Late August rain ‘game changer’ for BC wildfires

by Claire Paradis

It was pouring rain on August 29 during the Community Wildfire Info Session in Nakusp, but 24 brave souls made it out to the 7 pm meeting. The rain, as well as the social media updates from local Emergency Coordinator and Fire Chief Terry Warren, may have helped douse wildfire worries that had raged just four days earlier in Nakusp.

The information session came out of discussions after the fires in 2017 when the BC Wildfire Service realised they needed to let the public know more about what they do, said Brent Martin, Southeast Fire Centre Manager for the Service. Martin said 2017 was one of the most challenging seasons for wildfire fighters, and 2018 was a close contender. At the time of the presentation, over 500 wildfires were burning in the province, firefighters had responded to 2,012 wildfires since April of this year, and more than 3,000 BC residents have been evacuated from their homes.

This season is also the second year in a row for a state of emergency to be declared by the Province in response to the fires. The declaration is rare, usually, and the last state of emergency declared before 2017 had been back in 2003. Part of the reason that this year stands out is the breadth of the burning across the province: wildfires have been burning from the US border all the way to Atlin, said Martin. The scope, scale, complexity and magnitude of 2018’s conflagrations are on par or greater than last year, the Fire Centre Manager told the crowd.

The campfire ban on July 26 marked the change to a very dry season – a historically hot and dry May had depleted the snowpack, which helped create extremely dry areas in southeastern BC. With the August long weekend came the lightning strikes that began hundreds of fires. By 4 pm on August 11, the Fire Centre had received notification of 63 new fires. There were over 80 new fires burning in 36 hours across the Southeast.

“We had to think about how to do things differently,” said Martin. “We have to choose our battles wisely and put our resources where they’ll make sense.”

Wind, mountain slopes and other factors make fires unpredictable. So, the decision was made to restrict certain areas and forest service roads, particularly because many of them have only one way in and out.

In the Southeast there were 14 area closures, five area restrictions, five evacuation alerts, five evacuation orders and 17 fires of note. Martin said there simply aren’t enough resources to cover them all; it’s fires that threaten the safety of responders and residents, property, and timber that are fought, and in that order.

Fortunately, the Southeast also had 596 of the 4,756 personnel dedicated to fighting fire in BC, and 41 of the 265 aircraft being used. Of the 2,858 contract personnel hired to fight fires, 1,300 of them are from BC, and the others come from across the country and around the world.

Senior Wildfire Advisor Dano Levesque, who has been working on the ground in the area this season and for many years previously, said that this had been a very active year.

In his easygoing and relaxed manner, he told the assembled citizens that a crew was currently occupying the top of Scarping Knife Mountain to ensure the fire didn’t come over the plateau. He said the fire there was his number one priority at the moment, and that crews would be dropping retardant from buckets to ensure the fire didn’t travel horizontally as it burned its way down to the valley floor.

Levesque reassured Hills residents that the Wragge and Shannon Creek fires were being monitored and were burning themselves out, burning down to the fire guard at the upper forest service roads. He said they were very visible at night, and probably looked a lot closer than they actually were, but that they weren’t a threat to the small community.

The MacLeod Creek fire, which grew to 100 hectares and is visible from Nakusp, hasn’t moved in a week. Levesque said crews have been using helicopters to keep the edges wet and keep it within slide chutes. A fire guard has been built at the valley bottom, and the Senior Wildfire Advisor said he is hoping they’ll be able to get close to the fire soon.

A forecast of 50 to 60 kilometre-per-hour winds had precipitated an evacuation alert for Edgewood, where the Mt. O’Leary fire was burning. Fortunately, the weather prediction came to nought and the winds never came. The alert was rescinded, but the close call resulted in a full house for the wildfire info session earlier in the day on August 29 in Edgewood.

It was the rain on Monday, August 27 that was the turning point, “a game changer,” in the words of Fire Centre Manager Martin. The lowered temperatures and increased precipitation changed the way the fires were burning and allowed crews to get a handle on the blazes.

And local citizens have a part to play too. Ashley Davidson, Fire Information Officer for the Southeast Fire Centre in Castlegar, thanked the public for reporting wildfires. She said phone-in reports play a major role in identifying fires which may become fires of note. She reminded people that they can find out about current wildfires via the online map (updated nightly), via recorded phone messages and via Facebook and Twitter.

Fire Chief Terry Warren confirmed that a fire in the woodstove is permitted, as long as the chimney is clean.
Back to school reminders for parents and drivers

submitted

School District #8 is reminding parents and drivers that with schools back in full swing, this also means busy playgrounds and our yellow buses back on the road. Please slow down and follow speed limits, watching for children walking, cycling and crossing the street. Also, a friendly reminder to yield to school buses and give them the right of way as they merge back into traffic. Children should stay ‘unplugged’ and leave gadgets in backpacks when walking or cycling in order to focus on the road and respond safely. Wear high-visibility clothing.

In the Southern Interior, one child walking or cycling is killed and 42 children are injured in crashes every year. In school and playground zones, 13 children are injured every year. These figures are too high – and 42 children are injured in crashes every year. In school and playground zones, 13 children are injured every year. These figures are too high – ICBC is asking drivers to give parents to help reduce the risk for children so they stay safe around our roadways.

ICBC is asking drivers to give themselves extra travel time so they aren’t rushing and more likely to speed. When you’re dropping off your children in school zones, allow them to exit the car on the side closest to the sidewalk. Never allow a child to cross mid-block. Drivers should be completely focused on the road and respond safely. Wear high-visibility clothing.

To support growing communities the government injected “the highest levels of capital funds in history,” for building 15 new or upgraded schools and site purchases for future schools. Over the next year, the way school districts are funded will be changed to ensure every learner receives the support they need, regardless of their background or where they live.

Indigenous students need to see schools embrace and reflect their unique heritage and perspectives. The ministry has built Indigenous content into all subjects, from math to science to literature, and has added 17 Indigenous languages in classrooms. Increased education funding

Minister of Education Rob Fleming says he is optimistic about recent BC Government changes to the public education system. There will be $6.6 billion for K-12 education this year, and $2 billion in seismic upgrades and school construction over the next three years. Last year the government invested $420 million for the hiring of 3,700 new teachers and education assistants and expects to spend the same amount this year in staffing. School districts across the province are actively filling any remaining positions with a huge recruitment effort. More spaces have been added in teacher education programs to bring in more French, Indigenous and specialist instructors.

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Indigenous students need to see schools embrace and reflect their unique heritage and perspectives. The ministry has built Indigenous content into all subjects, from math to science to literature, and has added 17 Indigenous languages in classrooms. Support for kids at risk

There is no question kids have trouble learning when they are feeling stress and anxiety, or coping with addiction. Because of this, government is improving supports for mental-health promotion, prevention and early intervention. A first-of-its-kind school mental-health conference was held in May, to help build a comprehensive strategy for students and, this year, learners will have new resources by specialised school health teams and specialist instructors.

To combat bullying, there is a campaign to teach students that everyone deserves to be welcomed, included and respected in a safe learning environment, while being fully and completely themselves.

RDCK crews supporting the wildfire response

submitted

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is recognizing the efforts of RDCK firefighters from a number of fire halls in the region who are helping to fight wildfires. While the BC Wildfire Service is responsible for wildfire response, RDCK crews are on the ground in the communities helping to keep people and structures safe.

Deputy Chief Dave McMahon would like to recognize crews for the hours they are putting in and for making their local fire department equipment available for the coordinated effort. Fire halls supporting this effort include Kaslo, Winlaw, Passmore, Balfour-Harrop, Beasley, Blewett, North Shore, Ootsa, Pass Creek, Pass Creek, Robson and Tarrys.

Nora Hannon, Balfour-Harrop Fire Chief and RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator, is being recognized for her leadership. Chief Wildfires are currently affecting a number of areas across the RDCK. Evacuation Orders are in effect for Sheep Creek Road area and the area north of the Deer Creek wildfire. As of September 1, evacuation alerts remained in effect for the Deer Creek area south from Renata for Tarrys and Salmo,” continued fire chiefs from Ootsa, Tarrys and Salmo,” continued fire chiefs from Ootsa, Tarrys and Salmo,” continued fire chiefs from Ootsa, Tarrys and Salmo,” continued fire chiefs from Ootsa, Tarrys and Salmo,” continued fire chiefs from Ootsa, Tarrys and Salmo,” continued fire chiefs from Ootsa, Tarrys and Salmo,” continued fire chiefs from Ootsa, Tarrys and Salmo,” continued fire chiefs from Ootsa, Tarrys and Salmo,” continued fire chiefs from Ootsa, Tarrys and Salmo,” continued fire chiefs from Ootsa.

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Protestors negotiate compromise with Argenta loggers

by Art Joyce

It took just four protestors and some respectful dialogue to negotiate a small compromise in logging recently completed at Argenta on August 20. Protestors Jessica Ogden, Aila Goldynfyre, Tom Prior and Mick Grabowski were concerned that the Clint Creek watershed being logged by Sunshine Logging would have a negative impact on the community’s water quality. The protestors occupied the road leading to the cutblock near the trailhead to the Earl Grey Pass.

“When the logging truck came in we let them know we weren’t happy with what they’re doing because it’s unsustainable,” says Goldynfyre.

Goldynfyre and Ogden were interviewed at the Valley Voice office. Ogden is a Ymir resident associated with Protect Ymir Watershed, a group concerned about watershed logging in that community. Goldynfyre is an Argenta resident. They said they had a very respectful conversation with Clint Carlson, co-owner of Progressive Forest Development, co-owner of the timber license with Jeff Mattes of Sunshine Logging. Ogden says the community had expressed concern about the safety of logging trucks on the road. The protestors asked for a pilot car, which was resisted initially but agreed to by the end of the day. She says she found Carlson “really cooperative throughout the whole thing.”

The two women also negotiated with Mattes to have the feller-buncher removed from the cutblock. They say they were concerned about the destructive potential of such equipment on the landscape due to the soil compaction and subsequent erosion that typically occurs in a clearcut. By that point harvesting had been mostly completed so Mattes was amenable. The protestors refused to lift the road blockade until they witnessed the feller-buncher leaving. Ogden and Goldynfyre say they aren’t convinced by arguments that clearcutting is actually a benefit to the community by creating a fire break.

As is often the case, there’s a story behind the story. The women, who met at a non-violent direct action workshop in Nelson, have personal stories that explain their motivation to act. Both had suffered a health collapse while living and working in polluted urban environments. Other forestry experts agree this is a spurious notion.

As often the case, there’s a story behind the story. The women, who met at a non-violent direct action workshop in Nelson, have personal stories that explain their motivation to act. Both had suffered a health collapse while living and working in cities – Goldynfyre was a personal fitness trainer and health consultant in Calgary and Ogden is a former ESL teacher who had been working in Japan when the Fukushima disaster occurred in 2011. Ogden moved to Nelson shortly afterward and eventually settled in Ymir. Still only in their early 40s, they had both contracted autoimmune diseases they believe were caused by living in polluted urban environments. Both say they have healed substantially since moving to the Kootenays.

“I moved to the Kootenays because I had four different autoimmune diseases and I was dying,” says Goldynfyre. “The forest nourishes me and protects me and it’s my sanctuary. I’ve got my life back now. So I’m in service to the land, the water, the air, the trees and wildlife.”

Ogden says it was poor logging practices at Cottonwood Lake near Nelson that got her activated, and then the proposed watershed logging in Ymir. “I lost my home, my credit, every thing trying to get better. I finally had nothing left to do but get out. And my health has improved since I’ve been out of the city living close to the forest.”

The two women are hopeful that their example will inspire the community to support efforts to reform forestry practice – a movement that is gaining ground across BC. They’d like to see more sound practices such as cable logging on steep slopes like the Argenta face. And they believe watershed logging should be off the table. With so much of the back country logged out, however, they fear we’ll see more front country logging in community watersheds.

“IT’s going to be five years until they can come back to log that area again, so the community has the opportunity now to work with them to make this a sustainable and community-controlled woodlot,” says Goldynfyre.

Attempts were made to contact both Mattes and Carlson for this article but the Valley Voice did not receive any communication in time for publication.
Grateful for local health services

I would like to express how impressed I am by the determined efforts of so many individuals to save and improve our Health Care Centre: Our hospital is a cornerstone of our community, and essential to attracting more families to the area, as well as allowing people to stay as they age. I’d also like to thank Dr. Buckholder and others for their dedication to providing emergency services. The experience and positive impact of a family physician with a long-term relationship to the community is hard to measure. I’d also like to acknowledge the team efforts of the Chamber of Commerce Health Committee and thank them for stepping forward to offer their assistance on an issue that is vital to the health of our valley.

Jill Parry
New Denver

Site C needs to be stopped

Honourable Premier and Cabinet Ministers of BC: I am a registered canvasser for the Initiative Petition to cancel the Site C Dam project. In this era of the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples how does the NDP government justify flooding the traditional territories of the West Moberly and Prophet River First Nations? How do you counter the BCUC’s November 2017 report concluding that Site C is not needed for future energy power in BC? How do you respond to the disclosure that the May 2014 Joint Federal Provincial Review Panel report on the project was found to have unsupported claims and procedural inconsistencies?

‘Progress’ reports of the Site C project continue to discredit the whole undertaking. For starters, I ask the NDP government to follow the same advice you repeatedly gave the BC Liberal government: to reinstate the BCUC’s independent and transparent oversight —

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 will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We 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.

The Valley Voice
401-250-357-7793 E-mail: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca Website: www.valleyvoice.ca
Publisher - Dan Nicholson • Editor - Jan McMurray • Guest Editor - Art Joyce • Food Editor Emeritus - Andrew Rhodes Reporters - Art Joyce, Katrine Campbell, Claire Paradis, Barbara Curry Mulcahy

Published and printed in British Columbia, Canada

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Shuswap and Arrow Lakes valleys from South Shuswap/Playmor junction to Edgewater and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake.

Circulation is 7,600 papers, providing the most complete news and advertising coverage of any single newspaper serving this area.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Canada $54.60, USA $84.00, OVERSEAS $126.00. E-Mail Subscription $22.40 (Prices include GST)

Canadian Postal Publications Mail Agreement #40021191
Sinixt autonomy

ATTN: Tal Fisher, Archaeology Branch, Victoria, BC

I live in Vallican, BC and am aware that the Burial Grounds and village site (Dji’Qa) I am identified as Sinixt historically as well as declared Sinixt by Contemporary Sinixt People has been utilized as the longest peaceful occupation in Canada by Sinixt. I am very aware of the politics related to this site.

Prior to the Sinixt occupying the Vallican site I had been a Director on the Vallican Archaeology Park Society. I studied the history of this site. The Society made a decision to leave the responsibility of the village to the Sinixt and the society no longer exists. As a witness I travelled with the Sinixt to the BC Museum, where I first met Marilyn James. The Museum released the six remains that had been removed from Vallican and were then reburied to their rightful Sinixt grave sites.

My relationship with the late elders Eva On and Adina LAm at Vallican taught me many things about Sinixt history and Sinixt ways, Marilyn James and Sinixt were recognized as the First Nations representatives at the Commission on Resource and Environment Pilot project in the Slocan Valley, an initiative of the NDP government.

Presently support for Sinixt autonomy is being gathered and submitted to the Federal Government via our MP Dick Cannings. It reads

LETTERS
TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED Recognize Sinixt Peoples as Autonomous Tribal Group in their Ancestral Territory

We the undersigned residents of the province of British Columbia who support the Truth and Reconciliation of Aboriginal Peoples to write the attention of the said to the following:

THAT, the Canadian government declared the Sinixt Tribal group exist in a territory.

THAT, prior to this declaration the Sinixt had existed and were long recognized as an autonomous tribal group;

THAT, the Sinixt Peoples (also known as the Lakes Toba, Lakes Salish, Arrow Lakes Indians and or Arrow Lakes(s) Band in Canada and the United States of America) have never in fact ceased to exist as a tribal group;

THAT, the traditional/ancestral territory of the Sinixt in the Columbia Mountains, as surveyed and mapped repeatedly, lies from the peak of the Monashee Range in the west to the peak of the Purcell Range in the east, including the entire Selkirk Range; and from north of Revelstoke, BC., south to Kettle Falls, Washington.

THAT, the Sinixt Territory remains unceded;

THAT, the Sinictie continue to uphold their cultural laws and protect the spiritual integrity of the land, the water and the environment for continued renewal of all life throughout the ancestral territory they have occupied;

THAT, the Sinixt Peoples assert that they are an aboriginal people of Canada within the meaning of Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982;

THAT, the Truth and Reconciliation Report acknowledges that the aim of Canadian government policy was to “cause Aboriginal peoples to cease to exist as a self-governing, more religious, and racial entity in Canada”;

THAT, past wrongs committed against Aboriginal peoples, which includes the Sinixt, must be redressed;

THAT, the Canadian government is engaged in a treaty process that recognizes other tribal groups which are claiming Sinixt territory but excludes all the Sinixt Peoples;

THAT, therefore, your Petitioners call upon Parliament to reverse the wrongful Declaration of Extinction of Sinixt (Singaykuts) Tribal Group and take immediate steps to recognize the Sinixt as an autonomous tribal group within their traditional/ancestral Canadian Territory.

The only thing I, a Canadian citizen support under current government policies of truth and reconciliation is the recognition of the Sinixt as an autonomous group in Canada. We have a collective history to right the wrongs of the Sinixt of the Sinixt recognition that the Canadian government or the Provincial government to overlook the rights of Sinixt by giving other tribal groups Sinixt cultural sites, land, resources.

Marilyn Bargston
Vallican
Finding the root causes

Deam Weayvur is apparently “a voice from the valleys.” Are these the valleys of LaLad LaL? The hope is to change bullying behaviour by having them love themselves. I say they have to extend love beyond themselves. Choose the ‘Golden Rule.’ Adversive behaviour has to have negative consequences.

I used to live in LaLad, free of violence and almost ten feet high and bulletproof. Fast forward to the Arrow Lakes in the 21st century. A woman in a man’s field, I felt protected by the BC Occupational Health and Safety regulations and my employer’s no harassment, no bullying and no violence safety polices. Yes, there were a few bullies but I was strong enough to deal with it or be told to suck it up and grow some balls.

I never dreamt bullying would escalate into being cold-cocked with no warning and no provocation as I signed papers at my desk. The big timer company silenced the violent assault. My assaulter’s history revealed physical violence in my female co-worker and aggression to male colleagues.

Suhh...

Upon my report of violence, my employers advised that my assaulter “was not to be treated differently than any other worker,” therefore I should stay home without pay. This bullying after the assault, loss of my job and resultant PTSD was most economical and better than self-preservation. This bullying and violent incidents I am aware of horrifies even the most skeptical. To briefly summarize a few incidents out of hundreds: most violators were middle-aged and repeatedly re-offended. Most were workplace supervisors and consequences to them were often job promotion. The violence lasted from males and females physically abused co-workers.

Some assailants caused a high percentage of employees to quit or receive compensation for stress. A male witnessed a traumatizing outburst from one of these and his silent comment was, “Women are too sensitive. They are being at home looking after their babies.”

I have never abandoned, a life throughout the ancestral territory they have occupied; the integrity of the land, the water and the ecosystems. As surveyed and mapped over BC’s interior shows that there has been a whole lot of clearcutting going on. So why in 2017-2018 are we experiencing back-to-back record breaking wildfire seasons?

The forest industry is a profit driven business; as it should be. The industry clearcuts where it is most economical and profitable, and not where it does not make good for managing wildfire risk.

Our smoke-filled skies make it clear that current provincial legislation doesn’t motivate (or allow the forest industry to) create effective wildfire risk reduction. Other than a broad desire to not have their feedstock go up in smoke, modifying logging practices to reduce the amount of flammable material risk reduction is simply not part of the forest industry’s current social mandate, nor integral to its economic model. But it should be.

The BC key factor that fuels massive and intensive wildfires in BC’s forests is the monolithic dense coniferous forest, which is not to be treated differently than other forest. The argument was, “Women are too sensitive. They are being at home looking after their babies.”

The BC’s forest industry. This endemic problem has demonstrated that it is consistently controlled by industrial interests and gives the illusion that it is about forests when it is actually about timber.

Legislating critical elements of professional governance is necessary to ensure accountability to the public that it is more than words. The ABCCF has been able to provide an accessible framework for responsible change, water degradation, biodiversity loss, wildfire risk, beetle outbreaks, floods and droughts, and loss of economic options for rural communities. Forest degradation has occurred across BC because there is an endemic conflict of interest within the profession between protecting vital ecosystems and ecologically and socially responsible planning and management. These trends need to be expressed as legally enforceable standards that are accessible and understandable to the public. In other words, there is a need for legislative standards that apply to all aspects of planning and management of forests so that the public knows what to expect in the management of public forests. Support for such an approach provides for appropriate discretion, while reflecting a professional attitude towards accountability for the planning and management of the public, or – for that matter – private forest land by forest professionals.

The CEO’s letter states, “...numerous recommendations...significantly reduce or limit professional judgement and discretion...” Professional judgement and discretion need to have bounds that are ecologically and socially responsible planning and management. These trends need to be applied as legally enforceable standards that are accessible and understandable to the public.

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Kaslo to join Global Day of Action on Climate

Climate Lobby is helping to organize the event. "It will be exciting to have people see these giant puppets," says Jan Ingles who ran a workshop on mask and puppet making for activists this summer. “They add a ‘wow’ factor to rallies – something the whole family can relate to.”

For more information about parachutes for the Planet and a guide for those interested in creating a parachute, please contact Laura at ccl-westkootenay@gmail.com

Meadow Creek spawning channel hosts open house

Meadow Creek spawning channel is a great place to see, and learn about, spawning Kokanee, especially during the free, annual open house between 10 am and 2 pm, on Saturday, September 8.

The channel is managed by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR), and primarily funded by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP). It is located about four kilometres west of Meadow Creek.

The Open House provides a great opportunity to talk to biologists and view the spawning Kokanee. There will also be information about the Nutrient Restoration Program in Kootenay Lake, as well as how to co-exist with grizzly bears.

The 3.3-kilometre looping channel was built in 1967 with BC Hydro funds to compensate for upstream spawning habitat lost due to the construction of Duncan Dam.

The channel is open every day between 10 am and 2 pm until the spawning season ends, typically by the end of the month. With the congregating Kokanee, the channel attracts both black and grizzly Bears, and FLNR and puppet making for activists this summer.

Friends of the Lardeau River host presentation

The Friends of the Lardeau River are pleased to present a presentation by Eva Schindler, Resource Manager, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. The public is invited to her presentation, ‘Kootenay Lake: An overview through limnological lenses’ at the Argenta Hall, Friday, September 7, 7 pm.

Schindler will provide an overview of limnological processes (food web interactions) in lakes, and present the history and anthropogenic stressors that have occurred on Kootenay Lake over the past 60 years. These include the introduction of Mysis shrimp, cultural eutrophication and the construction of dams. Schindler will also share results from the nutrient restoration program. Nutrient addition is used to restore productivity of the food web impacted by the dams.

Schindler began her career in the late ‘80s working for Fisheries and Oceans Canada as a freshwater researcher (specifically food web interactions) in Northwestern Ontario and Winnipeg, Manitoba. She works for the Province of BC, has lived in the Kootenays for almost 15 years and is involved in ecosystem restoration and compensation projects throughout the Columbia Region.

Jewett Elementary back to school notice

Jewett Elementary School in Meadow Creek has some information for parents of kids heading back to school this week. Please remember to send non-marking inside shoes and a refillable water bottle for water.

School supplies will be purchased after the first week and staff will let parents know the cost. Students and teachers will be working with Jane Gao and her Little Sunshine Ecological Program for five weeks. Information about hot lunches will come out on Thursday, September 7; permission slips and info on what students will need went home after the first day of school.

Bon Bio Farm

Certified Kootenay Mountain Grown, Bon Bio uses organic, bio-intensive methods to bring the most out of the land and produce. Certificated in Meadow Creek, the main crops are winter storage vegetables. Bon Bio vegetables can be bought at the Argenta Fall Fair, the Kootenay Valley Harvest Festivals, farm gate sales, and Meadow Creek Stores. Also, the veggies go into the delicious fermented creations of Cultural Revolution, which can be purchased at Sunnyside Naturals and local farmer’s markets. Contact 778-721-0553; bonbiogarden@protonmail.com; 13349 Hwy 31, Meadow Creek, BC.
September 6, 2018

Merriwake’s owner says boat was illegally salvaged

by Katrine Campbell

The Slocan Valley Historical Society’s plan to bring the 1929 Japanese gillnetter Merriwake to Slocan to install as part of the “on-land” exhibit on St. Anne St., has hit a snag. The society wanted the boat there “to honour the skilled Japanese residents who lived in this area in the 1920s,” said member Joyce Johnson. Unfortunately Ted Fitzgerald, the boat’s current owner who lives in England and is fighting to keep the boat out of the hands of the Japanese government, is and adamant that the boat was not abandoned, and was illegally salvaged from Kaslo.

After The Valley Voice published the original story August 9, Ian Fraser wrote a background clarifying the situation and ownership, but that information didn’t make it into the August 23 issue. Fitzgerald read the August 9 story and was “quite astounded” that the story was so incomplete.

“She is my boat that I bought in 1990, from a local friend to look after the boat and having my email and phone contact me, despite nearly all the townspeople were consulted and interested.”

Fitzgerald says he feels “a little more than peeved … but when the sweat, cash, blood and tears that went into getting the boat to Kaslo and trying to make her part of the local tourist and history scene went to nought, and all efforts were rebuffed, it seemed that Kaslo waited until there was no longer a guardian owner on site and played a rather under-handed trick, legally questionable as far as salvage is concerned. It is very, very reminiscent of the situation back in 1941 when the perceived letter of the law totally wiped out the Japanese Canadian fishing industry.”

He says although the boat was illegally salvaged, he doesn’t blame the historical society. “The final outcome is extremely laudable – a monument, the physical epitome of the displacement of people and immigrants in a very regrettable era of world and Canadian politics.”

Fitzgerald is a writer and documentary filmmaker, working in UK, France and California. The Merriwake was scheduled to be filmed as part of a series on racial antagonism during times of national stress. Fitzgerald says he won’t let the matter rest and will pursue it to the highest degree, “whilst all the time agreeing with the aims of SVHS to help make more people aware of their history and its relevance to our future. It’s a shame this could not have happened in Kaslo as I originally intended...”

Johnson says the society’s plans are on hold temporarily until a resolution is reached, which they expect to see very soon. She says the problem was unexpected “but we are confident it can be worked through.”

Sandon Historical Society AGM

Saturday, October 13, 2018
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development (FLNR). For more information call 250-352-1300 or visit fwcp.ca.

You’re Invited

Meadow Creek Spawning Channel Open House


The channel is open daily during the Kokanee spawning season from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please be aware that if there is high water or0 other hazards, the channel may be closed at any time by FLNR. For more information call 250-352-1300 or visit fwcp.ca.

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RDCK completes cannabis legislation consultations

by Art, Joyce

The RDCK has completed what Senior Planner Merri Durand jokingly calls ‘The Kootenay Cannabis Roadshow,’ six community meetings seeking public input on legislation regulation. The Valley Voice attended the final workshop held at the Winlaw Community Hall August 30. About 35 people were present including RDCK staff.

Durand’s presentation began with a brief overview of the 95-year history of cannabis in BC. In March 1923, the government may also be involved with the requirements to ensure that provincial standards are followed. Currently only Areas E and H do not have applicable zoning bylaws – these will have to be developed. Community input is expected from these workshops and will play a role in policy development.

Under the new provincial regulations, licensed producers will not be able to sell their own cannabis for retail. Distribution will be through the Liquor & Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB). Nelson currently has six retail outlets or dispensaries for cannabis. Existing retailers will be subject to the same regulations as new applicants and won’t be able to continue on the ‘pharmacy’ model of current dispensaries. Medical marijuana distribution will be direct to registered users through direct mail or courier. Some Winlaw residents were unhappy with this development. The Province of BC has ended the licensing for stand-alone retail cannabis locations.

However, “realistically, we probably will get applications for recreational sales in rural areas until 2019 or 2020,” Durand said.

For retail outlet applications the RDCK can choose to make no comment, which could prevent the application from moving forward. Or it can comment based on community input. The RDCK can also choose to make no comment to the LCRB or processors or direct to medical marijuana patients. Nursery licenses allow the cultivation of genetics for both medical and hemp for the production of seedlings, and clones. These can be sold to any type of license holder. Licensed production can’t be authorized on lands where there is residential occupancy. Indoor cultivation is no longer considered ‘farm use’ on ALR lands. Individuals are allowed to cultivate four plants for personal use and require no license.

There are three main categories of cannabis available under the new legislation: micro-cultivation, standard cultivation and nursery – one license per land parcel. All will allow both indoor or outdoor cultivation. Micro-cultivation allows one grower to cultivate up to 16 square meters of space both indoors and outdoors and on homesites.

PressFest promises a festival of juicy abundance

Submitted

Fellow food enthusiasts should get ready for another exciting community PressFest on Sunday, September 30, hosted at the Roundhouse Community Hall. This year will again feature Family Sunday – Funday festivities.

There will be artisans and growers displaying their fine foods and wares, live music, children’s activities, food and drinks and borscht of course. All the while we will be pressing ample apples and whole-leaf tea. Community members are invited to bring their handpicked – not windfall nor bruised – apples and pears to be pressed for a nominal fee per litre; a really fantastic way to store excess fruits for winter enjoyment. Consider this a juicy, delicious, easy button service we are offering to our fruit-affluent community.

We are proud to host our friends from Fields Forward with their innovative initiative, the Kootenay Mobile Press. This bus-sized standards are capable of high volume and processing service that presses, pasteurizes and packages fresh juice into shelf-stable boxes which require no refrigeration and will keep juice fresh for up to one year. Last year, we expressed 14,000 pounds (6,350 kg) of juice in just 10 hours. By creatively utilizing the fruit which is abundant in our region, we are able to efficiently make use of the Earth’s offerings to enrich our regional resiliency, whilst simultaneously preventing bear encounters and damage to trees.

Also new this year, if you are a large homeowner, community group, school or farm, you can come a day early to the large-volume pressing on Saturday September 29. If you have more than 50,000 pounds (22,680 kg) of apples and pears, then plan to come on Saturday. Remember we can only press handpicked, non bruised, non moulding fruit. If you are a Certified Organic Farm (with a KOGS number) we will be doing an early morning certified organic press that can be accessed for no additional fee. Please contact dayna@kootenayfood.com before September 28 to register for large-volume pressing.

This event is co-hosted by the West Kootenay Permaculture Co-op (the folks behind Kootenay Fields Forward) and the Slocan Valley Community Hall. Over the years, the Hall and grounds have provided a central meeting place for the Slocan Park community and surrounding areas for cultural, social and recreational events. As well, the Hall kitchen now has ‘approved status’ and welcomes local food producers to prepare their creations at this location. WKPC is a not-for-profit co-op. The board of directors are all involved in our local food system, and are collectively working on community resilience, agriculture, and seeing our region’s food-based economy improve and thrive.

In Good Food and Healthy Community, we look forward to seeing you there.

For more information visit www.kootenayfood.com/pressfest.html

Slocan Valley parents seeking help for premature baby

Submitted

Slocan Valley parents Nikkei Merrit and David Greaves are asking for support for their newborn baby Indra, who was born prematurely at 24 weeks and two days in Nelson. Her original birthdate was December 10 this year.

“My water broke early, possibly due to an unrelated infection and I started labour at 26 weeks. My doctor and the nurses did everything they could,” says mother Nikkei. “I had her at 3:15 and they told me to expect she might not survive because they don’t usually like to deliver a baby at 3 months because of the chance we couldn’t fly her out.”

Once Nelson medical staff realized Indra was stable they called the Vancouver Paediatrics transport team who flew to Cranbrook and sent an ambulance to pick up the family. From there they were flown to Vancouver. Indra has been stable, is eating through a naso-gastric tube and is able to sit and continue to thrive. It’s uncertain whether this condition resulted from the current pregnancy or a previous one.

“It’s very serious, my mother died four years ago from a massive heart attack and my father died from a stroke in March on my birthday so I am pretty terrified,” said Nikkei.

Medical staff are running multiple tests and Nikkei is being treated with antibiotics and blood thinners to try and get the condition under control. Her pregnancy has also been subject to an ultrasound.

“They are working as quickly as they can but I will be on blood thinners for a long time and am at risk of recurrent clot.”

Nikkei and baby Indra are staying at the Ronald Macdonald House in Vancouver and the children’s intensive care unit for an indeterminate amount of time. Nikki’s partner David is at home in Winlaw caring for their home, older children and dogs. He hopes to be able to visit the Ronald McDonald House in Vancouver often if possible, but it’s going to be a financial challenge. Winlaw is nearly an eight-hour drive from Vancouver.

This is a really tough time. It can help ease the financial burden this young family is facing, from lost wages, travel time, food and transportation, childcare, pet boarding and likely many other unforeseen expenditures.

Funds raised and not used for our family will be donated to the Kootenay Lake Hospital, whose amazing staff kept our daughter alive and stable long enough to be transferred to Vancouver. “We feel extremely fortunate,” says David. “Thank you, we’re forever grateful.”

To help the family out visit their GoFundMe page at https://www.gofundme.com/support-for-baby-indra-and-family

New Slocan City citizens celebrated by residents

Submitted

It goes ‘aging in place’ a whole new meaning. The grand opening of Slocan City is set for Thursday, September 27, starting with a symbolic Bike to Housing from the Slocan Legion at 5:30 pm.

“It’s going to stay here in Slocan,” says Dawn Anderson, who, with her husband, ALL will soon own Slocan City’s new home. “One of my worst fears would be having to leave Slocan and all our friends once we couldn’t manage our own home,” she said. The move will be a big adjustment, to move to a small place, from living in a community setting to living close to people. We still do things, and I just hope I can make room to sew. But when we move, we will have fewer responsibilities, and I like the look of the place.”

Joining the celebration is 93-year-old Lynda Kania, who raised almost $9,000 for the Slocan project during the three-day Hike or Bike for Housing in 2016. Kania brought in almost the same amount for Passmore Lodge 20 years ago, even though she has never applied for tenancy in either place. She raised some of the funds by participating in a local campaign that one wag claimed people posted notices saying, “Lydia’s been seen here already.”

“Why does she care so much? “It matters because we’re country people and we don’t want to move into the city,” she said. “We want to stay in the community we helped to build, with our people. For me, it was a joy to do this; you get to meet so many nice people.”

Everyone is welcome to join the celebration, which starts with the three- 12 mile hike from the Legion to the new homes, brief remarks from dignitaries, tours, then back to the Legion for a celebration, followed by the Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society AGM for those who wish to stay.
Kootenay Lake Ferries improvements finalized

by Art Joyce

After two rounds of public consultation, the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure’s (MoTI) Marine Branch has decided

New online registration system for RDCK recreation programs submitted

If you’re an existing client of Regional District of Central Kootenay Recreation services in Castlegar, Creston, Nelson, Salmo, Slocan Valley and areas you can now register online for our programs.

The new online registration system allows you to search or browse for programs in our new user-friendly system. You may register for programs at any RDCK recreation facility or department, with any device, and at any time of day. Registration is fast, easy and secure. Payment can be made online with major credit cards. New clients are able to set up their accounts on the new registration system by visiting us at www.rdzk.ca/recreation and selecting ‘click here’ to log in or set up your account. Registration for programs in the new system is open as of August 30.

In past years, the funds generated by the event have gone toward the purchase of First Responder equipment for local Fire Departments, support for local school programs, reconstruction of the food bank at WE Graham in Slocan and this past year AED training and equipment for local Fire Departments, and the purchase of First Responder equipment for Mt. Sentinel students. The festivities will start at 4 pm with dinner at 5. Tickets are $20 for adults, $12 for youth under 12, and are FREE for children under 6. Tickets are available at any Kootenay-Slocan Lion member. For more information contact Glenda Minor at 226-7476, 226-6999 or email gminor@columbiawireless.ca.

Kootenay Lake Ferries improvements finalized

The BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure’s Marine Branch has decided to move to Queens Bay but there are several improvements slated for the Balfour terminal.

Although the capital cost of building a new terminal in Queens Bay would likely be less than terminal improvements in Balfour, the ministry says those efforts are offset by the “larger environmental and social impacts of a new terminal in Queens Bay.” To address ongoing service challenges at Balfour, the ministry plans to build a new vessel for use during the off-peak season, improve both the Balfour and Kootenay Bay ferry terminals, and improve navigation through the West Arm by minor dredging of three shallow areas. “Moving to Queens Bay would have required dredging to Queens Bay, while 88 people attended two public open houses, while 88 people attended two public open houses, and 78 attended group meetings in Balfour and Kootenay Bay. By now it’s clear that the terminal will not be moving to Queens Bay but there are several improvements slated for the Balfour terminal.

The seventh bi-annual Slocan Valley community pig roast scheduled to go on Saturday September 8 at Slocan Park Hall. Only 100 tickets have been printed and in addition to the fine dinner, there will be refreshments served.

Every other year, the Kootenay-Slocan Lions organize the popular full course dinner to raise funds for use in Slocan Valley Communities. The pig is supplied by Legendary Meats; Ben and Victoria Carson usually do the honours with the pig, while Lions members prepare the other foods. Roasting the pig is an all-day event and is a sight and experience in itself.

March, a total of 449 people offered suggestions, with 241 feedback forms submitted, while 88 people attended two public open houses. During the second round of consultation this
by MP Richard Cannings

It’s now official – 2018 has just become British Columbia’s second worst forest fire season in history, second only to last year. Residents have endured weeks of heavy smoke, some have been evacuated from their communities, and some have unfortunately lost their homes. Businesses such as ski resorts have left or stay away, wineries are concerned about tainted grapes, and even the apistart who keeps bees in our region warned me to keep a safe distance from the hives, because “the bees are mad.” A recent change in the weather has improved the situation in the southern Interior, but there are still significant fires burning in the mountains of the Similkameen, Kettle and West Kootenay.

Some have called this the “new normal;” but unfortunately it’s only part of a trend – things will likely become more severe as the years go on. Luckily there are things we can and must do to reduce the impacts of climate change in both the short and long term.

First, we can adapt to these changes, for example by how we steward our forests. Most forestry activities in Canada are regulated by the provincial governments, but the federal government can become involved at higher levels with significant funding and research. After the catastrophic higher levels with significant funding governments, but the federal government can become involved at higher levels with significant funding and research. After the catastrophic

Dealing with waste wood after fire season. Recently, the provincial government asked former cabinet minister George Abbott for a similar report after last year’s record-setting fire season. I hope that report is more thoroughly acted on.

Thinning forests around communities would be a great opportunity for jobs and the local economy, while effectively fire-proofing neighbourhoods against wildfires. This projects require up-front government investments, but can be designed to recoup costs.

BC Forest industry subject to scrutiny, contractors review

by Art Joyce

The next stage of the Province’s logging contractor sustainability review will see Dan Miller appointed as the independent third-party facilitator. The review, conducted by George Abbott and Circle Sqaure Solutions, finished in May 2018. Its aim is to improve the overall competitiveness of both logging contractors and licensees. Miller is a former premier and provincial cabinet minister.

The report made 13 recommendations that include making better use of technology, improving communications, better information-sharing and ensuring best practices for setting contractors’ rates of pay and dispute resolution mechanisms. In his role as facilitator, Miller will bring BC’s contractor and licensee associations together to identify where there is consensus to act on the recommendations, and assess the costs and benefits of adopting recommendations on which there may be differing opinions. Miller will report to the ministry before the end of October.

Meanwhile the Forest Practices Board has issued a final report to its 2015 review of FSPs (Forest Stewardship Plans, required of all timber licensees). Since March 2016, approximately 200,000 hectares across the province have expired and just over half were replaced with new FSPs. District managers have granted close to 100 FSP extensions, and half of the plans have been extended more than once. The FPB is examining why so many FSPs are having to be extended, what degree of public engagement has occurred regarding replacement FSPs, and what effort has been made by government to ensure if there is clearer, more useful information with the public, in particular for planned cutblocks and roads.

Concerns noted in the report included a general lack of awareness on the part of licensees as to their obligation to carry out fire hazard assessments following logging, even if they are piling and burning their slash as a routine practice. In the last two years, eight of 19 audits – 42 percent – found this requirement was not met. An FPB bulletin was issued to licensees in 2016 reminding them of this legal obligation but so far with little improvement.

The other significant issue arising in recent years was compliance with bridge construction and maintenance practices. In the span of one week in spring 2018, the Board found 13 non-compliances – eight non-compliances on the part of licensees as to their maintenance practices – this is unprecedented in the past.

Motorcycle deaths more than double this season

Motorcycle deaths since 2017, the British Columbia Coalition of Motorcyclists has “deeply concerned and saddened” by the alarming amount of motorcycle fatalities this year, said coalition manager Tara Briscoe. “We hope that by raising public awareness on the matter that this number will decrease and that we can finish this riding season with fewer casualties. Everyone deserves to make it home to their families after a ride.”

“Speed is the leading factor for motorcycle crashes,” added Lindsey Matthews, ICBC’s interim vice-president responsible for road safety. “It’s not the only cause of unexpected events, or to correct for errors. ICBC strongly encourages motorcyclists to keep within posted speed limits at all times, and to wear full protective gear to protect themselves in the event of a crash.”

Study released on cannabis use during pregnancy

Cannabis use during pregnancy, explains Chealsea De Mooe, knowledge broker at CCSA. Research also found that, like alcohol, cannabis is the most widely used psychoactive substance in Canada. In 2015, almost 17 percent of Canadian women of childbearing age reported using cannabis within the past 12 months. This is a timely report as come October Canadians will be able to buy cannabis legally for recreational purposes and there is a lot of misinformation on cannabis use during pregnancy,” says Sarah Konofal, research and policy analyst at CCSA.

CCSA began publishing reports in the quarter the Smoke on Cannabis series in 2009. These reports continue to among the most frequently downloaded resources from the CCSA website. CCSA was created by Parliament to provide national leadership to address substance use in Canada. A trusted source, we provide national guidance to decision makers by harnessing the power of research, curating knowledge and bringing together diverse perspectives. CCSA activities and programs are funded in part through a financial contribution from Health Canada. The views of CCSA do not represent the views of the Government of Canada.
by Art Joyce

You may have known her as Harp Pixie or Dawna McLennan. Either way, you’ve probably enjoyed her voice and harp. She has now rechristened herself Diemm just in time for a 12-date tour to promote her new album, 10,000 Miracles. Concerts start at 7 pm, tickets $15 at Eventbrite or $18 at the door.

“I learned that diem in Latin is day, and it captures my initials,” she says, “so it feels like a bit of a magic name that carries some mystery.”

The tour will kick off at Kimberley’s Centre 64 on September 13, The Langham in Kaslo on September 14, Nelson Covenant Church September 15, and Crawford Bay’s Harrison Church September 16. After that Diemm will head to the Okanagan for two concerts, and then to Vancouver, Victoria, Sooke, Duncan, SaltSpring Island and Powell River.

The new album contains 14 original songs, three of them poems set to music. 10,000 Miracles was recorded in the Slocan Valley by producer/composer Adham Shaikh with funding support from Creative BC and FACTOR. A few tracks were recorded at Diemm’s home studio in Kaslo – her treehouse. She says usually it starts with the lyrics, looking for words to articulate images, and then the tune will come, but it also then refines or changes the lyrics.

“It’s a process of following suggestions from the Muse, being in the dark and having a spotlight thrown on something, then trying to give it form.”

She describes her musical style as ‘chamber folk.’ There’s no Celtic element in her music, despite the fact that she uses a Celtic harp, also known as a folk harp. It differs from the orchestral harp because the Celtic harp uses levers with each string instead of a pedal to change the pitch of the note by a half step, so the folk harp can be set to different tunings. The curve of the harp isn’t just aesthetic, she explains – there’s a mathematic curve required to achieve the appropriate pitch.

“There’s a balance of strength and lightness this instrument has to have, there’s thousands of pounds of pressure pulling on the sound board. It’s basically pulling itself apart over time.”

Diemm says her musical influences are varied and hard to pin down, although she grew up obsessed with the Beatles. It all depends on who she happens to be listening to at the moment. Obviously a natural, she only started learning to play harp in 2010, getting basic instruction on technique from Nancy Potter in Nelson. Her vocal skills were mentored in Alison Girvan’s women’s choir Shanango. But otherwise she’s mostly self-taught.

“I listen to different artists obsessively, but I actually haven’t listened to harp a lot. I’ve wanted the harp voice to come from my personal relationship with it. And I learned so much about harmony in Alison’s choir.”

Oliver Swain, a singer-songwriter, session musician and musician with Twin Bandits, will accompany her on stand-up bass, playing it with a bow and plucked. Percussionist Ben Johnson has already been playing with her for years. They met when she opened for a show by Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra on Kootenay Lake’s east shore. Johnson came up to her afterward and said, “I want to play percussion with you.”

“The tour is a big step up for Diemm, who has performed mostly as a solo artist. It’s the first time she’s hired other musicians to work with her for an extensive road trip. She’s chosen her venues carefully, selecting theatres or churches for their capacity to embrace sound and audience together. It’s an experience you just can’t get in a club or café, she says.

“10,000 Miracles” is the album that will be released September 14 at Bandcamp, distributed on CD Baby and eventually Spotify and iTunes. For more information visit www.diemm.ca which will appear as ‘Harp Pixie’ but will get you there. To sample and pre-order the album visit www.bandcamp.com.
New Denver Council August 28: Higher fences approved

by Katrine Campbell

The Village of New Denver held a public hearing at 6:30 pm August 28 to allow residents to speak to the proposed amendments to the zoning bylaw. These amendments included increasing allowable fence height to 6'6" (2 m), removing restrictions on landscaping, screening, buildings or structures taller than 3’ (9.9 m) in sight triangles, and adding multi-family dwellings as a permitted use in the C1 (commercial) zones, primarily in the downtown core.

Only one person, Gary Weight, showed up to the hearing. He spoke against the increase in fence height, saying he doesn’t want to live in “a village of compounds,” but that “there should be some part of every lot that is open and friendly.”

During the regular meeting following the public hearing, council approved third reading and final adoption of Zoning Amendment Bylaw #717, 2018 as it stood, after much discussion. One of the main reasons given by residents requesting permission to build higher fences was the bear/deer problem. Councillor Nadine Raynolds noted people were more interested in food security and were growing vegetable gardens and fruit; higher fences were needed to keep animals out of the gardens.

Councillor Heather Fox commented on a letter from BC Hydro to the Village of New Denver about the Village’s “significant corporate or community-wide climate action to reduce GHG emissions” in 2017. The Committee, a joint project of the Province and the Union of BC Municipalities, awarded Level 3 recognition to the Village and provided “climate action community branding for use on official websites and letterheads” as well as a window decal.

Council received a letter of congratulations from the Green Communities Committee for the Village’s “significant corporate or community-wide climate action to reduce GHG emissions” in 2017. The Committee, a joint project of the Province and the Union of BC Municipalities, awarded Level 3 recognition to the Village and provided “climate action community branding for use on official websites and letterheads” as well as a window decal.

The board accepted Recycle BC’s offer of 12 core depots. Staff will provide options to each subregion for optimum placing of core and satellite depots.

The board rejected the Slocan Lake Arts Council’s application for financial assistance to municipal beautification projects such as putting distribution lines underground. Fox asked if New Denver could take advantage of BC Hydro’s one-third advantage of BC Hydro’s one-third distribution lines underground. Fox asked if New Denver could take advantage of BC Hydro’s one-third distribution lines underground.

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**Black bear killed in New Denver**

by Art Joyce

Residents of upper New Denver in the 700 block of 9th Avenue were witnesses to a sad spectacle the evening of August 27 when an injured black bear wandered into the neighbourhood seeking food. The bear was limping and appeared to be in shock, its injuries possibly due to being hit by a car.

Phone calls were made to the Conservation Officer service, bear biologist Wayne McCrory and local Wildsafe coordinator Bree Lillies. Conservation Officer Blair Thin was sent from the Castlegar office within about two hours of the call. He determined that the bear was suffering and unlikely to survive, so it was dispatched on the spot. Thin says the age of a bear is always determined by the condition of its teeth, which in this case indicated the bear was two years old. He estimates its weight at 100 pounds (45 kilograms), small even for a black bear which can reach weights of up to 250 pounds (113 kg). Other than its injuries the bear was in good health.

“The injuries that were observed by us were consistent with a motor vehicle accident,” says Thin. “It was having significant difficulties moving around and we didn’t want it suffering so that’s when we tend to destroy an animal.”

McCrory said that the Valhalla Wilderness Society is prepared to help sponsor bear cubs for rehabilitation at the Northern Lights sanctuary in Smithers. However, according to Thin, certain criteria must be met for this to happen. Most importantly, the Conservation Service primarily rehabilitates only first-year cubs who have lost their mothers. Whether or not a cub is habituated to human food sources is another factor in making a decision to rehabilitate. Thin says he has personally relocated over a dozen bear cubs from New Denver/Silverton and four or five in the Nakusp area over the past ten years.

“We get this all the time — people tell us, if I donate money, will we send it to rehab? The costs aren’t even a consideration. When I see a bear that’s dragging its hind end around in somebody’s backyard, we destroy it; it’s a no-brainer.”

COs are trained in when and how to apply euthanasia, or how to immobilize and care for a bear destined for rehab, though they do not have veterinary training. A CO’s primary mandate is public safety and enforcement of regulations. The current training standard is an eight-month program at the Western Law Enforcement Academy that includes some basic wildlife biology.

Thin says that thanks to New Denver being a Bear Smart community, having a Wildsafe coordinator and the Harvest Share program for harvesting fruit, he’s had no occasions to destroy bears here in the past two years. Neither are Conservation Officers designed to be an on-call nuisance bear removal service.

“People are calling us and requesting that we destroy a bear but if it’s not a clear danger to the public, that’s just not how it’s done anymore. Let’s not hold our bears public, that’s just not how it’s done anymore. Let’s not hold our bears.”

**Magic B Home Services comes to Kaslo**

submitted

Are you a ‘snowbird’ who prefers to spend your winters in the sunny south, but need someone to look after your house while you’re gone? Has a sudden family emergency left you just needing someone to help with the house cleaning? Then you should consider contacting Beata at Magic B Home Services.

The business will include house cleaning, housesitting, and dog-sitting. This is a new venture for Beata, whose previous career was in dentistry for 20 years, working as an assistant to a specialist in children’s dentistry and dental surgery. She says fate drew her to her new home in Kaslo and that meant a change of occupation.

“I’ve been working with people and with children all my life. It’s my second year in Kaslo and I realized there’s a big need for services like this. I’m looking forward to helping the community.”

Customers can have her references on request. Magic B Home Services will be available to clients in both Kaslo and surrounding areas.

**Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra to perform at Silverton Gallery**

submitted

Bring your body – ears, feet and all – to the Silverton Gallery on September 12 to join the Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra for an evening of music and communal celebration. Doors open at 7 pm to a night of frolicking fun for everyone. The band will be performing their original and reimagined English, Spanish and Italian roots and folk songs that are sure to get feet tapping, hands clapping and hearts beating.

The Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra are a collection of musicians linked by common sonic journeys and familial ties. It doesn’t matter much how they got here, but rather that they are traveling with each other. Here are the troubadours to remind you that this music could not exist without warm bodies in search of harmony.

Tickets are available on a sliding scale from $15 to $20, family tickets are $30. For more information contact Claire Paradis, Silverton Gallery, 250-265-7173.

**Magic B Home Services**

- Bathroom Renovations
- Carpentry and More....

Over 20 yrs Experience
WCB/Licensed/Insured
Vik 250-505-6509
wauvikrenos@yahoo.ca

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**September 6, 2018 The Valley Voice**

**PHOTO CREDIT: ART JOYCE**

**by Art Joyce**

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Silverton Building Supplies moves into new era

**by Katrine Campbell**

It’s the end of an era, as after nearly half a century Silverton Building Supplies moves from the hands of the Hammond family into those of father-and-son duo Clarence and Tim denBok.

Steve Hammond moved to the valley in the early 1970s when his family bought the iconic Silverton General Store. With his brothers Lee and Clyde, Steve established SBS in the basement and officially incorporated the business in 1988. In 1999 they expanded and built the current building in the lot next door.

2018 has been a good year, says Danika Hammond, Steve’s daughter. “Steve and his team had a fantastic 30th year in the community. SBS won first prize in the New Denver May Day Parade’s Business Category, although this was definitely not the first time, as well as the Dick Hambly Cup at Silverton’s Canada Day bocce tournament.”

“Being involved in local events has always been a value held by Steve, who also sat on the Chamber of Commerce board for many years. Beyond SBS, Steve incorporated the business in 1988. Steve’s co-owner Tim denBlok has worked for SBS for six years. When the business was up for sale, another person approached the denBloks in late March to partner in buying it. That person later dropped out, but the two some decided to go it alone and finalized the deal in August.

“I started thinking about owning the business ever since I’ve been working there,” says Tim. “It had been a dream but only became possible 10 weeks ago.”

“It was a great opportunity for us, a great opportunity for Tim – I certainly wouldn’t be doing it on my own,” adds Clarence.

“Tim has a degree in International Business and Supply Chain Management, which until now he hadn’t been able to put to use. He was an initial attack wildland firefighter in northern Alberta, and moved to the Slocan Valley ‘on faith.’ He worked odd jobs until taking the job with SBS “because it was a full-time job. Those are scarce in the valley.” The degree has given him the confidence to buy and manage SBS, he says, giving him the tools to make it successful.

Clarence is a butcher by trade, most recently at New Market Foods in New Denver. Before that, he and his former partner co-founded and ran a music school in Edmonton for several decades.

The denBloks look forward to “carrying SBS forward and building on that legacy.” They invite customers to tell them how SBS can serve them better and confirm their commitment “to supporting the incredible volunteerism” and continue to be a “proud supporter and advocate of causes that are important to the well-being of our communities.”

Finally, a message from Steve Hammond: “Thank you so much to all our customers who have supported us through all of these years. Your friendship through all the thick and thin means so much to me. We could not have done it without you … great gratitude for Dave [Welch] and all the staff who, over the many years have contributed so much.”

Steve will still own the Silverton General Store and plans to rent the space to Danika’s brainchild, the newly-created non-profit Silverton Co-work Society.
Valhalla Fine Arts celebrates successful 2018 season

Valhalla Fine Arts (VFA) Society first took shape in 1999 when Heather Huether and John Kadz launched the Valhalla Summer School of Music. In the years that followed other summer programs were added under the Society’s umbrella. Now, almost two decades later, the Society oversees numerous programs and initiatives in support of the arts in the Slocan Lake area.

The VFA counts on its Your Town Raffle as the local fundraising campaign to provide bursaries for local families. Every cent spent for tickets stays in the community. Prizes are tokens to spend at local businesses and after raising the prize money of $1,750 all proceeds go directly to music bursaries. This year the winners were Debbie Hicks $1,000, Susan Johnson $500 and Yu Ishikawa $250.

“VFA is successful because of the community we live in,” says VFAS President Katrina Samrall. “Our local school, Lucerne Elementary where Bill grew up, is essential. The community halls, our businesses, coffee shops, restaurants, families who house the people, the community is essential to the community and the locals who attend performances all contribute to making this a positive experience for participants and locals.”

Expanded clinical reports (for example, cardiac and other outpatient reports, discharge summaries, neurodiagnostics and others) will be available to all patients in September.

For more information, visit http://www.valhallafinearts.org/site/.

by Moe Lyons

If you noticed a lot of happy strangers humming and mumming in the streets and on the beaches around Silverton and New Denver earlier this summer, it is because the 2018 VFA season brought so many visitors as participants in their impressive variety of programs.

This July, the summer season opened with Music Explorers for the very young, taught by local voice and piano teacher Kelly Coubrough, with Julia Greenlaw. At the same time others were studying and performing theatre and dance with Mark Ikeda and Slava Doval, joined by Nicole Weimer and Delta during the second week.

August brought Suzuki Camp, the Valhalla Summer School of Music, Voice, and the String Orchestra for Adults Retreat (SOAR) for violin, viola and cello. As well, the society introduced the new Vox Valhalla program for older teen and adult singers and a Cello Symposium. Sessions on voice and choir were a particularly wonderful addition, offered by Kelly Coubrough with support from Melissa Braun. The Cello Symposium in Hills attracted 12 students under the instruction of John Kadz and Johanna Perron.

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Councillor Main to attend FCM conference in Nova Scotia submitted

Silverton Councillor Leah Main will spend part of September in Nova Scotia at a meeting of the Board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Main was elected by her British Columbia colleagues to serve on the Board for a fourth consecutive year, representing smaller jurisdictions to participate in federal funding and programs in ways that are accessible to all of Canada’s communities regardless of size.

FCM is a national organization comprised of local government elected officials from throughout Canada – over 2,000 communities and municipalities ranging in size from the millions to the dozens. As well as providing a forum for these representatives to share the challenges and triumphs they encounter while governing their communities, FCM lobbies and works with the federal government to bring to their attention local concerns, and to craft delivery of federal funding and programs in ways that are accessible to all of Canada’s communities regardless of size.

The September Board meeting will focus on refining the work of each of the organization’s Standing Committees that focus on particular aspects of public governance and delivery of programs at the national level. Policy decisions are then made by the whole Board, and FCM representatives (usually Table Officers and senior staff) adhere to these policies in our work with Federal Ministers, Members of Parliament, Departments and Commissions.

Main sits on several of these Committees, including Municipal Infrastructure and Transportation Policy (of which she is Co-Chair); Rural Forum; Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development; Increasing Women’s Participation in Local Government; Conference Planning; and she is Vice-Chair of the BC Caucus on this Board.

“The job we on the Board are so passionate about is twofold: to connect all of the communities of Canada to each other, and to bring the concerns of local government to the attention of the federal government,” says Main.

Main is sponsored in this capacity by the RDCK, where she is a Director representing Silverton. The major portion of expenses for her attendance at Board meetings are paid through the Union of BC Municipalities’ Small Communities Fund, which helps our smaller jurisdictions to participate and have a voice regardless of ability to pay.

Upcoming shows at the Hidden Garden Gallery submitted

Susan Fox Haywood will be showing her work at the Hidden Garden Gallery, August 28 to September 2 in her show titled “Retrospective of Photo-drawings, Photos, and Works on Paper.” The reception is on Wednesday, August 29 from 7-9 pm with live music by Dirty Laundry. This show brings together artwork from her travels in Europe, Africa and Asia. Photo-drawings from the exhibition of Japanese-inspired works are being shown next to samples from portfolios of India/Nepal and Ethiopia that were exhibited at the Palms Springs Desert Museum in California.

Victoria Mitchell will exhibit her paintings September 4 to 9 with a reception on Tuesday, September 4 from 7-9 pm, featuring music by Freya. This final show of the Hidden Garden Gallery’s 2018 summer season is titled Tethered Freedom. Victoria is very much looking forward to sharing more of her work with the Kootenay community, and it is especially meaningful for her that the show is in the home town of her mother, Kay Costly-White.

For more information on Victoria and her work please visit victoriamichelestudio.com. Her work can be seen via Instagram at victoriamichelestudio.

The Hidden Garden Gallery is located at 112 Sloan Ave, New Denver behind Sweet Dreams Guesthouse, and is open 10 am to 3 pm Tuesday through Sunday. For more information please visit www.hiddengardengallery.ca.

Interior Health announces expanded online health portal submitted

Residents of the East Kootenay and Boundary regions are among the first to benefit as MyHealthPortal clinical report content continues to expand. The portal provides patients with 24-hour secure online access to their Interior Health lab results, medical imaging reports, visit history, and certain appointment details and instructions. Now, online content will also include some dictated clinical reports from physicians, nurse practitioners and midwives.

People who wish to enrol should ask to have their email address added to their patient record. Once their email has been added to their chart, patients can go to: www.interiorhealth.ca to complete and submit the ‘Request to Enrol’ form.

Expanded clinical reports (for example, cardiac and other outpatient reports, discharge summaries, neurodiagnostics and others) will be available to all patients in September.

Access for mature minors aged 12-18 years old will also begin during this service expansion. Those under 11 years old will not be provided access to a MyHealthPortal account; however, proxy access may be granted to their parent or legal guardian.

Obituary for Bill Moore

Bill Moore passed away peacefully in his sleep at home as he wished on August 31st, 2018. Bill was born in London, England in 1946, the son of an Englishwoman and a Canadian soldier. After the war, they settled in southern Ontario where Bill grew up. He attended Queen’s University and the University of Toronto, where he secured a degree in English.

Bill’s lifework was with children not only as parent, but as a childcare worker, youth worker and teacher. He relocated to Nelson in 1980 and in 1982 became the founding chair of Nelson’s Waldorf School Association. In 1986 he completed teacher training at Simon Fraser University, returning to Nelson to establish Lake Street School, an independent middle school which he considered to be one of his greatest achievements.

During his years in Nelson, he was involved with a number of Boards and was the initiator of the Nelson Friends of Refugees. In 2009, Bill jumped off the edge of the world, traveling blind and alone to China and settling in the extreme southwest where he engaged for a year in community economic development with blind people. He crash-landed back in Nelson in 2010.

Bill also wrote: poetry, essays, metaphysical works and a novel, Yellow Dog Coming.

In addition to his generosity, kindness and compassion, he will be remembered for his sense of humour, his piano playing, his tarot reading and his own brand of personal coaching.

In lieu of flowers, donations generously requested to the Nelson Friends of Refugees https://chimp.net/groups/nelson-friends-of-refugees or send a cheque made out to Nelson Friends of Refugees to Francyne Lubbette 1118 Stanley St, Nelson, BC, V1L 1P5.

There will be an open ‘Whisky & Stories’ gathering in the backyard at 301 Hart (on the corner of Kootenay and Hart) on Saturday, September 22nd from 2-4 pm. Anyone with a connection to Bill is welcome.
To See or Not to See performance coming to Kootenay Gallery

submitted

There will be an exciting new dramatic performance to see this September at the Kootenay Gallery. The one-woman show, To See or Not to See; Homecoming, was written and is performed by Creston resident Ruth Bieber. There will be two performances, one on Saturday September 15 at 7 pm and one on Sunday September 16 at 2 pm.

In 1956, playwright Ruth Bieber, second daughter of post-World War II immigrant parents begins life in rural Alberta. The farm life, her father’s dream, holds devastating consequences for the six-week old infant, her mother, and ultimately the family as a whole. Bieber’s intimate, multimedia solo show takes us into the story of one woman’s campus and soul-searching journey of adventure, discovery, and ultimate forgiveness. The memoir, although intensely personal, is universal in its dramatic and historic appeal.

Join Bieber and musician Mario Melissa for this production. The show is one hour, followed by a post-show discussion. The purchase of a ticket includes admittance to both showings. Attendees will have the option of experiencing the play blindfolded during one show and not blindfolded during the other.

Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for students ages 16 and up only. They can be purchased in advance from the Kootenay Gallery or at the door. Please note, tickets can be paid for by cash or cheque only, with cheques made out to Ruth Bieber.

Thank you to sponsors Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and Columbia Basin Trust for their financial support of this production.

The Kootenay Gallery is located at 120 Heritage Way in Castlegar. It is across the road from the airport, next to the Doukhobor Discovery Centre. For more information, contact 250-365-3337, email kootenaygallery@telus.net or check the website at www.kootenaygallery.com/to-see-or-not-to-see/

Get your premium flower bulbs from SLGS at Garlic Fest

submitted

Have you ever bought fancy tulip bulbs only to have them eaten or fail to bloom in their second year? The Slocan Lake Garden Society (a.k.a. SLGS) has a solution for you – reliable deer proof Narcissus and Allium bulbs. This year we will be selling an expanded selection of Narcissus in glorious shades of white, orange, and peach. Providing a perfect complementary colour, there will also be purple and white three-foot (one metre) high fragrant Alliums. We’ll also have the favourite, King Alfred tulip.

For a special Narcissus ticket, check out dwarf Jutine and Quails (fragrant, naturalizing) and Whirling Butterfly (cream and peach with whorled petals). Look for the SLGS BULB SALE booth #145, just inside the South Entry. SLGS uses all proceeds for maintenance and improvements at the Kolan Reflected Garden. Besides helping you with your bulb choices, our volunteer staff can sell you a $5 Society Membership or a $5 Fall Draw raffle ticket. First prize: 24 hours of garden work by SLGS volunteers in Fall or Spring. Draw on September 14.

WRKAC offers Copyright for Artists workshop

submitted

With the massive amount of media being easily shared digitally, how do we know what’s fair to use or what others can use to our advantage? This is the challenge of our digital age. As an artist, the copyright is a major part of your business. This workshop will unravel the shifting and evolving legal issues that need to be a major part of your business as an artist. This workshop is recommended for all creators: visual artists, media artists, composers, writers, performing artists, and photographers and is approximately 1.5 hours in length, plus Q & A. The Copyright for Artists workshop was developed by Artists’ Legal Outreach, artistslegaloutreach.com, which is a group of volunteer lawyers and law students committed to working with artists and arts organizations. ALO offers resources, workshops and clinics across BC. This workshop is offered with the generous support of The Province of British Columbia. For further information about this workshop, please contact WRKAC at 250-352-2842, toll free: 1-888-450-2787 or e-mail: wrkacassist@telus.net.
The Valley Voice
September 6, 2018

VISITOR INFORMATION

HOT SPRINGS

Balchon Hot Springs Resort & Spa : Nakusp (250) 265-1063

CamPGrounds

Nakup Municipal Campground - Nakusp

Creston-Kootenay Lake Campground - Creston (250) 265-4212

KBR Campground - Nakusp

Takulak Campground - Nakusp

Silverton Municipal Campground - Silverton

Valhalla Pines Guesthouse and Campground - Nakusp

Woodbury Resort and Marina - Kaslo

West Kootenay Park Management Inc.

McDonald Creek Provincial Park - Nakusp

Rosbery Provincial Park - Nakusp

Summit Lake Provincial Park - Summit Lake

RESTAURANTS & ACCOMMODATIONS

The Paddy Shack - Nakusp

The Lodge at Arrow Lakes - Nakusp

Cottage in Hills - Nakusp

William Hunter Cabins - Silverton

Karibu Park Cottages & Campgrounds - Wéskan

Forni’s Bakery - Wénlar

Paradise Valley Lodge - Wénlar

Woodbury Resort & J.B.’s Restaurant/Pub - Kaslo

Kaslo Golf Clubhouse Restaurant - Kaslo

VISITOR INFORMATION

GALLERIES

Studio Connexion Gallery - Fine Art - Nakusp

Hidden Garden Gallery - New Denver

Mirage Studio – Fine Art – Portraits - Wénlar

The Langham Cultural Centre - Kaslo

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

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New owner transforms hot springs into vacation destination

by Moe Lyons

Kootenay residents were treated to a glimpse of a wonderful new local attraction September 1st and 2nd. Kootenay Hot Spring Cabins, located next door to Halcyon Resort, is on its way to becoming a favourite getaway or romantic setting for both locals and visitors. Saturday night one lucky couple had their names picked during a draw for a free getaway and another draw on Sunday night put a smile on the faces of some very happy people.

Two years ago, George Pan and Yingli Li from Edmonton bought this beautiful 12-acre hot springs property. In April 2018 excavation began and on September 1st, 2018 they proudly presented the first two unique cabins to the public at an exciting open house. Visitors admired the special features in each cabin, including pine ceilings, concrete heated floors, a Regency concrete hot spring tubs, a private hot tub. They love the place and want the world to hear about its healing properties. Now they are ready to invite folks from near and far to come rest and rejuvenate in the cabins.

Yingli Li from Edmonton bought the property connected to the Kootenay Hot Springs Cabins and is now working with a contractor to build another six more basic, gorgeous piece of land. They plan to help local governments create trails for all interests, travelling through some of our most beautiful forests, mountains and wonderful vistas. We have a hiking schedule every year and everyone is welcome. Cedar Grove, Box Lake and Vicky’s View are short and relatively gentle hikes. The Hot Springs Trail is longer and considered a moderate hike, but really anyone in reasonable shape can complete it. There is a secure fenced area, and there is a trailhead at the Hot Springs after the hike! Kuskanax Mountain South Trail (Hot Springs Rd.), Kimbol Lake and Saddle Mountain Lookout Trail are longer and a bit more challenging and have a beautiful view of the Selkirk and Monashee mountains. Kuskanax Mountain North Trail (Turner Rd.) is a trail anyone can hike and the 15 kilometre access road gets you into the alpine quickly. Saddle Mountain fire lookout has been restored and is suitable for overnight stays. The Nakooplook at Summit Lake Trail is a gentle hike ride or walk south of Nakusp.

KOOTENAY HOT SPRINGS CABINS

Kootenay Hot Springs Cabins hosted an Open House September 1st and 2nd to show off their beautiful new facility. About 100 people showed up to tour the facility. Many of these trails are suitable to snowshoe or ski and some are multi-use. Most access roads require an all-wheel or 4X4 drive high-clearance vehicle.

We would like to recognize those volunteers who are keeping our trails in good condition despite rain, wind and snow storms – Barb, Jerry, Frank, Wulf, Bianca, Jo, Warren, Terry, Roland and Reg. Aiden, Barb, Bianca, Erica and Ashley look after administrative duties. We always need more volunteers for maintenance, public relations, planning hikes and many other tasks. Contact us at nakuspatrials@ gmail.com.

Trail conditions can be shared by the Province through www.nakusp.ca, links from the Nakusp town website www.nakusp.ca.

Funding available to expand rural high-speed internet connectivity projects which will deliver connectivity to entire regions. Transport infrastructure moves data long distances between small towns to where it can be offloaded to the internet. This infrastructure is necessary for communities to complete last-mile connections to homes and businesses. NDIT is also accepting applications for projects connecting homes and businesses directly. Both transport infrastructure and last-mile project types are eligible to receive a portion of the $16-million funding. Successful applicants could receive up to a 50 percent contribution for project costs. Eligible applicants include internet-service providers, local governments, First Nations and non-profit organizations. This third funding stream is also available to help local governments create delivery for all residents.”

KOOTENAY Boundary Regional Hospital and its health-care workers have served people in the area well since it opened in 1954.” said Kootenay West MLA Katrine Conroy. “The work that is going to be done will better support the emergency health-care needs of people in Trail and throughout the region.”

Contractor chosen for Trail hospital upgrades

by Moe Lyons

Ledcor Construction Ltd. has been selected as the general contractor overseeing construction of the emergency department and electrical redevelopment project at Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital (KBRH). Construction is expected to start in the weeks ahead and the new emergency department is expected to open to patients in 2020.

Plans for the emergency department redevelopment include a single-storey addition to the existing building that will significantly expand the size of the existing department to address immediate space and service challenges, and to accommodate projected patient care needs for years to come. The redevelopment will feature updated and expanded trauma bays, exam rooms and procedure rooms, and will add an airbridge isolation and secure room to the emergency department.

Significant transformer and electrical upgrades are also included.

The project budget is expected to cost approximately $19.05 million, to be shared by the Province through the Rural Alternatives Research & Training Society (RARTS). AGM

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September 6, 2018

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The Valley Voice

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Nakusp Museum gets approval for regular staff funding

by Art Joyce

The Nakusp and District Museum is breathing a sigh of relief, knowing it will now have guaranteed annual funding for a seasonal staff person. The museum’s application for alternate approval through the municipal and regional taxation has been approved, says Linda Dixon, Chair of the society. It will receive $20,000 annually to pay one employee $20 per hour for the six-month height-of-season period typically ending in October.

Dixon first met with RDCK Area K Director for Operations Bart Chenuz while Director of Recreation and Parks Terry Welsh and Public Works Director of Operations Bert Chemz will be taking on the project management. Terry Flammond had been hired as the on-site supervisor. Welsh said the team has already hired many local contractors, and are able to project a budget in line with what the museum could afford otherwise.

• Nakusp council voted in favour of participating in a wildfire mitigation service organized by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK). The service will include fuel treatment planning and prescriptions, an operational fuel treatment program, FireSmart programs, improvements to wildfire response and wildfire mitigation grants. When the service request is passed by the board, tax payers will pay $0.82 per $100,000 of property assessed.
• There was a brief discussion about complaints from a resident living on 16th Ave about people camping overnight, littering and having a really big piece of land near the mouth of the Kuskuskan.
• Councillor Mueller said she was against blocking access because part of the Village is a municipal park. People don’t know where the Crown land is versus the private land that is rented to campers, she said. “I don’t want to stop people from going there and enjoying their two weeks for free.”
• The Village of Nakusp has applied for the public art grant and will receive $20,000, along with another $5,000 from a private donor who will be part of the adjudication committee.
• Councillor Uli Mueller told council that the Nakusp Public Library has hired a new director who will be coming from Cairo with her child. The library held its biggest book sale ever this past summer.
• Terry Welsh, Director of Recreation and Parks reported that July was the best month ever for Hot Springs and Cedar Chalets, thanks to high water levels and more room in the chalets and campground. Visitors to the Springs have dropped in August due to forest fires and smoky conditions in the region.
• Bart Chemz, new Director of Operations for Nakusp’s Public Works, says the expansion of North Road services is coming along and should be done in early September. And a portion of Nakusp East Road will be blocked for a few weeks until the water main to a house is repaired.
• Recreation and Parks has a new ride-on mower, which came in under budget at $44,000. Public Works will be trying out a snow blower for a week or so, and if the snow blower works well and reduces the amount of work needed to keep Nakusp streets clear of snow, the Village will pay for it.
• There will be a new gate with a lock at the airport, after Public Works caught wind of cars on the runway — as well as seeing the evidence of no trespassing signs. People don’t know where the Crown land is.

Nakusp & the Arrow Lakes: Village to manage Downtown Revitalization

by Claire Paradis

The Village of Downtown Revitalization Project now has a management team made up of Village staff. After receiving only one bid that was not acceptable, the Village decided to take over managing the project. CAO Laurie Taylor and Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Mark Tennant will take up the financial management, while Director of Recreation and Parks Terry Welsh and Public Works Director of Operations Bart Chemz will be taking on the project management. Terry Flammond had been hired as the on-site supervisor. Welsh said the team has already hired many local contractors, and are able to

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2005 CHEVY OPTRA, in Hills (16 km north of New Denver). Open Fine Art Photography by CHIAROSCURO PHOTOGRAPHIC on Saturdays 10–3. Fridays 8:45–4:30 and at the Kaslo Market

VEGETABLES
Kaslo EDC.

for this position thanks to CBT and RDCK/Langham, Kaslo. 250-353-8363. Funding Thursday 9-12 or by appointment. #23 The Office hours: Tuesday 1-3, Wednesday & Thursday 9-12 or by appointment. #20 The

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS TO SLOCAN PARK

WANTED: Visual Artists

The Hidden Garden Gallery is now accepting applications for its 2019 season. Please apply to Exhibitor, c/o Box 201, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0, by October 10. Along with a brief description of your work, its size, the number of pieces and medium used, include a few photographs and/or a CD of your work.

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September 8–9, 10 am to 4 pm. McCormick Road. Saturday/Sunday, moving. Household items, tools, garden tools, downsizing ready for stuff too! September 7–9. Signs on Hwy.

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ST. ANTHONY’S FLEA MARKET:

welcomes members and guests.

TEXAS HOLD’EM TOURNAMENT:

Members & guests.

September 6, 2018

The Valley Voice


TEXAS HOLD’EM TOURNAMENT:

Saturday, September 22, 6:30 pm sharp at the Slocan Legion, 502 Harold St, Slocan. $30 buy-in. Advance tickets at Mountain Valley Station in Slocan or phone 250-355-2072 to reserve. The Legion welcomes members & guests.

ST. ANTHONY’S FLEA MARKET:

Wednesday, September 26, 12-2 pm at the Castlegar fire hall in Silverton. Only 5 minutes from the Co-op. New and used furniture, books, clothing & home decor. $5 entrance fee.

Derived from Coconut Creek Last Wish Wishes Society.

PROFESSIONAL TREATMENT & SPACER

Don’t put gas cylinders or other hazardous items in the recycling bin, as they may explode during transport and processing. Take gas cylinders to the depot.


ARE ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS A PROBLEM IN YOUR LIFE? AA, NA AND AL-ANON (FAMILY) MEETINGS CAN HELP.

For more at www.alanoncanada.org.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA):

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HOME garden

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Popular mystery, fiction, 50 cents. LPs, CDs, DVDs. BLOWOUT BOOK SALE:


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WREATH MAKING

Sunday, Sept. 23, 10 am – 3 pm. $2 drop in. Coffee Time!

KIDS


Proper propane tank disposal to reduce risk of injury

In the fall, British Columbians enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, picnics and barbecues or have empty or partially empty gas cylinders left over. Unfortunately, improper disposal of hazardous cylinders by putting them in the recycling bin creates a serious fire risk.

The most common types of high-risk items this time of year are disposable propane cylinders, butane cans and lighter fluid containers. Other examples include reusable propane canisters, helium balloons and oxygen cylinders used for home health.

Because compressed gases are under high pressure, the cylinder may explode or burst when heated or dropped. Small sparks can cause flammable and combustible material to catch fire. Cell phone and computer batteries also present an explosion and fire risk to recycling crews. Don’t put gas cylinders or other hazardous items in the recycling bin, as they may explode during transportation or processing. Take gas cylinders to the depot.

The Recyclepedia (rcbc.ca) allows you to search for a nearby depot by selecting which item you need to recycle, and where you live. Or call the recycling hotline at 1-800-667-4321, or email hotline@rcbc.ca.

KIDS


Judo:

5:15 – 7 pm, Ages 6 – 10 yrs.

Soccer:

4:30 – 5:30 pm, Slocan Park Hall.

Kids Indoor Soccer:

Mini Soccer (3 – 4 yrs) Mondays Sept. 24, 30, 11 – 12:30 pm Slocan Park Hall.


KIDS (6 – 10 yrs) 3:30 – 5 pm 309. ADULTS 5:15 – 7 pm 969.

Fall Leisure Guide is out now! www. rdcx.ca Fall programs starting in September.
KOP Co-op to hold AGM and seek new members

submitted

The Kootenay Outdoor Producer Co-op is pleased to announce that we will be holding our initial AGM on Saturday, September 29 in Nelson at the Rod & Gun Club, 801 Railway Street, from 2-6 pm. We are accepting applications for board members, farmland owners, growers with land, and accepting nominations for the September 12.

Prior to the AGM at 4:30 there will be a public meeting at 3 pm to discuss and answer any questions about the Co-op along with an opportunity for people to purchase a $100 Co-op Membership and answer any questions about the Co-op. A public meeting at 3 pm to discuss at agriculture shows, conferences, agriculture association events and annual general meetings. Previously, there were no official requirements for people who were selling or marketing BC food products as organic. Certifying bodies, such as members of the Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC), will ensure organic standards and requirements are met by producers and processors. The BC government will enforce any misuse of the term ‘organic.’ It will use a graduated enforcement approach that initially will focus on bringing businesses and individuals into compliance through education and warnings. Uncertified operators marketing their food or beverage products as ‘organic’ face possible penalties, including a $500 fine.

Certified organic operators will have the BC Certified Organic Checkmark, the Canadian organic logo or both logos on their products, as well as having valid certification at their business. COABC also maintains lists of certified organic companies operating within BC under the COABC umbrella.

BC organic products must now be certified

submitted

As of September 1, all food and beverages sold as ‘organic’ in BC must be certified through an accredited provincial or federal program. Under a new provincial regulation, organic food and beverage operators are now required to maintain up-to-date proof of certification. The regulation follows consultation with organic operators in 2015, and a subsequent transition period that included multiple announcements, an awareness campaign targeting growers, outreach at agriculture shows, conferences, agriculture association events and annual general meetings. Previously, there were no official requirements for people who were selling or marketing BC food products as organic. Certifying bodies, such as members of the Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC), will ensure organic standards and requirements are met by producers and processors. The BC government will enforce any misuse of the term ‘organic.’ It will use a graduated enforcement approach that initially will focus on bringing businesses and individuals into compliance through education and warnings. Uncertified operators marketing their food or beverage products as ‘organic’ face possible penalties, including a $500 fine.

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COMMUNITY

Storage and distribution. Our crop will be grown on a combination of leased farmland and small owner grown farms. Contact us at kootenay.outdoor@gmail.com for information about the positions and applications.

GROWING would be done by land owner; 2) Craft: 10,000 square feet of operating farms – 20 of each of our

industry knowledge to lead a small
team and oversee our mother/clone production of 100,000 for next year as well as our genetics program. The Kootenay Outdoor Producer Co-op is a multi stakeholder co-op that is being formed and funded locally to promote regional economic development through the production of organic outdoor cannabis on underutilized agricultural land in the RDCK. We will operate central facilities for clone production, post-harvest processing,

New Market Foods

Downtown Winlaw • 250-355-2299

Gaia Tree Whole Foods Community Market

Cultural diversity, all organic, all organic grains – bulk ordering. Community discount day: Last Friday of the month 9-4 Mon-Sat. Sunday 10-4 Downtown Winlaw • 250-226-7255

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Community Discount Day: Last Friday of the month
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Raven Acupuncture moves to Nelson
submitted

Acupuncture practitioner Brendan Murray-Nellis has received notice that he must move his practice from its current location at the Kaslo Integrative Health Clinic. His practice has been offered “a beautiful space” at the Sante Holistic Health Centre at 350 Baker Street in Nelson. But despite the sudden notice he says recent events in his life indicate it may have been time to move on anyway. September 12 will be Brendan’s last day at the Kaslo Integrative Health Clinic as he will need to be moved out by the 15th.

“After searching for another Kaslo clinic location, I was driving home at night and hit a bear on Highway 31A. The bear and I are both okay but it was a wake-up call for me after five years commuting on that treacherous, winding highway. While picking up pieces of car in the highway during the middle of the night the bear clearly became a symbol for me to shift away from Kaslo. It was the second time that I’ve ruined a car on that road and quite a close call this time.”

Raven Acupuncture maintains a roving practice to better serve his Slocan Valley clients. Brendan’s Slocan schedule is Thursday to Saturday 10 am–6 pm, in Winlaw on alternating Wednesdays from 10 am–6 pm, and Nelson on alternating Wednesdays from 10 am–6 pm.

“Nelson is a central location for many of you from the entire region that have come in for acupuncture over the years. It’s my hope that those of you from the northern end of Kootenay Lake will continue to see me there.”

To make appointments contact 250-551-2581 or visit www.ravenacupuncture.com.

37th Annual Rosebery Regatta held September 3
by Dan Nicholson

A brisk wind accompanied the 37th running of the Rosebery Regatta, September 3, 2018 the annual homemade toy boat race on Rosebery Bay. Many vessels were swamped by the heavy waves that accompanied the squall. This was not a good year for pool noodle construction, or the high-masted vessels or yore.

Instead, it was young Wren, daughter of Robin McNabb and Mayor Jason Clarke of Silverton who carried the day, with her pop-bottle, balloon and wooden kitchen spoon creation.

The wind in the first heat swamped the heavily-favoured Blue Note 2, a vessel commanded by former commodore, Judith Maltz. Like many high-masted vessels the boat was capsized by an errant gust. Maltz rallied in the second heat, by lowering sail. Indeed her boat was about to touch shore, when one of the judges caught a bribe and saw nothing. Everyone agrees that Wren looks smashing in epaulettes and will make a fine commodore for next year’s races.
WKRAC offers nonprofit workshop on legal issues

Submitted

The WK Regional Arts Council is offering two workshops with a focus on arts and heritage organizations, presented by lawyer Martha Rans. Legal Bootcamp for Non-Profits is a one day program designed for senior leadership and Board members in the non-profit and charitable sector. The workshops will be held at the Nelson Chamber of Commerce, 91 Baker St., Nelson, on September 14, 10 am – 4 pm. The cost is $15 for WKRAC members, $25 for non-members. The course provides foundational knowledge and capacity to identify, plan for, and respond to legal issues that can arise in the managing of an arts and heritage non-profit and will include: governance and accountability, privacy, employment and human rights and changes to the Societies Act in BC.

Participants will have an opportunity to explore real-life situations, identify the distinctions between legal and non-legal problems, gain knowledge about how lawyers and the legal system address such issues, discuss relevant legislation governing non-profit and charitable organizations and strategies for risk management.

Limited travel subsidies (partial, towards mileage) are available to WK arts and heritage organizations who are members in the non-profit and charitable sector. To apply, contact Sandra Hartline at 250-352-9871 or to register, visit: www.wkartscouncil.com and click on ‘workshops.’

Local teacher nominated for BC Education Awards

by Art Joyce

Lucerne school teacher Katrina Sumrall has been nominated among 27 other finalists for the inaugural Premier’s Awards for Excellence in Education. The awards honour the efforts of those who go above and beyond to make life better for students in BC. Sumrall is one of three finalists for the Community Engagement Award.

Criteria for the Community Engagement Award include that the nominated teacher: 1) increased students’ understanding of good citizenship by integrating community involvement within the classroom; 2) improved community life by linking students, parents, and the community in innovative and meaningful ways; 3) coordinated community services to be accessible to students and their families; and 4) actively participates in their community.

Nominations are open to all individuals who hold a BC teaching certificate and actively participate in their community life by linking students, parents, and the community in innovative and meaningful ways; 3) coordinated community services to be accessible to students and their families; and 4) actively participates in their community. Sumrall has been nominated among 27 other finalists for the Community Engagement Award.

Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony held October 5 at Government House in Victoria for World Teachers’ Day. Premier John Horgan, Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, and Lt. Governor Janet Austin will be in attendance.