of the construction by Louie of a sturgeon-nosed canoe, visit https://vimeo.com/110410378. Another example of Louie’s work can be seen at the Ainsworth Hot Springs. The tour is also featured in the current issue of ARTiculate magazine.
Hidden Garden Gallery re-opening attracts enthusiastic crowd

by Art Joyce

Change is a constant but often it’s how we respond to it that determines our success in life. At the re-opening of the Hidden Garden Gallery on July 3, board members demonstrated their ability to meet the challenges of a change in venue with grace and style.

The 11 volunteer directors invited Mayor Ann Bunka to do the ribbon-cutting at the Hidden Garden Gallery’s new location in a renovated garage on the property of Jeff Bustard and Lori Langford, owners of Sweet Dreams Guest House. They were greeted with an enthusiastic crowd of supporters that eventually numbered close to 100. Music in the garden was provided by local favourites Freya, in a performance that both soothing and stunning. The opening show featured sculptural and other works by Slocan Valley artist Rabi’a in an exhibition titled “The Shape of Things,” installed by Carl Schlichting.

“I’m just thrilled,” said Mayor Bunka. “I’ve been mayor for seven years and this is my first ribbon-cutting.”

It was a fitting gesture given that Bunka had been the gallery’s landlord for 17 years at its previous location on Kiklãre Street, and had supported the venue by keeping rent affordable. HGG board member Katharine Dickerson was master of ceremonies, opening with an acknowledgement of the “unceded territory of the Indigenous Peoples who were here before us and still live on this land.” Dickerson read a long list of thanks to hard-working volunteers who put in long hours to complete the building’s transformation, which is nothing short of breathtaking. The high ceiling is ideal for hanging Rabi’a’s rotating metal sculptures while the tall doors opening onto the street create a wide, welcoming space. A CBT Community Initiatives grant from New Denver paid for the flooring material and paint. The Columbia Basin Trust Arts Venue grant paid for the front door, the awning and the lighting.

Dickerson acknowledged board member and artist Roni Jurgenson for redesigning the gallery’s logo and “bringing us into the 21st century.”

Slocan Lake Arts Council president Birgit Schinke and Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society director Evelyn Goodsell were acknowledged for partnering with HGG for the Legacy Fund grant, which paid for the new sandwich boards that can be seen around town directing visitors to the gallery. No gallery would be complete without a secure hanging system for the artwork, and it was thanks to the advocacy of Paula Shandro that funds were obtained for this from Recreational Commission #6. The HGG board is gifted with members comprising a wide array of talents and skills, making the renovation possible in practically record time. Debbie Hicks contributed her knowledge of construction materials and contacts to support the design concepts. Louise Ducharme’s partner Kamil was master electrician. The ever-capable Patricia Muir worked on a variety of tasks, “all indispensable.” Randy Cofer was project manager, working tirelessly with the various subcontracted trades. Dickerson said his “problem-solving skills were essential,” as was his attention to detail, never satisfied with merely ‘good enough.’

“The entire board defines the term ‘working board’ and are stars in the firmament of the Hidden Garden Gallery,” said Dickerson. Their contributions were honoured with colourful stars hung along the walk to the main door below the awning.

She further thanked Mayor Bunka for being the gallery’s “guardian angel” over the years. And after some anxious, nail-biting months of searching for a new home, Jeff Bustard and Lori Langford came forward to offer their property, YBR generously provided fine gravel for the area outside the main doors.

Ten shows during the 2018 exhibition season will fill this new space with local and regional art and music. Rabi’a’s exhibition will be followed by Denise Brattagin’s quilts, paintings by Barbara Ballachey and Loraine Stephanion, and Margaret Sonnenberg’s black and white drawings. The second half of the season features photography by Debbie Hicks, paintings by Eliza Fry, Boukie Elzinga, Janet Ott and black and white photography by Susan Sapophone.

The finale of this first summer in the new location is a show of paintings by Victoria Mitchell, concluding the season on September 9. Each art show will have a reception complete with local musicians and celebrating the arts in New Denver.

The gallery is open 10 am to 3 pm, Tuesday through Sunday during the summer. For more information visit https://www.hiddengardengallery.ca.
The morning after the night before

A big shout out THANK YOU to everyone who made my best opening night ever at the new Hidden Garden Gallery last night. The perfect space for my many expressions of art, wide open doors and people spilling out in the street...exquisite music by Freya in the garden and to everyone who came out to help me celebrate this particular facet of my life. I’m in awe with my community.

Rahi’s Winlaw

CORRECTION

In our last issue, a letter from Joan Law entitled ‘Gaza needs to be liberated from Hamas’ said: ‘There are 1.8 million Jews in Israel working in chosen professions, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, Members of Parliament, etc. and with freedom of religion.’ The word ‘Jews’ in that sentence is incorrect. It should have read, ‘Arabs.’

Litterbug, litterbug shame on you

I was 10 years old when I saw the short film ‘Litterbug’ starring Donald Duck. It had a big effect on me and I don’t think that I have consciously littered since watching that film. It made so much sense. Now, nearly three generations later, I am astounded at all the litter that I see on a regular basis in a three kilometre bike ride along Highway 31 outside of Kaslo. Last year I picked up 90 cans during the biking season. I’m not picking up coffee cups (hopefully they biodegrade) and other miscellaneous garbage. But there is lots of it. People obviously think that it is okay to discard garbage and recyclables out a car window. It is NOT okay. Why do some individuals believe they have the right to spoil the countryside and habitat of 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.

Joyce Nelson alerted the public in her book Beyond Banksters that not only is reservoir water saleable, but also the old NAWAPA dream of exporting bulk water is being pursued in Washington, DC. Clinton, Trump, Mulloy, Chretien, and Freeland have been in negotiations for past years. The CRT needs to generate power and irrigate the US grain fields as long as the water supplies last—that could be our water safeguard at this time, against the bulk sale of our reservoir water. Just keep in mind that the Columbia River basin trends to the Libby Dam reservoir, which could easily direct water to the US from all northern rivers. Counter-productive to obtaining a ‘clean’ water source, any northern river reservoir situated on permafrost, and Canada is 50% permafrost, would be contaminated by some degree of life-killing methyl-mercury. It follows that dam-free rivers supplying a run of river the reservoir would be the most desirable saleable water.

Susan Eyre

Sirdar

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

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

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

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your name and address. The Valley Voice will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.

Columbia River Treaty comments

I read your article ‘Columbia River Treaty negotiations set off another round of public meetings with interest and am happy to see a better deal is being considered.’

There are two topics I would like to comment on. The first is the fixed link. The Beaton Arm Crossing Association (BACA) has worked very hard to improve the lives of the people of the area. In 2011, when BACA was born, we received over 700 letters of support. In 2014, we had a paid-up membership of 128. For a small area, this is a good showing. However, there were two or three individuals with power who worked against us to make sure the project didn’t go ahead.

In 1971, the student population in School District 10 Arrow Lakes was 1,100. What is it today (about 30% of that) and Why? Fewer jobs for young families! How bad could it be if Nakusp, New Denver, and Silverton grew by 100%? That is a far-fetched dream and may take 100 years. Unless we get a fixed link, the entire area will provide jobs for our young adults. Too many of our students have got to jobs away from home.

The other subject is the salmon fishery returning to the Arrow Lakes. Do we really want this before the USA cleans up the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in the State of Washington? I understand this facility is leaking some waste directly into the Columbia River. Sure, it flows to the Pacific but the fish ingest this waste and then would bring it back to us. Something to consider.

Ernie Cahancia

Nakusp

The Métis Prayer

“May my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.” The softening of one’s heart to express a universal love for ALL children is divinity. Yet, in these times of never-ending war, chaos and poverty, there are hearts which have hardened to justify and accept the methodical traumatizing of children.

Incarcerated children everywhere are prevented from seeing Manitou’s red and purple sunset. Here in Canada, Corrections Canada is not about correction. Ashley Smith, a teenager, was jailed for throwing crab apples at a mailman. She suffered excruciating pain as a result of being tasered repeatedly. In the end, her tormentors watched her die from an observation window without offering humane intervention.

Elor Azaria, the soldier who shot and killed an incapacitated Palestinian in the head, was granted early release and recently denied early parole. In 2017, the student population in School District 10 Arrow Lakes was 1,100. What is it today (about 30% of that) and Why? Fewer jobs for young families! How bad could it be if Nakusp, New Denver, and Silverton grew by 100%? That is a far-fetched dream and may take 100 years. Unless we get a fixed link, the entire area will provide jobs for our young adults. Too many of our students have got to jobs away from home.

Eddie Snowshoe was another youth who died under the ‘watch’ of Corrections Canada. After 162 consecutive days in solitary confinement, Eddie was so desperate to escape his jail cell hell that he spread vaseline on the floor to override survival instinct in order to succeed at his third attempt to commit suicide.

“Useless processes make for endless struggle.” (Solzhenitsyn)

For exposing the brutality of Israel soldiers, Ahed Tamimi, a teenager, was sentenced to eight and a half months in prison. She had intervened to stop a soldier from beating her little brother and later slapped a soldier. These scenes went viral on social media. Ahed was recently denied early parole. However, Elor Azaria, the soldier who shot and killed an incapacitated Palestinian in the head, was granted early release and served only nine months for his crime.

It is heart-wrenching to hear leaked audio of refugee and migrant children separated from their parents at US borders crying and calling for their mamas and papas in Spanish. And, here is some surprising information: Canada has been doing the same thing for a long time. In an open letter dated June 27, 2018, a coalition of over 2,000 Canadian healthcare organizations and healthcare providers called on the Canadian government to take the following actions immediately: 1. End child detention and family separation in Canada. 2. End immigration detention in Canada ("Currently, in Canada, immigrants are detained in both immigration holding centres and maximum security jails.").

3. End the Safe Third Country Agreement; 4. Call on the United States to end its practice of child and family detention. To all those soulless entities with hearts of stone who promote war, chaos, poverty, and the oppression of children, a message to all who can: "When the light of humanity is extinguished, no other light can extinguish the light of a single candle." (Saint Francis of Assisi)

Marcee Manitou

Jacques Savard

Winlaw
**Pro rep may be the answer**

Today I spent half my morning on Facebook, signing petitions about GHGs and protesting electromagnetic fields from cell phone towers. (And while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk...)

I don’t think there is anything more ridiculous suggestions, but it’s trying to plug a hole in a dam with a cork.

Rosemary Miles Winland

**Mosquito control**

In response to Karin Leja’s letter in the May 31 Valley Voice called Do it yourself to protect our lakes and rivers and the community and the bees, and Olé, to eliminate single use plastic products.

I’m thinking there must be a better way! Getting arrested on a roadblock and driving miles to waive a placed haven’t proven very effective either. So I’ve come to think that the way we choose to put people in public office must be the answer.

To that end, I have begun to work with the Fair Vote Canada folks to educate myself about the referendum question Canadians will be asked to vote on this November. Are we finally done with the first past the post system (FFPT)?

Recently, Fair Vote Canada, Nelson Chapter reps Ann Remnant and Sjeng Derkx delivered a non-partisan presentation about proportional representation in New Denver.

A video revealed the questions and options voters will see on the ballot. At first the options seemed complicated but after some discussion it became apparent that it is not all that new – just a bit different.

Two things became evident that encourage me to vote yes for change.

First, we will still be adequately locally and regionally represented and second, if we don’t like it after two elections we can revert to the old FPTP system.

New Denver resident Danika Hammond, a polit sci student summed it up, “This is an great opportunity, and I think we should concentrate on federal initiatives. Instead we began owned Bank of Canada, which once Pierre Trudeau stop using the people- investors to high-grade our resources. And growing faster than we can pay. What happened? In 1974, PM things you did. Eliminate the flood Canadian initiatives. Instead we began.”

Mr.

Ron Robinson

**Regional elections: my personal fact check #1**

Having read through the selection of “news and reports” on the no prepwork for the referendum, I’m trying to find some support: proportional representation will lead to a string of minority governments along with economic instability. I also just skimmed through the World Economic Forum; Global Competitiveness Report for 2017-2018.

Of the top 15 countries listed on page 1 of this report, eight use some form of proportional representation. One could fairly state that the majority of the most competitive economies operate with proportional representation.

Further to coalition governments, Douglas Todd’s March 14 article in the Vancouver Sun offered a graph that showed a shift away from single-party governments to coalition governments.

If you look at the list, many are included with the most competitive economies. There is a definite conflict made by the group and the available data. I’m inclined to go with the available data.

Ron Robinson

**Against cell service in Slocan**

In our recent Slocan Village newsletter, there was an article stating that Telus was in the process of installing a cell phone tower in Slocan Village. I wish to bring to your attention that this tower. My daughter is sensitive to EMF waves and cell phone towers put out too much EMF. I know how badly it affects my daughter and prefer to live in an area with NO CELL PHONE coverage.

Merina Matthew

**Letters**

**LETTERS**

**July 12, 2018**

The Valley Voice

are not mosquito free. It takes female of us it is a point of being able to live question of personal comfort. For some it yourself mosquito control – it’s not a

Fun little games about the water are the culprits. If you don’t want to use these things there are just some of the creatures I’ve noted there.

How did that affect the habitat for other wildlife there? For example, the frogs, red winged blackbirds, which rely on the cuttlers, the pond will be there – these are just some of the creatures I’ve noted there.

I drove to Applepadle on June 2 and opened the car door for a few seconds. Immediately the car filled with mosquitoes that I and my three passengers were swatting for several minutes while driving away until it was safe enough to open the windows to try to blow them out. You guess you are one of the lucky ones where you live, not having to blow them out. The person owning

The immediate proximity to the radiation plume from a cell tower is so harmful and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk, and while I do agree that you can still walk...

— Rivier

**Slocan**

**Slocan**

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Appledale kayaker vanishes on Slocan River

by Katrine Campbell

There will be a celebration of life for Dorothy Bojey on Saturday July 14 at 1 pm at the Winlaw Hall. The Appledale woman is missing and presumed drowned in the Slocan River. Bojey, 56, went out in her kayak June 27 and failed to appear for her scheduled pickup. RCMP say they were called that evening and told that Bojey had set off down the river from the village of Slocan, and was to be picked up at Perry’s bridge.

RCMP called out the Nelson Search and Rescue (SAR) team, who began searching that evening, using jet skis to search the river. Eventually they were joined by teams from Kaslo, Castlegar, Rossland, Grand Forks, and South Columbia. Regional swiftwater technicians spent two days sweeping the river from the water, the ground and by helicopter.

"Unfortunately, we were unable to locate the subject," said a Nelson SAR spokesperson "and the search was called off." The SAR helicopter was the answer to that call and I feel incredibly grateful for the meaningful connections – community that feels like family – and for the privilege of living in and being part of nature here in the pristine Slocan Valley." Take a drive up the scenic Slocan Valley this summer and be sure to check out the charming shops and cafes that Winlaw has to offer, including Spinning Fables, located on Hwy 6 at the Spicer Centre, next door to the Rambling Rose clothing and vintage boutique.

Slocan council, June 25: Steps taken to deter camping and overnight parking

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

Slokan council, June 25: Steps taken to deter camping and overnight parking

Slokan council, June 25: Steps taken to deter camping and overnight parking

The shady area by Arthur Street and Lake Avenue is most popular. To deter parking and overnight camping, signs prohibiting overnight stays will be installed.

Search and Rescue dogs do training in New Denver area

by Jan McMurray

The Canadian Search and Disaster Dog Association was in New Denver, Sandon, and Cody last weekend on a training exercise. Twenty-four dogs and their handlers participated.

In New Denver, the venue for the training was the old Home Hardware building, which is being torn down. "We’re pretending that an earthquake occurred," explained Silvie Montier, team leader and training coordinator. "We’re pretending that an earthquake occurred," explained Silvie Montier, team leader and training coordinator. "We’re pretending that an earthquake occurred," explained Silvie Montier, team leader and training coordinator. "We’re pretending that an earthquake occurred," explained Silvie Montier, team leader and training coordinator. "We’re pretending that an earthquake occurred," explained Silvie Montier, team leader and training coordinator. "We’re pretending that an earthquake occurred," explained Silvie Montier, team leader and training coordinator.

The dogs trained by the organization are certified through the International Rescue Dog Association, a branch of the Canine Disaster Association.

"I’ve really come together for us here. It’s really wonderful," she said.

Montier says it’s difficult to find suitable locations for training exercises like these. Ghost towns serve the purpose well, so she was on her way to check out Cody about a month ago and stopped in Sandon. She met residents Hal Wright and Vida Turok, who were extremely helpful. New Denver and area Fire Chief Len Casley also went above and beyond to help. “The community really came together for us here. It’s been really incredible,” she said.

The dogs trained by the association are certified through the International Rescue Dog Organization, a branch of the Canine Search and Rescue for the United Nations. The dog handlers are volunteers, and commit to 16 hours per week of training with their dogs. “We love our dogs. We love to work with them and put them to the service of society,” Montier said.

Slokan Lake Stewardship Society presents Wild Days

Wild Days: 3 fun family nature walks in August!

www.slocanlakeless.com

Slokan Lake Stewardship Society presents Wild Days: Take the family out for a fun & FREE outdoor adventure & learn about the Slokan Lake watershed from local naturalists and scientists!

Saturday, August 4, 9 am-12 pm. Hosts of the Valley of the Ghosts, Sandon: A walk through history to the present, from old saloons to recovering forests along the K&S. Meet at the Prospector’s Pick store in Sandon.

Saturday, August 11, 9 am-12 pm. Teed’s & Bats: Take the trails, Summit Lake: Discover how teed’s and bats use the Summit Lake rail trail. Meet at the end of Summit Lake and park on Summit Road.

Saturday, August 18, 8 pm-11 pm. An Evening with the Stars: Sandon: New Denver: A night of the universe and stars! Meet at the Centennial Park gazebo in New Denver.

For more information, contact 358.7774 or theresa.thomaie@telus.com.
Renovation of New Denver’s Eldorado building expected to be at lock-up this fall

by Jan McMurray

The renovation of the old Eldorado grocery store on New Denver’s main street is well underway. Owner Patrick Warren from Vancouver says he expects the project to be at lock-up stage sometime this fall.

“I’m considering this more a renovation than a rebuild,” says Patrick. “We’re keeping the original foundation and we’re using as much of the lumber as we can. It’s on my bucket list to restore a building, and I’m learning a lot from this project,” says Patrick, who is a marketing manager on a heritage building in Ancorton, Washington.

When completed, the building will have three commercial spaces – 500 square feet, 1100 square feet, and 1400 square feet. The large space will be accessible from the main street, and the other two will be accessible from Kildare Street. The footprint will be smaller than it was most recently; the east wall (next to the Valley Voice building) will be taken down and moved further west. The new septic system will be buried between the renovated building and the Valley Voice. The original Eldorado sign is being restored and will be re-installed on the finished building, which will be constructed to the LEED standard in energy efficiency and environmental design.

The three commercial spaces will be for rent. Patrick says there has been some interest in them, but no commitments yet.

“Maybe this can play a small part in drawing in new business,” says. “The main street is undergoing a revitalization, and hopefully it will kick off some further economic development.”

Patrick and his crew began the cleanup of the building last winter. “It was a fully stocked grocery store with everything from cat food to hair dye to coffee machines to freezers full of meat,” he says. “The remediation took a good six months.”

The building permit was issued last month. “It took a long time because we wanted to make sure everything was lined up – wastewater treatment, engineering design, finding labour, scheduling equipment – having everything lined up took time,” Patrick says there is bureaucracy involved, but he felt the Village was reasonable and fair.

Patrick first came to the area in the 1990s to visit friends in Nelson, and really liked it here. Since then, friends of his have moved to New Denver. “I love the outdoors and the lifestyle here. The people are so nice, and it feels like a secure and safe place. It’s also an affordable place to invest.”

He has a deeper connection here, as well. His grandfather, JJ Warren, was president of the West Kootenay Light and Power Co. from 1921 to 1939. Patrick owns a seafood business in Vancouver. He has a degree in geography and a Masters in Environmental Planning from the University of London, England.

For more information, contact theoldenvernewdenver@gmail.com or 604-779-7366.

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School District 10 (Arrow Lakes)

SEALED BID AUCTION

Used Shop Equipment, Tools, Custodial Supplies

Auction Details

Date: Sealed bids accepted July 11 - July 20. Bidding closes at 12:00 pm (Noon) on Friday July 20.

Items: More information and a full listing of items and bidding form can be downloaded at http://sd10.bc.ca/sd10-sealed-bid-auction/. Documents can also be picked up at the School Board Office between 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Bids to be submitted using form provided.

Preview: Preview of equipment and tools July 18, 2018, between 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at the District Maintenance Shop: check in at 58-6th Ave NW.

Contact: For more information, contact Art Olson at 250-265-3638 ext. 3331 between 9:00-4:00 pm or by email at art.olson@sd10.bc.ca
Village of New Denver
PUBLIC NOTICES
WATERING RESTRICTIONS
Residents are reminded that watering restrictions are currently in effect and the use of sprinklers is prohibited between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on any day.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION – BOSUN HALL
Local area residents are invited to view the initial building plans for a new Bosun Hall at 1:00 pm on Monday, July 16th, at the Bosun Hall. Feedback from attendees will be gathered at the event to guarantee community input is included in the final plans.

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 p.m. 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 16 deadline, in order to avoid a 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.

submitted
For the week of July 17 to 22, the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver will host a two-person exhibition featuring artists Loraine Stephanson and Barbara Ballachey, both painters with a long history of work and exhibitions.

Both artists are informed by a landscape tradition as well as by modern abstraction; both have a strong commitment to painting, work outside in the landscape, and maintain their studio practices.

Ballachey, from Calgary, lives part-time in Hills, and Stephanson resides in Penticton. Stephanson will be showing small panels in oil; Ballachey, a group of acrylic paintings on canvas. Longtime friends and colleagues, their work has underlying similarities but is ultimately very different and personal.

Don’t miss this upcoming exhibition! As an extra bonus – Isabelle Peron, award-winning classical string soloist who has played with orchestras in Europe and North America, will provide music for the closing reception, Saturday July 21, 7 to 9 pm at the Gallery.

Margaret Ann Sonnenberg will be showing a series of drawings in her show titled ‘Balance’, at the Hidden Garden Gallery, July 24 to 29. A reception will be held on Sunday July 24, 7 to 8:30 pm with music provided by Gary Wright.

Sonnenberg is primarily a self-taught artist practicing since 2008. Recognizing a driving force to express herself creatively she chose visual art as one of the ways to do this creatively.

New Denver council, June 26: Remove wildlife attractors or face a clean-up bill, council warns

• Council approved engaging the architects Sonnenberg is primarily a self-taught artist practicing since 2008. Recognizing a driving force to express herself creatively she chose visual art as one of the ways to do this creatively.

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This will give Council valuable information regarding the various options available, which include a shared regional library, a municipal library, or a service agreement with an existing library. This month (July) there will be information sessions with stakeholders; a report will be made to council in August or September; a public information session will be held in September to present the research results and feedback from the public; in October, based on recommendations, will be made to council in October.

The property owner at 402 6th Ave was issued a development permit in December 2017 and council approved an amendment to that permit submitted in May. The changes to the redevelopment of the old Eldorado building include removing the proposed new awning/canopy, lowering the floor elevation at the front of the building and on part of the Kildare St frontage, meaning no stairs or ramps will be required for the public entrances, and reducing the number of units from four to three.

• Mayor Ann Banka reported on her activities. She attended a Bosun Hall feasibility stakeholder meeting with LACE, the engineers and others. She took part in a BC Rural Health Network teleconference and said it would be good to have a regional health fund, which she supported. The organization has been approached by Minister of Health Adrian Dix to weigh in on the rural health policy paper. She attended the Nikkei Canadian Association’s AGM in Winnipeg last week, which was well attended. The Nikkei Canadian Association is growing and has become a regional organization. She believed it has an opportunity to be a good organization to support. She also attended the Nikkei Canadian Association’s AGM in Winnipeg last week, which was well attended. The Nikkei Canadian Association is growing and has become a regional organization. She believed it has an opportunity to be a good organization to support.

Wildfire Mitigation Service Establishment: Staff was directed to prepare a service establishment bylaw for this service, for consideration of three readings at the August 16 board meeting. Members of the public were asked to consider those affected. While insurance is something not well in New Denver as municipalities have better access to funds than the RD, and the project administration is not onerous. She said she also has reservations about establishing any service without a cap on taxation. “I managed to mention that I might not feel so onerous if I’d had a chance to read the emergency plan.” Later this year, New Denver will have to decide whether or not to join this service.

New Denver’s Community Development grant of $11,000 was approved.

Financial Service Grants were released. New Denver is allocated $6,692 for the cemetery ($6,692); the Area H North TV Society ($19,168); and Nakusp Ski Club Association ($18,700).

• Council authorized one person to represent New Denver in the Columbia Basin Trust’s request for a funding memorandum of understanding.

The profits after expenses are available for public use.

The Valley Voice
July 12, 2018
The Valley Voice
July 12, 2018 The Valley Voice

COMMUNITY

Nakusp council, June 25: Awards presented to four Nakusp volunteer firefighters

by Claire Paradis

• The meeting began with the bestowing of service awards to four members of the Nakusp & District Volunteer Fire Department. Governor General of Canada Fire Services Exemplary Service Awards and Province of British Columbia Long Service Awards were given to Chief Terry Warren (federal 30-year bar and provincial 35-year bar), Deputy Chief Reg Gustafson (federal 20-year medal), Captain Bill Regner (federal 20-year medal and provincial 25-year medal), and Captain Richard Cann (provincial 25-year medal). The Governor General of Canada Fire Services Exemplary Service Awards honour members of a recognized Canadian fire service who have completed at least 20 years of service which have been served in the performance of duties involving periods of risk. The Province of BC Long Service Awards honour members of a paid or volunteer fire service who have completed at least 25 years of service, recognizing their dedicated and selfless service to their communities and province.

• Students from Nakusp Secondary made a presentation to council about their climbing wall project, asking for support from Outdoor Education teacher Dorian Bowsell, who has raised over $70,000. The students have visited other facilities and consulted with an engineering firm in Nelson about construction. At this point, liability is the main issue that needs to be addressed for the project to move forward. The group is also searching for community volunteers. CAO Laurie Taylor said she has approached MIABC and would bring a report to a July meeting.

• Nakusp council received two applications for home-based paddleboard and kayak rental businesses, and granted them both approval for an eight-week trial period. One of the applications came from a family with two teenage boys who would be involved in running the business. The CAO noted that this type of enterprise doesn’t fit the definition of a “home occupation” in the zoning bylaw, where the intent is not to carry out commercial business. She said there are two main reasons for not permitting commercial businesses as home occupations: commercial properties pay higher taxes, and the higher traffic created by a commercial venture might be considered a nuisance to neighbouring residences. Councillor Mueller supported the applications, saying that they would add life to community and add to the idea of Nakusp as a fun summertime place while supporting youth entering business. The applications were approved, and will be reviewed after the eight-week period. If there are no issues, the businesses will be licensed to run until September.

• NACFOR’s request to build a covered work area and shed on their Hot Springs Road site was approved. The community forest is proposing to build the structure from its own logs as part of a training exercise in partnership with Selkirk College and Nakusp Secondary. The shelter, which NACFOR says could be shared with other community ventures such as the Firewood Program, is proposed to be built this fall.

• The Idling Control Bylaw and the Tobacco and Cannabis Smoking Regulation Bylaw were adopted. Several bylaws were amended to accommodate the legalization of cannabis: the Parks Regulation Amendment Bylaw, which adds the prohibition of smoking and vaporizing tobacco and cannabis in parks; the Business Licence Amendment Bylaw, which sets fees for cannabis retail sales; the Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw, which sets fees for consultation on provincial cannabis sales licences.

• Nakusp’s Asset Management Program is entering its second stage, which includes a policy, a long-term strategy, and a plan. Council approved a policy, based on a template developed by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The next step, to develop the asset management strategy, will take considerable time, CAO Taylor said. As asset management is now a priority, the CAO said that the money is coming from to pay for the second phase, and the CAO said that local municipalities are applying together for funding to help pay for strategy development.

• Council voted to write a letter of support for Kootenay Sufferfest’s application for a Rural Dividend grant. The organization is expanding into adaptive sport camp on August 7 and 8 this year at the new Mt. Abriel adaptive mountain bike trail and campground, featuring demonstrations of adaptive mountain biking and adaptive paddle boarding.

• Bart Chernuz attended his first council meeting as the new Public Works Director of Operations. Chernuz is replacing Warren Leigh after a long search to fill this position.

• The CAO reported that she has applied for a Public Art Grant through Columbia Basin Trust.

• Included in the agenda package was Nakusp’s Annual Report, an extensive document that gives reports of what’s been going on over the past year, including financial statements, permissive tax exemptions, and the Village’s objectives and goals, the annual report is a great read. And like every year, the annual report, which is made available to the public via the Village’s website, includes a message from the mayor as well as important information about local government in BC, the Community Charter and governance – good reading for anyone interested in running in the upcoming municipal election this autumn.

ARROW LAKES HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
Annual General Meeting
Monday August 27, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Hospital Board Room
Elections will be held to fill Director positions: three for 3 years.

In order to vote at the Annual General Meeting members must obtain a $1 membership card from a director or a copy of the 2018 financial statements.

For further information write to Box 284, Nakusp or email: alhfoundation@hotmail.com

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Phone: 250-353-2224
403 Front Street, Kaslo


The Village of Nakusp is currently seeking Cashier/Attendants at the Nakusp Hot Springs for 35 hours per week. These positions are best suited for people persons with excellent customer service skills and does require the ability to work day, evening, and weekend shifts. Duties include greeting customers, electronic admissions and reservations, maintaining hygiene and cleanliness standards, monitoring aquatic activities, operating the concession, and some janitor/labour/housekeeping work. The Village offers an excellent benefit package for this position.

Minimum requirements are a High School Diploma, a Class 5 Drivers license, and a dependable vehicle.

Please forward your resume to the Village of Nakusp – Box 280, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0. E-mail cjones@nakusp.com. These positions will remain open until filled. Further information is available through the Village Office.

The Village thanks all who apply, however only those chosen for interviews will be contacted.
Fibrefeelia Festival brings a variety of fibre arts to New Denver

by Jan McMurray

The third annual Fibrefeelia Festival in New Denver this year was well attended, with 60 workshop participants and 200 shoppers at the marketplace.

“There’s a renewed interest in the fibre arts – spinning, weaving, felting, knitting, quilting, dyeing – and the beauty of Fibrefeelia is that we bring them all together,” says Kathy Provan, key festival organizer and owner of Sew Much More on New Denver’s main street. Where other fibre festivals tend to focus on one or two of the fibre arts, Fibrefeelia offers workshops in several of them. Workshop facilitators and vendors came from Vancouver Island, the Okanagan, Kamloops, Rossland, Nelson, and Kaslo. Workshops are offered to people of all skill levels, from beginner to advanced.

“From the feedback we got, we’re talking about having a second part to some of the workshops next year. People would like to spend more time on certain techniques,” Kathy reports.

The festival took place at the school this year, and Kathy says the school venue was a big hit. “It was great to have it all under one roof, so people could easily go back and forth between the market and the workshops.” In the past, the market was at the Bosun Hall and workshops were at various venues in New Denver and Silverton.

The festival was held on the Canada Day long weekend this year, a little later than usual. Kathy says it will be moved back again next year to June 22-23 – as there was a lot going on over the long weekend.

With a new yarn store in Castlegar, and a new yarn store and a new fabric store in Nelson in the past year, the fibre arts are alive and well, Kathy says, and Fibrefeelia is part of growing fibre festival circuit. She sends out a huge thank you to the festival sponsors – Columbia Basin Trust and local businesses that donated door prizes.

Thank you! – and, of course, everyone who came out to participate in the activities. We hope that, by all of us working together, everyone enjoyed the day. Our apologies if we missed anyone!

New Denver Community Pharmacy now owns the building, welcomes Mike Rusak

by Jan McMurray

New Denver Community Pharmacy owner Ward Taylor has purchased the building on New Denver’s main street. He has also hired Mike Rusak, who has just completed the pharmacy program at UBC in Vancouver.

“We’re here to stay,” says Ward. “We’re really happy with the support from the residents of New Denver-Silverton and area. After three years in business, we continue to welcome new patients.”

Ward says that purchasing the building is his way of doubling down and supporting the community. “It’s a bit of a worrisome time, considering the challenges Interior Health is placing on our community and health centre, both here and in Kaslo. When it comes down to it, supporting another one is the most important factor for ensuring the success of our small communities. When this support transcends our minor differences and disagreements, a healthy community will always prevail. That is the main difference between a healthy community and struggling community, in my opinion – and I have a lot of confidence in both the New Denver area and Kaslo area communities.”

Ward is pleased to welcome Mike Rusak to the Kaslo and New Denver Pharmacy team. Mike will work in both pharmacy locations.

“I like small towns and I love the mountains, so this position is perfect for me,” Mike says. “I’m a big biker, hiker, and skier. I look forward to spending time on the lakes, the trails, and at Whitewater.”

Mike is also happy to be close to family in Revelstoke and Vernon.

He has just finished four years at the UBC Point Grey campus in the pharmacy program. He also holds an undergraduate degree in biochemistry from UBC Okanagan.

Originally from Vernon, he worked as a forest fire fighter for six summer seasons in many BC communities. “I spent time in a lot of small towns during my fire fighting days. I like the small town feel.”

The closure of the Slocan Curling Club resulted in a wonderful surprise and much appreciated donation for the Slocan & District Technical Rescue Society. The membership of the Curling Club donated $3,000 to the society towards the purchase of a flatwater rescue boat for Slocan Lake. Pictured are TRS member Peter Thompson, vice president John Gates, member Denise Dufault, curling club secretary Karen Davis, TRS member Ian Stewart, club director Leonard Block, and TRS members Rick Bergmann and Cody Grenier.

Celebrating 10 years of Fine Arts

by Jan McMurray

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The Silverton Building Supplies bocce team won this year’s Hambly Cup at Silverton’s Canada Day event. L to R: Terry Everett, Bobbie Everett, Cheryl Hammond, Steve Hammond.

Tonio Bachrach demonstrates chainsaw carving at the Silverton Canada Day celebration.

The Silverton Gallery Grand Re-opening took place on Canada Day, with MLA Kalman Conroy cutting the ribbon along with Penelope Stuart of the gallery society, and Mayor and Councillors. The gallery was closed for four years due to fire and safety code deficiencies.

Live bands entertained the crowd at the Arena on Nakusp’s Canada Day celebrations.

The Kootenay Kiltie Band marched in the Silverton Canada Day Parade and entertained the crowd afterwards at the park.

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Slocan Valley Legacy Fund

If the Slocan Valley is near and dear to your heart, then the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund will give you the opportunity to make a gift now or leave a legacy to support the current and future generations of the Slocan Valley. This fund includes the Slocan Valley Community Foundation which was established by the entire community of the Slocan Valley. The Slocan Valley Community Foundation is a registered charity that accepts ongoing, annual gifts or one-time bequests.

Community foundations are a positive contribution to communities all across Canada. Here we are growing our foundations to join with that national movement. We are one of the largest contributors to charitable giving in Canada—over 12% our collective assets go to exceed $4.5 million with over $5 million contributed annually, virtually every community in Canada is fortunate to have a community foundation.

The Slocan Valley Legacy Fund has provided support to the Slocan Valley community activities. We have funded the Slocan Valley Christmas Hamper, the Slocan Valley Community Foundation and various other grants to organizations large and small. Everything from programs for new parents to support for literary magazines, security, support for community halls and cultural initiatives. And when the Scotiabank for Evans needed a new van for their community day July 1st celebrations, they turned to the local community foundation.

In 2007, we have given more than $32,000 in grants. We have supported various organizations in our community.

Nakusp & Area Community Foundation

Nakusp and Area Community Foundation (NACF) was there to provide when the Nakusp Ski Club’s grooming budget was perilous in order to keep the ski hill open. And when we fundraise for the Nimble Horseshoe, NACF underwrites the costs.

The principal in our endowment is now in the $20,000 range. We are seeking for support from committed community members to make that grow. We look at the outcome of our final fund (for the Kaslo Outreach Society for use in their land) and we consider that a pretty good outcome for its purpose.

The NACF

Recently we received an anonymous generous gift from the Anderson Family Trust, sent to us on a Saturday night for an unexpected need. We were pleased to see a heartfelt request for the community to share the joy of giving. For example: we have received generous support from local businesses and the Nelson and District Secondary School and the school district, and an anonymous fund will be supporting the Slocan Valley Theatre Society’s inaugural festival last fall funded $1000 from the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund.

Endowment means forever

One anonymous donor has made a huge endowment to the community in perpetuity as a legacy. This donor died by supporting us.

If you are considering a bequest, we recommend the following: your will should be prepared by a lawyer to ensure they are consistent with your plans and that your plans include them and are an integral part of it.

- Talk to your accountant, estate planning advisor or lawyer to find out about what you may be able to do. What are your charitable giving options and ways your charitable gift can be most effective for your situation – and to reduce your tax obligations? You never know what the future holds. The result of a thoughtful and well-planned endowment can be a gift to yourself, your family, and to the community.

- Consider a bequest. You can also consider a gift in your will, that fund the Choir, Executive Director

One anonymous donor has made a huge bequest. Here are some ideas to ensure that you support your local community fund.

- In Nelson, for ages 52, after watching the community flourish on the back of the Community Foundation, this family was particularly interested in how the Community Foundation can be used to support their local community.

- Thanks to the anonymous donor who matched the Slocan CARES Foundation Initiative. The Nelson CARES Foundation Initiative was established to the Nelson CARES Foundation with an initial gift of $3.5 million. The Nelson CARES Foundation is a registered charity that accepts ongoing, annual gifts or one-time bequests. Nelson CARES Foundation is a registered charity that accepts ongoing, annual gifts or one-time bequests.

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Sharon Bamber will paint her way along pilgrimage

With her donkey Midas loaded with colourful pastels, international-award winning artist Sharon Bamber will set out this fall to walk and paint a 1,000-mile journey along The Way of St. James, also known as the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Creating a painting every five miles, she will be documenting the famous pilgrimage in 200 original paintings, and one can be yours!

Bamber, an artist who goes outside with her easel and paints from life (plein air painting), is kicking off a crowdfunding campaign for this latest project. From June 28 until July 28, Every 5 Miles: Painting The Way of St. James will be offering one-of-a-kind rewards on Kickstarter to raise money for this unique journey of art, adventure and mindfulness.

She will connect with the route’s unique sense of place through the series, which will tell the story of this ancient and powerful route as it is today.

“We have felt the pull of this pilgrimage for thousands of years. Religious pilgrims have been drawn to it since 950AD and before that, my ancestors the Celts,” Bamber says. “I’ll be revealing its sense of place as it unfolds before me, and how it arises from the intertwining of culture and nature, connecting us to the land.”

“By translating what I see into a visual pathway, I can share my conversation with the landscape with you and let you make your own connection. Let me lead you down this historic path over mountains, across stone bridges, through old coppiced woodland, alongside stone walls and past sacred springs and churches and join us all with the pilgrims, artists, and people that have walked this route before me.”

The project will take four months of walking and painting, and she and her donkey will be crossing over the Pyrenees at the onset of winter. Planning and readying themselves, the pair are ready to set out and share their journey with their supporters.

With your help, on September 1 Sharon Bamber will make her painting and walking expedition a reality. Join the adventure at their Kickstarter page: http://kck.st/2izzi5Z. The project runs from June 28 through to midnight July 29.


We connect people who have excess fruit from their backyard fruit trees with those who have the time and energy to harvest it. The fruit is shared amongst homeowners, volunteers, and other community initiatives.

How do TREE OWNERS get involved?

Local tree owners help us turn private trees into a valuable source of food for the community. If you have more fruit than you can manage, call now to register your tree.

How do VOLUNTEERS get involved?

Interested in food preservation and taking home a portion of the harvest? We would love for you to come and volunteer with our project. Scheduled picks run from July to October.

For more information contact your local coordinator:

Bree Lillies 250-354-8120
Serving New Denver and Silverton

Chenoz is the new director of operations for the Village of Nakusp’s public works department.

New director of operations hired in Nakusp

Bart Chenuz, new director of operations for the Village of Nakusp’s public works department, says he really likes his new job.

After 31 years with the Ministry of Transportation, Bart says he wanted a change. “I wanted to be more involved with the community,” he says.

Bart moved to Nakusp four years ago to be the area roads manager. He wanted to come to Nakusp because of his family history and the connection he feels to the area. His ancestors arrived here, near MacDonald Park, in 1906 and stayed until the 1950s. His grandparents moved to Marysville, where Bart grew up. His great grandmother died in Nakusp, and his grandfather was buried here.

Bart started the new job on June 25, the day of the massive storm that resulted in a 16-hour power outage. “They broke a water line while putting in a power pole, and there were almost 40 trees down throughout the parks, the campground, the road network, and on people’s properties. So it can’t get any worse than that. We just finished cleaning up today [July 6].”

The director of operations position has been vacant for several months and one crew member is on leave, so “we’re playing catch-up,” Bart says.

Bart lived in Clearwater and Kamloops before moving to Nakusp.

The Province has received the final report on the independent professional reliance review, commissioned by government last fall. The report provides recommendations on two aspects to improve the current model, which was introduced by the previous government and resulted in a significant reduction in the numbers of experts in government and a reliance on professionals hired by industry.

The first recommendation is to restructure the governance of the professional associations that oversee qualified professionals (QPs), including forest professionals, engineers and geoscientists, agrologists, biologists and technicians. This would be done by creating new legislation and an independent office, the Office of Professional Regulation and Oversight, in an independent office, the Office of Professional Regulation and Oversight, in an independent oversight to reclaim its central role in ensuring the highest possible degree of integrity in government decision-making. "We will immediately engage with the various professional associations covered in the report, with a goal of making tangible changes this fall to improve government oversight of qualified professionals to enhance public confidence in natural resource decision making,” said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Reviewing the professional reliance model is an important component of the Confidence and Supply Agreement with the BC Green Party caucus.

“In recent years, professional reliance has played a significant role in the loss of public trust in decision making around industrial activity,” said Sonia Furstenau, MLA for Cowichan Valley. “It is incumbent on the BC government to take urgent steps, as outlined in this report, to begin to rebuild that trust.

“In the wake of disasters like Mount Polley, it is clear that government needs to reclaim its central role in ensuring the highest possible degree of integrity in project approval.”

Scott McCannell, executive director of the Professional Employees Association (PEA) said the government’s commitment to moving on the two recommendations was “admirable.”

“Because of professional reliance, we no longer know what’s happening on crown land,” he said.

In 2017 PEA members were surveyed and the subsequent report found that 68% of government scientists believed there were insufficient resources to fulfill their mandate.

The final report of the Professional Reliance review can be found at: engage.gov.bc.ca/professionalreliance/.
Silverton launches feasibility study to create community hub

The Village of Silverton is undertaking a feasibility study for a new Community Hub to provide coworking facilities and other shared amenities to encourage collaboration amongst freelance entrepreneurs, local small businesses, and non-profit organizations in Silverton and New Denver, and the surrounding Slocan communities.

By providing access to facilities, equipment, services and education, the new hub will support a broad range of businesses and community groups. The historic Silverton General Store, located at 222 Lake Avenue, is the prospective location of the new hub, with community organizer Danika Hammond leading the initiative.

“This project is really about increasing and retaining the vibrancy of our area by addressing one of the many empty heritage storefront buildings. This project will help grow and support both the business and non-profit sectors of our community and hopefully, attract new and young residents to our area,” said Hammond. “I am very excited by the amount of support so far and the number of people that have expressed interest in seeing this project move forward!”

The Village of Silverton obtained the funding needed to conduct the feasibility study. “In smaller communities like those we have here in the Slocan Valley,” said Silverton Mayor Jason Clarke, “much of the economic activity is driven by small businesses and community-based organizations. Community hubs can play an important role in economic development, through diversification and capacity-building.”

“The chamber is very supportive of this project,” said Jan McMurray, president of the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce. “A community hub is an innovative way to inspire new business start-ups and to support existing businesses and organizations. This project has a lot of potential to help our community grow.”

Over the upcoming weeks, Capasiti Consulting Inc. will connect with local small business owners, freelance workers, and community-based organizations to gather input on space requirements, services, programs, and amenities they feel would support the growth of their businesses.

The community is encouraged to add their voice to this important initiative by completing the online survey. Go to http://bit.ly/SlocanShared to complete the survey which closes July 18, with the final report and recommendations to be delivered by the end of July.

The feasibility study is being funded through the Province of BC Rural Dividend Fund. For more information, please contact Danika Hammond at 778-879-5844.

Danka Hammond is working with the Village of Silverton to create a community hub at the historic Silverton General Store.

Members of the Ducati Users Club of Western Canada stopped in at Nuru Coffee Bar in New Denver for lunch on June 30 while riding the loop from Nelson. The club holds its Mountain Rally every year in this area, and Nuru is now a regular stop. With their home base at the Adventure Hotel in Nelson, they do a different ride every day. Nuru owner Tamara Barkowsky is a Ducati rider and club member.

Danika Hammond is working with the Village of Silverton to create a community hub at the historic Silverton General Store.
COMMUNITY

Silverton 2017 Annual Report highlights sustainability, new and improved facilities
by Claire Paradis

In his fourth year as mayor of Silverton, Jason Clarke thanked the Village and citizens of Silverton for supporting professional development of council in his mayor’s message in the 2016 Silverton Annual Report.

He also noted that Leah Main, who is also an RDCK director, is serving her fourth year on the board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), which “means that Silverton is a key player setting policy to engage the Federal Government via FCM.”

Silverton CAO Darrell Garcia retired in 2018, and Administrative Assistant Hillary Elliott has taken over the position. Christine Ball is now the Administrative Assistant.

The Mayor also mentioned that Silverton has hired a hydrologist to complete an independent study of logging proposed by Splatkin Development Corporation in the village’s watershed. “It is Silverton Council’s hope that we can work together to ensure the proposed logging has minimal impact on the ecology of our waterways.”

The move is no surprise, considering the emphasis put on sustainability in the Village of Silverton’s vision, which is: “to work together to provide opportunities, protect natural environment, and built and natural assets in a safe and caring vibrant community, live within the carrying capacity of the natural environment, including the watershed; seek to promote social, and environmental concerns.”

The Village staff, Public Works Foremen Leonard Casley, and Public Works Assistant Manuel Derosa have been working hard. Public Works looks after streets, water, storm drains, waste collection, recycling and parks. The Silverton Annual Report lists all services, projects and their priority.

Here are a few of the projects mentioned in the 2017 Annual Report:

Silvertown introduced a new community composting program in partnership with the Healthy Community Society.

The Silverton Gallery got a new heating and cooling system, and a fire suppression system to help the building’s reopening this summer.

The Village also installed the new playground, a new water main, and fire hydrant, repaved lanes, and updated a number of bylaws and policies.

The playground upgrade, gallery project, and the water main will be wrapping up in 2018.

Asset management is also a priority for the Village, as is along with other governments in the area.

In 2017, the Village paid out $242,000 for employees and advances, for a total of $1,208,920. Councillors receive $1,600 in remuneration and the Mayor, $3,000. No Village staff members make over $75,000 per year.

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VISITOR INFORMATION

A Wanderer’s Paradise.
Where the journey is the destination.

HOT SPRINGS

Halcyon Hot Springs Resort & Spa - Nakusp
1-888-643-4949  (250) 265-8554
Fax:  (250) 265-8577 halcyon-hot springs@telus.net
info@halcyon-hot-springs.com
Nakusp, BC  V0G 1M0  5 hot tubs, indoor and outdoor, and a glass shower.

Nakusp Hot Springs, Chalets & Campground - Nakusp
www.nakuspsprings.com (250) 265-4528
(250) 265-4511 Visit Nakusp.com

Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort - Ainsworth
www.ainsworthhotsprings.com
1-866-668-1371  (250) 225-4212

The hot springs are open daily to public entry from 10am to 6pm. Experience the unique and natural routine of the traditional hot springs and enjoy a hot oil massage in the Kokanee Grill and enjoy the comfort of one of our 40 contemporary guest rooms. Complimentary access to the hot springs is included with your stay in the resort. Wireless internet available.

MUSEUMS

Nikkel Interment Memorial Centre
National Historic Site - New Denver
(250) 535-7288 newdenver.ca/nikkel 300 Josephine St.
New Denver, BC  V0G 1M0  10 days a month from 10am to 4pm. Closed from September 15th to December 14th.

Sandon Museum & Visitors’ Centre - Sandon
(250) 358-7870 sandonmuseum.ca
Open 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Located 13 km north of New Denver on Hwy 3A in a historic silver mining ghost town. Collection of turning machines, and other artifacts. Admission: $5.00 adult, $1.50 student or senior, $10.00 family (cash or debit only).

5.5 Myrio National Historic Site - Leavenworth
Ph/Fax: (250) 232-3232 livbc.bc.ca
124 Front Street, Kaslo, BC. Visit the world’s oldest intact passenger steam engine in Kaslo. A heritage gem located on the shores of Kootenay Lake. A 45 minute walking, beautifully restored, easy access from anywhere in the Kootenays. Open Daily from May 1 - October 31.

The Langharm Cultural Centre - Kelso
(250) 353-2661 thelangharm.com
447 A Avenue. Kaslo. Named after one of the best known burgesses in BC, the Langharm is a national historic site and the centre for arts and culture in Kaslo. Art exhibitions in our two galleries. Live performances during the Kootenay Writers’ Festival. During the Kootenay Writers’ Festival, it is open from 10am to 5pm.

Lardeau Valley Historical Society Museum - Meadow Creek
lholc@gmail.com
2341-Hwy 203 (at corner of Ladner-Hope Highway), Meadow Creek, BC  V0H 1W0  Meadow Creek Historical Society, and the experience of "the Lardners." Located in the historic Gressard Trout Hatchery residence. The museum collection consists of some of the more colourfully painted and quite fine examples of "the Lardners." Open weekends mid-June to mid-September.

RESORTS & ACCOMMODATIONS

The Paddock Shack
250-497-2900
Located on Hwy 5, Nakusp, BC. Open daily 6am to 10pm. Closed Monday. Choose a homemade burger, hotdog, waffle, donut, or smoothie in our casual dining area. Includes 100% organically grown coffee and fresh fruit. Enjoy the comfort of our outdoor seating. Great place to eat while on the road.

Mamma’s Landing
250-438-2143
307-400 20 Highway, Kaslo, BC  V0G 1M0  A cozy restaurant overlooking Kootenay Lake. Open May 15th to October 15th.

Nakusp Lake Resort and Spa
250-265-4528
Located 10 minutes west of the village of Nakusp. Lakefront resort with a full-service spa. Open May 1st to October 31st. 

The Lodge at Arrows Lake
250-264-9318  1-888-603-0190
Arrows Lake in Nelson. Open May 15th to October 31st. 

Villa Inna - New Denver
250-358-7244
Located 10 minutes west of the village of New Denver. Free Wi-Fi, Cable TV, river view.

COTTAGES

Cottage in hills - New Denver
(250) 358-2722 cottagelnhills.com
1220 Hwy 3A, New Denver, BC  V0G 1M0  A cozy cottage just 10 minutes from the village of New Denver. Open May 15th to October 31st.

Fomi’s Bakery
250-226-7188
409 Hwy 6, Nelson, BC  V0L 1L0
Free Wi-Fi, Cable TV, lake view.

York Harbor B&B
250-353-5523
Located near the Columbia River, York Harbor B&B offers 4 rooms with lake views.

Kaslo Lakeview B&B
250-353-2175
Located near the Columbia River, Kaslo Lakeview B&B offers 4 rooms with lake views.

VISITOR INFO. CONTINUING ON PAGE FACING ABOVE

CAMPING

Nakusp Municipal Campground - Nakusp
250-265-1061 nakusp.com
Located in the village of Nakusp. Open May 15th to October 31st. 

Kaslo Municipal Campground - Kaslo
250-265-2362 kaslocampground.com
Located near the Columbia River, Kaslo Municipal Campground offers 40 sites, 60 minute drive from Nelson.

Springer Creek RV Park & Campground - Susan
campground@telus.net
(250) 355-2266 springr@telus.net
Open May 15th to October 31st. Located at 1020 Grinn Rd., Sicamous. Turn right immediately off of Hwy 9 at entrance to Village of Sicamous. Fully park hook-ups, tent sites, rump site, wheelchair accessible washrooms and showers, pets on leash and seasonal Tourist/Information Booth.

CENTENNIAL PARK - New Denver
250-358-236  NewDenver.ca
Located near the village of New Denver. 8 with electricity, water hook-up, sani-dump showers, toilets, boat launch, firewood, pets must be leashed.

Silverton Municipal Campground - Silverton
250-358-2472 silverton.ca
Located near the village of Silverton. Full park hook-ups, tent sites, rump site, wheelchair accessible washrooms and showers, pets on leash and seasonal Tourist/Information Booth.

Lemon Creek Lodge & Campground - Lemon Creek
250-355-2403 1-877-970-8090 lemoncreeklodge.com
Lemoncreeklodge.com Located on Hwy 6 off Hwy 3, 18 site campground with 15 & 30 amp service. Located near the Kootenay River, Kootenay Lake and the Kootenay National Forest.

Kaslo Municipal Campground - Kaslo
250-353-2662 kaslo.camplodge.com
Located near the village of Kaslo. 40 sites, 30 & 50 amp service. Located near the Kootenay River, Kootenay Lake and the Kootenay National Forest.

Woodbury Resort and Marina - Kaslo
250-353-7773 marina@kaslometal.com
Located near the village of Kaslo. 50 sites, 30 amp service. Located near the Kootenay River, Kootenay Lake and the Kootenay National Forest.

West Kootenay Park Management Inc.
(250) 861-6734 westkootenayparks.com

MCDONALD CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK - Nakusp
250-265-9533
Located on Hwy 6, 3 km south of Nelson in the Kootenay National Forest. Free, accessible to all. Free, accessible to all. A great place for a picnic or a stroll.

ROSEBERRY PROVINCIAL PARK - Kaslo
250-353-5777
Located near the Columbia River, Rosebery Provincial Park offers 30 sites, 30 amp service. Located near the Kootenay River, Kootenay Lake and the Kootenay National Forest.

SOUTHERN Kootenay Lake Municipal Park - Nakusp
250-265-4528
Located near the Columbia River, Southern Kootenay Lake Municipal Park offers 20 sites, 30 amp service. Located near the Kootenay River, Kootenay Lake and the Kootenay National Forest.

Summit Lake Provincial Park - Silverton
250-353-2403
Located near the Columbia River, Summit Lake Provincial Park offers 20 sites, 30 amp service. Located near the Kootenay River, Kootenay Lake and the Kootenay National Forest.

Nestled in the heart of one of the most beautiful and serene places on Earth, the Kootenay National Forest, Summit Lake Provincial Park offers a slice of paradise. Glaciers, waterfalls, wildlife, and a myriad of trails and activities await visitors to this tranquil setting. The park is home to numerous species of plants and animals, including several rare and endangered species. From spring to fall, visitors can enjoy hiking, cycling, birdwatching, and fishing in the clear, cold waters of the Summit Lake. In winter, the park transforms into a wonderland of snow and ice, offering excellent conditions for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Summit Lake Provincial Park is a true gem, a place where visitors can connect with nature and leave their cares behind.
KASLO & DISTRICT

Escape the City contest winners enjoy Kaslo delights

by Art Joyce

What could be better than a three-day vacation action-packed with special events in the lovely mountain town of Kaslo? Winners of the Escape the City contest, Heather and Marcus Stober of Victoria and Rochelle and Jean-Michel Longval of Calgary found out on Canada Day weekend, reveling in local culture in the breathtaking setting of north Kootenay Lake. The contest was sponsored by the BC Rural Centre and coordinated by enthusiastic Kaslo promoter Randy Morse.

“After a rigorous selection process, one that included long video conference interviews between the four finalists and our community advisory committee, I felt I knew the two winners quite well,” says Morse. “I expected them to be bright, curious, enthusiastic, and sensitive to the general caution lots of rural folks for newcomers with it wasn’t disappointed.”

Soon after their arrival in Kaslo, the Longvals and Stobers were immersed in a busy schedule of activities. Principa
Dan Rude and teacher Meleana Terlingen took them on a tour of JV Humphries School, a way of showing them that fundamental support is well supported in the local school culture. The Stobers have two daughters, the precocious two-year-old Penny, and her five-year-old Anne of Green Gables lookalike sister, Cora. The Longvalls, who have been together a decade, have held off having children, although they are sensitive to the general caution lots of rural folks for newcomers with it wasn’t disappointed.

“The town of a bigger town is just so focused on technology,” she says. “It’s iPads at age two and just constant consumerism all the time. The demand in Calgary is everybody has to have everything and we don’t really want to be involved in that.”

“We quite often get asked by our parents when they’re going to get grandchildren, but to be honest, I don’t want to have kids in such a stressful lifestyle,” adds Jean-Michel. “The school part of the tour really impressed us.” The couple has been looking at Kaslo real estate and extended their visit to three weeks, inviting both sets of parents to be part of it. They say it’s definitely a place they could see themselves raising a family.

Mayor Suzan Hewat and Chamber President John Addison provided a guided walking tour of Front Street, introducing them to merchants and discussing the town’s economic climate. They toured the Mojoe, met up with other young families at the Vinny Park playground, took guided walks in the forest with new experiential tourism operator Between a Lake and a High, perished out onto Kootenay Lake on the Kaslo’s MV Aries, joined in a backyard Canada Day potluck, and then took in the fireworks down by the lake.

Both the Stobers work for the provincial government in Victoria, Heather as manager of Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund, Marcus as a senior advisor with human resources and corporate services. Like the Longvalls, Heather’s background is in biology and environmental studies. Marcus grew up in Invermere when it was still a small, modest East Kootenay town, so his roots resonate with the village atmosphere of Kaslo.

“It was really interesting for us to see what a K-12 school looks like,” says Heather. “It was really cool to know that the kind of interesting programs kids like in the city are available here too. And how integrated the community is with the school – the school is so easily approachable.”

For both families, the small-town hospitality of potlucks rankled among the highlights of their visit. “The backyard barbecue for me was one of the highlights of the trip,” says Heather. “When you’re a tourist you don’t usually get to visit peoples’ backyards!” She adds that although Canada Day fireworks in Kaslo are spectacular, she’s not a fan of being in crowds of thousands of people. Kaslo’s July 1st celebrations, by contrast, had a more relaxed atmosphere, and the Stobers’ first experience of fireworks.

Like the Longvalls, the Stobers would love to find a way to move to Kaslo if they can work out the job situation. Heather’s parents and grandparents have spent most of their lives in Creston, her grandmother an active volunteer in the community there. The school – the school is so easily approachable. “My preference would be that we live and work in the community we live in. We want to be close to the kids and family and it’s important for us to feel attached to our community.” She says her family “fell in love with Kaslo on this trip.”

“Growing up in Bragg Creek, my brother and I were always playing with sticks and twigs and bees,” says Rochelle. “Since I was young, I told my parents that’s what I want for my kids. It’s something I’ve always been drawn to.”

Morse says he definitely sees a future for the Escape the City contest as a way for rural communities to both galvanize local pride and attract new residents. “In general, it’s shown that even as our urban areas grow ever larger, there are increasing numbers of city folk, many of them young, who are growing discontented with all the stress, cost, and sometimes fear associated with life in the fast lane. These are people who long for something better, for ‘a life in the same lane.’ And that’s precisely what small BC communities can offer them.”

New home for Kaslo’s rescue boat

Kaslo Search and Rescue has a new home for Kootenay Lake rescues and, more importantly, the rescue boat affectionately known as Platypus resides in a new secure boat house in the Kaslo Marina.

While money was raised a few years ago to purchase the boat, recent focus has been on fundraising for the boat house. Thanks to several sponsors including Columbia Basin Trust, Village of Kaslo, RDCK, AEE A, Hamil Creek Timber Homes, Breston Industries, Settle Holdings and YRB, the boat house is now complete.

“Our response times for lake emergencies or north and east shore emergencies are dramatically reduced,” said Don Hunt, one of Kaslo SAR’s managers. “With the assistance of BC Ambulance we can accomplish paramedic care and transfer on the boat itself at a low cost compared to helicopter rescues and much faster than driving around the north end of the lake.”

While most of the labour has been donated by existing Kaslo SAR team members, one in particular stands out.

“Henry Van Mill has led this project from start to finish and invested a substantial amount of time in getting the project completed,” said Stefan Lettrari. “We are grateful to our corporate and community supporters but also to the close-knit team of Search and Rescue technicians who willingly step up to the plate to ensure we can provide a professional and responsive emergency arise.”

The volunteer team has had a busy start to the year with a hectic training schedule and typical call volumes. As summer sets in with the usual influx of tourists to the valley, the team expects to be busier on all aspects of rescue in this complex region.

Kaslo Search and Rescue would like to remind you to ensure your boat is equipped with the required emergency equipment and that you are familiar with the Coast Guard’s safe boating guide: www.tc.gc.ca/media/documents/ marinasafety/TP-516e.pdf.

Two new exhibits coming to the Langham galleries

You are invited to the Langham for an evening reception for two great new summer art exhibits – Seaskin, Gathered Kelp and ‘Fare Forward’ which run from July 27 to September 30.

In the Main Gallery Invistaul artist Maureen Gruben addresses cultural and environmental concerns through her multidisciplinary work. She focuses on coastal materials highlighting our dependence on ocean resources and the beauty that remains in physical matter even as it is transformed.

In the Community Gallery Revelstoke artist Jon C. Willems uses the comfortable language of landscape to invite the viewer into her exhibition about getting old. Gouache paintings and hand made books represent her personal journey of learning to let go and the insights of aging.

The reception includes artists’ presentations, music and refreshments.

This event is free and open to the public, July 27 from 7 to 9 pm. Exhibitions run July 27 from 7 to 9 pm. Galleries open Thursday – Sunday 1-4pm, www.thelangham.ca

Inuvialuit artist Maureen Gruben addresses cultural and environmental concerns through her multidisciplinary work.
Nakusp Annual Report highlights Village achievements in 2017

by Claire Paradis

Nakusp’s 2017 Annual Report gives a broad overview of last year’s objectives and achievements, as well as basic information about the Village and municipal government. It’s a must-read for anyone considering running for mayor or council, and a great read to get a feel for the Village administration and operations in general.

Did you know, for example, that it’s the policy of council to: promote harmony and cooperation within the Village, to provide accountability to the public in promoting efficiency in all facets within the Village, to promote the attitude that councillors and Village employees are “here to help,” and to provide the best facilities and services possible, with careful consideration of the finances available to promote the Village of Nakusp as a desirable place to live.

The 2017 Nakusp council, comprised of Mayor Karen Hamling and Councillors Dan Len Heppner, Uli Mueller, Bill Tobey, and Tom Zeleznik in their third year working in tandem with CAO Laurie Taylor, Director of Finance and Treasury Warden Karen Hamling says in her Message to the Village community.

“One of the last items in our four-year plan is the revitalization of the downtown and we started having meetings with the Downtown Committee to devise a plan,” Mayor Karen Hamling said in her Message from the Mayor. “This plan was also supported by the Common Agenda Committee that formed in 2014 with the funding support of the Columbia Basin Trust.”

The mayor’s message also stated that the Village has continued to push for the upgrades to the emergency room at Arrow Lakes Hospital, and is continuing efforts to get broadband to the valley.

“While we are working on a plan to bring broadband up the valley and into Nakusp,” the message states, “This is an ongoing process of applying for funding from the federal and provincial governments as well as CBT and the communities.”

Mayor Hamling also mentions the Nakusp Hot Springs’ increased revenues, which is attributed to improvements to the facility and the increased social media presence.

Villagers take note, there are also plans for more public art in the works, thanks to a generous donation and the Village’s application for a public art grant.

In her message, CAO Laurie Taylor outlines that one purpose of an annual report is to be a document that allows an organization “to look back on the past year in order to determine how they can replicate their successes and avoid their failures.”

Taylor also comments on the high value of Nakusp’s staff. “The role of Village staff in achieving Council’s mandates cannot be understated. It is these civil servants who keep our roads, sidewalks, recreation facilities and green spaces maintained; ensure essential services like water and sewer are provided in a safe and efficient manner; and provide that friendly face at the Village office. The Village is lucky to have a dedicated group of employees.”

Nakusp’s vision statement said the Village’s aim is to keep the community vibrant by encouraging economic diversification, and keeping social, commercial, health and protective services. Continuing to develop the Nakusp Hot Springs, the waterfront and recreational opportunities in future is part of the vision of having the village remain a tourist destination centre.

More public art and culture installations are popping up, with Kate Tupper’s Modern Wingback Chair along the waterfront, and the snow plough and caboose taking up residence next to the park, thanks to the Rail Society. Nakusp’s 150th birthday celebrations were another highlight for Recreation and Parks in 2017, as was the completion of the Trails Master Plan.

Public works was busy in 2017 working to upgrade the waterlines, replacing disintegrating galvanized pipes. The project was not only finished early, but came in far under budget and the extra grant monies were put toward waterline projects on Alexander and Nakusp East Road.

Nakusp’s first charging station for electric cars was installed in 2017, and is located in the parking lot of the Visitor’s Centre next to the Centennial Building.

Warren Leigh was still Director of Operations for the sludge management project, which centelled separating water from solid sludge from the wastewater lagoons, and then depositing the treated “cake” in the landfill.

Leigh has moved on to other employment, and Bart Chenuz took over as Director of Operations for Public Works in 2018.

The annual report also has valuable information about snow removal, yard waste, and water restrictions. The Village experienced its highest water usage ever in 2017, with more than 100,000 cubic metres of water used in both July and August. A WaterSmart Ambassador was hired to educate people about how to reduce their water consumption.

The Village of Nakusp has a tax base of primarily single family residential properties that raises approximately $1 million in property taxes per year, and regular grants being $380,000 (some of the grant money is put into reserves to cover future capital costs). Water and sewer fees are put toward wages and service costs.

The Village of Nakusp had $4.9 million in revenue in 2017, and expenditures of $4.5, leaving an annual surplus of $520,860. There is a total accumulated surplus of roughly $22 million, which can be used to finance operations temporarily until funds from taxes and grants are available, but the lion’s share of the surplus is put into Capital Funds in anticipation of future capital costs.

Christian Godfried van Houten finally left his tortured body on June 1, 2018 in Minto House, Nakusp, after years of struggling with a degenerative neurological disease. He died as he had lived: quietly, on his own terms, with no sappy handholding.

Chris was born on June 23, 1936 in Pankalain Berandan on the island of Sumatra, now Indonesia, then the Dutch East Indies. His parents were Louis van Houten and Johanna Jacoba van Houten-van der Lee. The families of both parents had ties to the colony that went back generations.

In WWII he spent three years in a prison camp during the Japanese occupation of the islands. Chris rarely talked about that time, if he did it was mostly to reminisce about tending cooking fires, growing tomatoes, and eating brown beans one by one as a special treat. The whereabouts of father was unknown. Hunger was real. Only recently have we realised how much of his life was influenced by the scars left by that traumatic experience.

In 1951 the family moved to the Netherlands for good. Chris never felt quite at home there, or anywhere else. All his life he had a deep need for freedom. He was happiest travelling. This partly explains his profession. Geology is an exotic choice in a country without rocks. His fellow geology students would jokingly call themselves “professional campers.”

Chris married teneke van der Hout in 1965 while both were at University in Amsterdam. In 1969 the couple made the move to Canada, a country where geology is a mainstream profession. A job in Grand Forks brought them to the Kootenays. The couple fell in love with the region and decided to buy a piece of land while it was affordable. A small acreage near Nakusp was just right. There was another geology stint in Duncan, B.C., but eventually location determined work, instead of the other way around. In spite of having no training as a carpenter Chris built a sturdy log cabin, complete with electrical wiring that passed inspection.

Chris loved to drive and was a master at keeping old vehicles alive by careful management, such as double clutching and slowing down well ahead of a potential stop in order to spare the brakes. He was always ready to transport family and friends, regardless of distance or hour.

In 1999 an epic trip was made to Waterloo, Ontario, to pick up daughter Nienie complete with partner, baby and two cats. Chris was also the go-to driver for those who drove co-grandfather Ernie Blakemore to his many medical emergencies, often in the middle of the night.

Chris was always interested in current affairs and had a great sense of humour. He will be missed by len, his wife of 53 years, daughter Nenie (Demetrous Blakemore) and son Alex, grandson Keanan Blakemore, co-grandmother Pat Blakemore, nephew Tim Peiper (Marel Janssen, Shanna and Florianna) in Bears Paw, AB and sister Liesbeth in the Netherlands.

A special thanks to the wonderful staff at Minto House who made his last year as bearable as possible.
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Kelley Humphries of Kaslo graduated from McMaster University with her Doctor of Medicine (MD) on May 24, 2018. Kelley has just started her residency in family medicine with UBC, working out of Kelowna General Hospital. Her interest is in rural Family Medicine.

BUTDY’S PIZZA, KASLO: Award-winning, hand-stretched artisan pizza. 250-353-2282.
FREE TRAINING IN THE VALLEY:
Organizing for a Renewable Kootenay.

Come find out how to join with others to leverage your power to create the change you want to see in the world! You will:

- Gain skills to make a difference in your community
- Learn how to build a campaign strategy
- Understand how effective campaigns are structured

When: August 1st, 8-5 pm
Where: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 276, 502 Harold St, Slocan. Please contact Sarah to book your place: sarah@ecosociety.ca

COMING EVENTS

July 21, 7 to 9 pm featuring Isabelle Denver. Open to all levels. Come and share in mindfulness and the exultation of inner flow.

JOURNEY: YOGA IN SILVERTON – THE INWARD - Evening reception July 21, 7 to 9 pm

Sonnenberg, July 24 to 29, reception July 21, 7 to 9 pm

Three gallery events featuring Isabelle Denver. Open to all levels. Come and share in mindfulness and the exultation of inner flow.

Journey: Yoga in Silverton – The Inward

Looking to rent from JFM for 10+ acre property with mixed forested upland and grassland for outdoor education purposes (2 are insulated). Watercourse on site or body of water preferred. Contact Carmen 226-8540

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Revelstoke painter Jo Willems. Artist talks, music, snacks! www.thelangham.ca

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Masters bring 19th century lore submitted

The Café Langham Inspired Ideas series presents History of the Guitar Part III, Thursday July 19, 7pm in the wangham theatre in Kaslo.

As part of the 2018 Kaslo Guitar Festival, classical guitar maesters Daniel Boboly and Murray Visscher showcase 19th century guitarists and the transition to modern instruments. They will perform several pieces on instruments from the period.

Boboly has performed as a soloist with many orchastras internationally and across Canada, and is currently a professor at the University of Georgia.

Visscher has performed for audiences in major cities in Canada and the United States and teaches at Calgary’s Mount Royal University Conservatory of Music.

Come out to hear this fascinating foray into the development of the guitar and hear beautiful pieces played on vintage instruments. $10 donation at the door. www.thelangham.ca
Kootenay Savings Community Foundation announces grant recipients

The Kootenay Savings Community Foundation has announced the distribution of $67,755 in new grants to 26 non-profit organizations in the Kootenays. Grants ranged in size from $500 to $10,000.

Organizations in our area receiving grants in this round of funding are: Slocan Lake Gallery Society ($300 for a printer for their office space at the newly renovated gallery), Slocan Park Community Hall Society ($4,000 to upgrade the playground at the hall), Nakusp Rotary Club ($1,000 to install a defibrillator at Nakusp Secondary), Nakusp and Area Bike Society ($1,500 for equipment and supplies to help develop the Mt. Abriel trail network), Friends of West Kootenay Parks ($1,500 to help install new interpretive signs along hiking trails in Cody Cave Provincial Park), and the Bee Awareness Society ($1,000 to purchase and install glass observational bee hives at a number of elementary schools throughout the Kootenays).

Along with the grants, the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation is also awarding $52,200 in education awards, bursaries and summer camp sponsorships.
RDCK board, June 21: New Cannabis Act triggers public consultation on land use bylaws

by Jan McMurray

- Public input opportunities regarding changes to RDCK land use bylaws due to the new Cannabis Act are coming soon. For more information on how to participate, check the RDCK’s website or attend upcoming public meetings.
- The Nelson, Salmo, E., F & G Regional Parks Commission shared an update on what the commission is doing with respect to the logging taking place on private lands near Cottonwood Lake Regional Park. In a verbal report, the commission expressed its concerns about the logging and acknowledged that they have been receiving calls from upset residents and groups. The board directed staff to explore options.
- The RDCK will submit three resolutions for consideration at the UBCM convention this fall. The first asks for private land logging regulations; the second asks for a solution to the issue of transportation of the critically ill and of patients awaiting surgery to medical appointments; the third asks for regulations and planning around competing uses of water (domestic use, agricultural use, source protection, resource extraction, wildfire mitigation). One resolution, forward to Director Popoff some months ago calling for compensation from utility companies for equipment damage due to power outages and voltage variations, will definitely be considered at the UBCM convention.
- The RDCK will likely have a wildfire mitigation service by November 15. Staff feels that the service would be better delivered as a standalone service. Currently, it is being delivered under Emergency Services. A wildfire mitigation establishment bylaw will be drafted for consideration at the August board meeting.
- The RDCK will work with BGC Engineering on an application to the National Disaster Mitigation Program Stream 2 Flood Mapping Funds. This project will provide the basis for new flood construction level data, flood, hazard polygons, and a new regional floodplain management bylaw. BGC Engineering is involved in the National Disaster Mitigation Program Stream 1 project, which will result in a gap analysis. This will inform staff of where the RDCK does not have adequate information to be making management decisions regarding flooding.
- Staff will apply to the federal Green Infrastructure Fund for a multi-year project to replace many of the RDCK-owned water systems, based on priorities established in the asset management plan.
- The bylaw to authorize the borrowing of $2,070,707 to acquire approximately 69.68 hectares of land on the Crawford Bay beachfront in order to establish a regional park was adopted. This follows several months of community consultation and negotiations with the seller. The cost of acquiring the lands is estimated to be $2.85 million. The purchase is being partially funded with $800,000 from Columbia Basin Trust, with the remainder of funding coming through property taxation and reserve funds.
- Larry Binks was re-appointed to the Columbia Basin Trust board of directors for a two-year term to expire December 31, 2020.
- A Deputy Fire Chief has been on staff for the last two years, and the board approved making this a permanent full-time position. The cost of the position comes from the budgets of the 18 fire departments and the emergency program service.
- The International Firefighter Games will be held at Pass Creek Exhibition Grounds September 5-9.
- The Arrow Lakes Historical Society has requested $24,000 per year to pay for the archive technician and operating costs. RDCK staff will draft a bylaw to establish a Grant-in-Aid service, which would cost taxpayers 6.4 cents per $1,000 of property value. This will go to Alternative Approval Process.
- Recreation Commission #4 grants for Nakusp and a portion of Area K was approved.
- The Arrow Lakes Local Emergency Program Service, which would cost taxpayers $324.40 per year, or 41 cents per $1,000 of assessed property value. The service will cost $74,400 per year, or 41 cents per $1,000 of assessed property value.
- The owners of the old log dump property in Rosebery have applied to subdivide the land into two or three conventional lots and a nine-hole bare land strata. As part of the approval process, the owners are required to provide up to 5% of the lands as parkland, or cash in lieu of parkland. As the land is not identified as a future park, location in the Official Community Plan, the board approved a $24,500 cash in lieu of parkland, based on a land value of $490,000 (determined by Arrow Lakes Appraisals).

Kaslo and Area D

- The Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission will apply to the Rural Dividend Fund for three priorities: business retention and expansion, agriculture, and an economic development coordinator.
- Rhonda Batchelor and Mark Gavin Elder were appointed to the Kaslo and Area D Advisory Planning Commission. A letter of thanks was sent to outgoing member Melissa Elchison for her service on the commission.

Funk Farm Greenhouse

Funk Farm is selling bedding plants (flowers, veggies and herbs), fresh mixed produce, hanging baskets, garden pots, soil, honey, and eggs. The farm stand at the Funk Farm will have these items available for sale as the season progresses, beginning in early spring right up until frost in the fall. Funk Farm produce can also be found Sunnyside Naturals and Front Street Market in Kaslo.

Lardeau Valley Agriculture Showcase Project

Lardeau Valley is a West Kootenay bread basket! Support your local farmers and buy local!!

Elector Assent Form by August 13 at 4:00 p.m. Opposed can register their dissent on the elector assent form.

Kaslo and Area D Community Plan

The Kaslo and Area D Community Plan, the board approved a $24,500 cash in lieu of parkland, based on a land value of $490,000 (determined by Arrow Lakes Appraisals).

COMMUNITY

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The appeal of the decision to stay the charges against Executive Flight Centre (EFC) in the Lemon Creek fuel spill trial was heard by Justice Sheri Anne Donegan June 28 and 29 in BC Supreme Court in Kamloops. No date has been set yet for Justice Donegan’s decision.

Slocan Valley resident Marilyn Burgoon, who initiated the Lemon Creek court proceedings with a private prosecution, was represented by lawyer Lilina Lysenko at the appeal hearing.

“Justice Donegan’s decision is an important one, with wide ranging implications for private prosecutions and environmental law,” Lysenko said in a telephone interview.

EFC was charged under the federal Fisheries Act of depositing a deleterious substance in a waterway frequented by fish and under the provincial Environmental Management Act for introducing waste into the environment. Justice Donegan is tasked with deciding whether Judge Lisa Mrozinski made an error in law when she stayed those charges based on the Jordan ruling. The Jordan decision set the reasonable length of time for a provincial court case from the time of the charges to the end of the trial at 18 months. The intent of the Jordan decision was to speed up the court system.

The Lemon Creek fuel spill case went way over 18 months from the time the private charges were laid by Burgoon, and also took longer than 18 months from the time the Crown stayed the private prosecution and took over the case, but took less than 18 months from the time the public charges were laid by the Crown.

“Jordan is relatively new,” said Lysenko. “The Supreme Court of Canada made that ruling on July 8, 2017, so it’s a very recent ruling and everyone is still trying to figure out how exactly it applies in various different circumstances. This is a new and unique circumstance. How it should apply to corporations is not entirely clear, and how it should apply in the context of private and public prosecutions isn’t clear, either.”

Lysenko says Burgoon’s submissions to the BC Supreme Court were limited to the question of how private and public prosecutions ought to interact with respect to Jordan, and the Crown’s submissions also addressed how the Jordan decision should apply to corporations. “During the trial, the counsel for EFC talked about the anxiety and stress caused by the prolonged delay between the charges and the trial, but a corporation is not a physical person, so doesn’t experience the stress of things like pre-trial incarceration, for example.”

Lysenko says that if the Jordan decision is interpreted to allow the 18-month clock to start ticking at the time of a private prosecution or at the time the Crown stays the private prosecution and takes over the case, the potential for manipulation of the system, particularly in the environmental context, is “pretty huge.”

“If anyone can start the clock ticking by simply laying private charges, that would allow people who may be sympathetic to the accused to limit the time the authorities have to investigate,” she explained.

“Similarly, if the Jordan decision is to be interpreted that the clock should stop at the time the Crown stays the private information, the problem is that it could encourage the Crown to artificially delay staying a private prosecution for the purposes of minimizing the time that would count toward their calculation of delay.”