Local Fair Vote reps talk proportional representation at the Vallican Whole

by Jan McMurray

Fair Vote Canada volunteers Ann Remnant and Sjeng Derkx gave a presentation at the Vallican Whole on October 25 about proportional representation and the BC Referendum on Electoral Reform. Ballots have arrived in the mail, and must be returned to Elections BC in the envelope provided by November 30.

“Fair Vote Canada is a grassroots organization advocating for proportional representation throughout Canada at all levels of government,” Remnant explained. She said she and Derkx, along with many other “moms and pops” across the province who feel strongly about proportional representation, have been working hard to raise awareness about the opportunity the BC referendum provides to change our current ‘first past the post’ (FPTP) system.

“A lot of people are very disillusioned with the current system,” Derkx said. “People under 45 – less than half of them vote every election. It’s not a good sign of a healthy democracy.”

Remnant and Derkx outlined the problems with our current FPTP voting system, as follows.

There are a lot of wasted votes – many people’s votes simply don’t count.

We frequently end up with false majority governments, where, for example, a government with 40% of the votes gets 100% of the power.

The system forces us to vote strategically, so instead of voting for the candidate of our choice, we vote for another to prevent our least favourite candidate from winning.

The system also results in “policy lurches,” which can be expensive. For example, the Harper government eliminated the long form census and now Trudeau is bringing it back.

Finally, FPTP encourages hyper partisanship and polarized politics.

Vallican resident Marcia Braundy said she went to question period in Victoria a year ago and was “appalled by the rude and disgusting remarks being made, towards women in particular.”

Remnant showed a clip of former MLA Corky Evans speaking at a Fair Vote event at Lakeside Park on September 25 about the toxic, uncooperative culture at the legislature.

“There is a cafeteria in the basement and they sit on opposite sides,” he said. “Everyone is looking to see if you are talking to the bad guys. I think they all came with the integrity to believe in something and say it out loud but they come into a culture where talking to those folks is not only irrelevant but it’s dangerous to your career.”

Remnant and Derkx then explained proportional representation (PR), where the number of votes determines the number of seats a party gets in the legislature: “30% of our votes equals 30% of the seats equals 30% of the power,” Derkx said. This is the key tenet of the system.

Voter turnout is higher, and 15% more youth vote in PR countries than in FPTP countries. More women and minorities are elected under PR.

Strategic voting is eliminated. “PR is easier for voters because we don’t have to vote strategically. All those worries are gone – you can just vote for who you want,” Remnant said.

‘Policy lurch’ is also virtually eliminated. Government policies are more stable.

The only western democracies still using FPTP are Canada, the USA, and the UK. Ninety-four countries in the world use some form of PR (no two continued on page 6
Local elections bring changes big and small to our local governments

by Jan McMurray

The October 20 civic elections brought some big changes to New Denver and Nakusp councils, and smaller changes to Silverton, Slocan, and Kaslo councils, and the School District 10 board of education.

New Denver has a brand new mayor and council. Leonard Caskey is the new mayor elected with 62% of the vote (165 votes). He won out over incumbent Ann Bunka, who received 38% of the vote (101 votes). The new councillors are Colin Moss (85.7%; 228 votes); Yvonne Gustafson (69.2%; 184 votes); John Fyke (62.8%; 167 votes); and Gerald Wagner (52.6%; 140 votes). George McEwen (49.2%; 131 votes); and June McMillan (42.9%; 114 votes) were not elected. Voter turnout was very good at 76% - 266 people out of a possible 349 went out to the polls. New Denver had the highest voter turnout of all elections in the Valley Voice coverage area.

Tom Zelznek is the new mayor of Nakusp, with 83.6% of the vote (561 votes). Bob Lafleur, the other mayoral candidate, received 15.8% of the vote (106 votes). The new councillors are Susan Cheuk (76.4%; 404 votes); Janis Neufeld (66.6% or 447 votes); Joseph Hughes (61.5% or 413 votes); and Aidan McLaren-Caut (54.3%; or 365 votes). Councillor candidates not elected were incumbent Len Heppner (239 votes), incumbent Bill Tobey (238 votes), Remy Kitto (198 votes) and Lee Rooks (76 votes). Voter turnout was 53%. There were 671 votes cast out of a possible 1,270.

In Silverton, Jason Clarke returns as mayor. He won the election with 80% of the vote (168 votes) while the other Mayoral contender, Don Broughton, received 20% of the vote (17 votes). All councillors were elected by acclamation: Leah Main and Arlene Yofonoff are both returning, and Kerry Gordon and Tanya Gordon are new. Voter turnout was 61%. Out of 140 eligible voters, 85 cast their ballot.

In Slocan, Jessica Lunn was re-elected mayor by acclamation. The three returning councillors easily won back their seats, so the election was between the two new candidates, Eva Buller and Denise Dafoit. Buller won with 76 votes (65%) compared to Dafoit’s 73 (62.8%). Joel Pelletier got 97 votes (82.9%); madeleine Perriere got 91 votes (77.8%); and Burly Van Byen got 85 (72.6%). Voter turnout was 48%, with 117 people out of 242 casting their ballots.

Kasho’s council is full of familiar faces. Susan Hewat is back as mayor, with 45% of the vote (260 votes). Andy Shadrack came a close second with 247 votes (42.7%) and Pat Mackle trailed behind with 68 votes (11.8%). The four councillors are Molly Leathwood (426 votes; 74%), Kellie Knoll (404 votes; 69.9%), Henry Van Mill (386 votes, 66.8%); and Robert Lang (321 votes; 55.5%). Councillor candidates who were not elected were John Rasmussen (229 votes; 39.6%); Michael Halliday (105 votes; 18.2%). Voter turnout was 69% - 578 votes were cast out of a possible 842.

In School District 10 Arrow Lakes, the two elected at large trustees are Christine Dixon-Groot (622 votes; 49.4%) and Lorna LeBeeker (528 votes; 50.4%). The other two uncontested candidates are such at large districts were Aidan McLaren-Caut (404 votes; 38.5%); and Judy Struck (392 votes; 37.4%). Melissa Teindl (central zone), Rhonda Farrell (eastern zone) and Danyea Simon (south zone) were all elected by acclamation. Voter turnout for the SD10 election was 20%. Out of a possible 5,200 voters, only 1,048 cast their ballots.

In School District 8 Kootenay Lake, Slocan Valley trustee Sharon Nazaroff and Kaslo & Area D trustee Dawn Lang were re-elected by acclamation. Also acclaimed were Bill Mcleod (Nelson; Belly Point), Shiri Walsh (Nelson/ Beatty Point), Lenora Trenaman (east shore and north shore), and Becky Coons (Creston). Elected by voting were Susan Cheuk (Salmo, Taghum and Blewett), Cody Beebe (south rural zone) and Allan Gribbin (north rural zone).

Regional District of Central Kootenay Area D, H, and K directors were all re-elected by acclamation. Area A Director Walter Popoff re-elected to represent the people of the North Kootenay Lake area; Walter Popoff returns to represent the people of the Slocan Valley and Bonnington; and Paul Peterson returns to represent the people of the Arrow Lakes. Other rural area directors are: Garry Jackman (Area A East Shore); Tanya Wall (Area B Creston area); Adam Casemore (Area C Creston-area); Ramona Faust (Area E Balfour area); Tom Newell (Area F Nelson area); Hans Cunningham (Area G Ymir and Salmo area); Andy Davidson (Area I Castlegar area); and Rick Smith (Area J Lower Arrow/Columbia).

Resounding no for Winlaw mosquito control

Mosquito control will not be happening in the Winlaw area. In the referendum on the subject on October 20, the overwhelming majority of Winlaw area residents voted no.

The number of ‘no’ ballots cast was 339 (74%); the number of ‘yes’ votes was 118 (26%). Three ballots were spoiled. A total of 460 people voted out of 1,107 – a 41.5% voter turnout.

“I was impressed by the high voter turnout for the referendum,” said Area H Director Walter Popoff in an RDCK press release. “The community has given us their clear and decisive direction on this issue.”

The referendum question asked if residents were in favour of a bylaw establishing the Winlaw and Area Mosquito Control Service at a maximum annual cost to taxpayers of $1 per $1,000 of assessed property value within the service area, or $74,400 in total. The service area was defined as the area extending from north of Vallican to just south of the Village of Slocan. The eligible voters in the referendum were the residents and property owners in the proposed service area.

In 2003, a referendum on the same issue failed by a clear majority (67%). Area H Director Walter Popoff agreed to have another referendum this year when he was presented with a petition in favour of mosquito control with 200 signatures. The RDCK board hired Morrow Bioscience Ltd. to complete a feasibility study, which was presented to the community at Winlaw Hall on April 8 this year.

The feasibility study cost approximately $6,000, and was paid for out of the RDCK’s feasibility study budget. All RDCK property owners pay into this fund.

The referendum cost approximately $4,000-$4,500, reports Randy Matheson, RDCK regional chief elections officer, and will be paid for out of the Rural Administration service, which only rural RDCK property owners pay into.

If the referendum had been successful, the cost of the referendum would have been paid for by the property owners in the service area.
Kootenay Outdoor Producers Co-op marks cannabis legalization day with first AGM

by Moe Lyons

On October 17, the day Canada’s new cannabis legislation became law, the Kootenay Outdoor Producers Co-op held their very first annual general meeting, attended by Todd Veri from Kaslo, president and CEO of the Nelson Chamber of Commerce.

About 50 people were present at this historical event, and several others attended via Skype.

The meeting was chaired by Todd Veri from Kaslo, president and spokesperson of the organization.

The AGM opened with a presentation, and followed the usual financial report with statements, largely because most of the money discussed is not yet actually held by the organization.

The co-op’s money is being run through Lostشفت Farm’s account (controlled by Veri), as the co-op has not yet been able to convince its preferred banker, Nelson District Credit Union, to take them on as a client.

Now that the industry is legal, Veri said he is hopeful the hoped-for capital will come on side. If necessary, the co-op will approach other credit unions in the area.

The plan is for the co-op to be capitalized with 300 investment shares at $4,900 each.

So far, 150 shares have been claimed, but there were 150 shares available, so the plan is to use that money to buy a farm.

The co-op’s income so far is approximately $40,000 from 17 early investment shares, and around $13,000 from about 140 founding members.

Expenses total about $44,000; $24,000 has been spent to date (about half of which is lawyers’ fees), plus anticipated upfront lease costs of $13,000. This leaves about $10,000 in the bank.

The plan is for the co-op to be capitalized with 300 investment shares at $4,900 each. At one point, there were 150 shares claimed, but that number has dropped to 132, which would provide $646,800 in capital.

The co-op is confident the numbers will increase now that the process is actually underway.

Until the co-op has a bank account, it is not asking founding members to come up with the money for their investment shares.

Thus the majority of the capital on which this venture will run exists only on paper.

Veri says that in conversations with Health Canada, it has become clear that outdoor operations were not factored into the government’s overall picture, and were a last-minute addition.

“We’re still in a state of flux,” states Veri. “There has been chaos around this for years. We need to be flexible and open-minded.”

However, he has managed to find out that one of the co-op’s farms has to be the “central farm.” The co-op has its eye on a home base they hope to acquire by next fall, a “very attractive property” about 20+ acres, near Nelson.

The co-op has had about 30 farms apply, and expects to have 60 by spring. These farms have not yet been visited, but can now that the law is in place.

Each small farm involved will have a separate licence and will have their own security clearances. Thus far, eight of the farms are organic, the remainder transitional. The intention is for all the crops to be organically certified.

When it comes to the product, the co-op has put out a call and found a number of “genetics.” So far they have 10 strains of local cannabis “proven to be finisher.”

What’s next? First come the equipment and lights for the nursery.

A projected 100,000 small clones will come onto the streams in April or May. Half of these are to go to farms, and half will be packaged in four-packs and mailed directly for home-growing.

On the farms, after the approval forms and certification are sorted out, fencing and site setup will begin in the spring. These costs will be the responsibility of the individual farms. The co-op is hoping the bank will allow small loans to growers, with the co-op’s backing.

The main work force will consist of 20 full-time workers, as well as about 50 casuals, and the pay scale will have the co-op choosing about $13/hour and $15/hour, for the co-op, which is partnering with Work BC, and will be responsible for “ultra-seasonal,” and trimmers will be paid by the pound.

While the proposed wages look good, the co-op, which is partnering with Work BC, sees some “serious challenges” finding enough workers, particularly since they will be competing both with the black market and with indoor grow ops that operate year-round.

Besides, says Veri with a chuckle, “It is exceptionally difficult in the Kootenays to get people to work.”

There will be a probationary period for employees.

Marketing should start “sometime next summer.” The co-op will go onto social media as soon as they have something to show.

They may be able to sell some clones online in the spring, and they expect to get their product to retailers in September or October.

How will the business be run?

The board will hire the managers. Only after all the managers have been hired will they hire a General Manager, who will oversee all the operations.

Two new board members were elected at the meeting, Laurie McDonald, executive director of a non-profit in Ymir, has extensive experience working with boards. She has experience writing grants and fundraising and has managed large-scale projects. She says she is “super-stoked about the model and keeping it local.” Carrie Nichols is a bookkeeper and has a good grasp of financial statements. She has worked on several boards, and has worked for 10 years for a registered charity.

She lives in Salmo and has been in the Kootenays for 20 years. These two join Todd Veri, Cristin Williams, and Andrew Green.

Veri said the co-op has received “lots of push-back” on its call to ban hemp in the West Kootenays. He said the concern was about cross-fertilization ruining the crop, and what they really wanted to stop was hemp seed production.

What he hadn’t realized is that there are people growing “feminized hemp” with a high CBD content, for medicinal purposes.

He clarified that the co-op has no problem with these operations. The final item of business was the logo contest. The winning design won by a considerable margin and was created by Louis Forte. He will receive $1,000 up front and further payment for any modifications required.

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Mosquito Referendum Vote
I wish to thank all voters who turned out for the referendum vote on the mosquito issue. People participated because they wanted a voice and that voice spoke. I also thank those who were able to lend a helping hand to inform people of the real issues regarding mosquito control. Businesses that allowed information flyers to be present in their place of business for anyone who wanted more information, thank you. Not everyone will be pleased with the outcome of this vote, but equiplitarianism spoke.

Maggie Teiner
Winlaw

A Matter of Focus
Vision is often a matter of focus; the difference between the end of your nose and a distant horizon. In terms of meaningful and measurable climate policy, Canada and many of the Provinces cannot escape the call of their collective nose. The information from the UN’s IPCC report is not new, it re-affirms what is already known. The missing link is vision and the political will to make a change. That change needs serious participation from us all. We all need to consider what is beyond the end of our nose. There is no future for a change. First we need the vision.

Ron Robinson
Nelson

Make corporations pay for plastic
Urged by voters, various governments have attempted, with varying degrees of success, to hold corporations responsible for their products.

We have seen the tobacco industry pay towards the health care costs incurred by smokers.

More recently, the BC government has initiated efforts to take the pharmaceutical companies to task for their contributed indiscriminate distribution

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY
The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.
Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.
Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your name and address on the letter.

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

The one environment question
...and cut our emissions in half by 2050. That would be truly listening to the world’s scientists. The IPCC has provided merely $10 million in financial incentives for the Kitimat LNG project – this on top of the hundreds of millions of dollars given annually in subsidies to the fossil fuel industry in BC.

The one environment question in the town hall referenced the green-tech sector, which gave Mungall the opportunity to tout the Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund. Unfortunately ICE has provided merely $10 million annually to clean-tech over the last 10 years. This is clearly dwarfed by the massive suite of fossil fuel subsidies, tax breaks and royalty credits given away each year.

If Mungall’s government is truly committed to reducing emissions and positioning BC as a champion of the clean energy economy, they would have a clear plan to honour Canada’s G7 commitment to phase out fossil fuels by 2025. That would be truly listening to the world’s scientists. The IPCC has provided merely $10 million in financial incentives for the Kitimat LNG project – this on top of the hundreds of millions of dollars given annually in subsidies to the fossil fuel industry in BC.

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Agriculture Committee does good work

This summer the provincial government’s Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish, and Food consulted with small-scale meat producers/processors and other stakeholders to get a better understanding of the challenges that face traditional, small-scale meat shops. After travelling extensively this year to learn about food processing systems and regulations in Europe it became clear that not all jurisdictions have the accessibility that we do to our governing bodies. In general, while traditional craft is often protected from over-regulation in the regions we visited, the ability to consult and complain directly to those officials that create and enforce regulation was almost unheard of.

The committee has released its report for those interested, and has come up with 21 recommendations, many of which, if implemented will have a positive effect on local food security in rural BC. Recommendations could include a more active public engagement and promotion of the “Buy BC” program, and enhanced skilled labour and training availability. Other regions, like the West Kootenays, that have never recovered from the effects of the creation of Meat Kootenays, that have never recovered from the effects of the creation of Meat Kootenays, would benefit greatly from these recommendations.

Kyle Wiebe
President, BC Meatsworks
Beasley

Please help Nakusp
RCPM in McNeill
family home investigation

My husband Dr. Colin McNeill and I lived in Nakusp on the Arrow Lakes for 30 years from 1971 until he was forced to retire in 2001. My husband’s patients spanned the whole area up and down the Arrow Lakes and also over to New Denver, Silverton, Slocan; up to Trout Lake and as far away as Revelstoke, Vernon, Calgary, and Nelson, Trail. Creston areas. His patients returned from far and wide to visit him when he worked in the community. In their gratitude to him he received many, many gifts from his patients. Memories of these times and his family time in the community are his gifts.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. With all our friends and neighbours, over the years, they have been a village to our children. Our children attended school and all extracurricular activities so that our friends and neighbours became their friends and neighbours and remain so today. Our lives and happy memories are intertwined with Nakusp as we have maintained a strong connection to our community. We reacquired our family home in Nakusp. We pay our Village taxes.

In our home we have all our personal belongings, photographs, paintings, one children’s tokens, gifts, cards and school mementos from their different grades that were given to us, their parents, as our children grew up. Our happy family memories are wrapped up within these belongings.

It is devastating to know that our privacy has been breached as our home has been broken into and vandalized. There is evidence of possible predation as someone older had to be involved. We know that all our belongings have been rummaged through and scattered among the children in the village.

Unfortunately for us, many things may not be considered precious to others, but they are to us and our children.

Please assist the RCPM in their investigation. By assisting them, you are helping us. If your child has or has received an unexplained belonging—whether it is a card, a poem, drawing, photograph, piece of jewellery, a decorative item or some inconsequential unexplained item, please place it in a box or bag and drop it off the police station.

To our friends and neighbours: We are grateful for all your help and your support of our family.

Sherrill McNeill
Vancouver

Single women deserve their homes

When I first heard that two candidates for New Denver Council thought the problem of a lack of housing in the village was caused partly by too many widowed women living in large houses, I had a hearty laugh. They reportedly thought the situation could be rectified by asking single ladies to move into smaller houses. I thought it was a joke. It was only after I read the letter by Morgen Bardin in your previous issue, that I recognized it was unkind. Since I wasn’t at the meeting, I’ll assume here Ms. Bardin’s account was correct.

Before Council (inaudibly, I’m sure) finds itself pressuring widows (and presumably other single women) out of their homes, perhaps this Innovative idea should be followed out to its logical extensions. To start off with, suppose the women refuse to budge? (As a member of the targeted group, I would advise that there is a high likelihood of this.) The plan would come to naught. Unless, hmmm ... the Village could put up a friendly pamphlet encouraging single women, especially those living in larger houses so that married people could move in who would be useful in increasing the village population. Even single men would be a better use of the space.

In our home, there are two bedrooms, it is a fact, that the whole Village would be better off if they would move, some probably will. But what about the stubborn ones? Imagine the inequality? Some of them would move into Council approved abodes, while others would scandalously continue to enjoy their gardens, their pets, the space they have developed around them.

Perhaps a couple of Councillors could visit each recalcitrant woman and explain to her that she would be more than compensated for this loss by new friendships in the budding colony of single women in small houses. If that doesn’t dislodge them, Council can pass a bylaw regulating how much space a single woman could be allowed to take up in the town. But — alas and alack — by then the obstreperous females would already be too deeply ensconced in their home court. If anyone is wondering where that would go, get on the Internet and take a peak at the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Anne Sherrod
New Denver

Laird Creek watershed lobbed

In the October 18 edition of the Valley Voice (p.23) you published a short piece on the information camp set up at the bottom of the logging road leading to the Laird Creek watershed. Included was the following quote from Bill Kestell, operations manager for Cooper Creek Cedar, Ltd which we think is highly misleading:

“T’m not saying people are saying, ‘Cooper Creek Cedar you are wonderful coming here to log,’ but the engagement process has been pretty positive and respectful. They don’t agree with everything we’re doing, but there’s no mandate to interfere in the personal lives of villagers other than to enforce the laws of the municipality. And there would also be squabbles over how much space is too much. This could be solved easily, however. Council could pass a bylaw regulating how much space a single woman could be allowed to take up in the town. But — alas and alack — by then the obstreperous females would already be too deeply ensconced in their home court. If anyone is wondering where that would go, get on the Internet and take a peak at the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.”

Anne Sherrod
New Denver

Mosquito referendum

I hear that even though someone had caught stealing signed petitions opposing mosquito control, this fact was ignored — that thousands of taxpayer dollars were spent doing a feasibility study re: using BTI to control mosquitoes, money that would have been better spent on health care, transportation, education, housing, etc. — that people living downstream from the proposed "spray zone" were not allowed to vote even though they would be taxed by the chemical leaching into the river.

Is this an example of the democratic process at work in the Slocan Valley? Since mosquito control was wholly defeated a few years back, why were we considering it again? Another question. People move to the country to get away from the city. So why do they then want to make the country as sterile as the city? Insects of all stripes are an essential part of the environment. If we want to live in the country, we need to learn to live with them.

Personally, I grew up in muskogey northern Alberta where mosquitoes, mosquitos, and flies, and other bug-biting insects were a fact of life. This was long before DEET or any other bug repellent was available or even invented. We wore long sleeves, long trousers, hats, and scarves when it was buggy times.

Fortunately, the referendum to control mosquitoes using BTI was defeated. A big thanks to all Slocan Valley residents who were allowed to vote and voted against another chemical onslaught on our fragile environment. 

Sally Baugh
Passmore

Fedu up with alternative medicine

I am so fed up with people who trash modern medical practices in favour of alternative medicine. Did you really think Reiki would repair your torn anterior cruciate ligament? You have poor eyesight. Do you expect a faith healer or a shaman to fight off the cold you have? You can’t go back to cholera epidemics, can you? Today, a child with cystic fibrosis can have his lungs cleared, treated with defibrillators and telemetric monitoring. Do you really believe in homeopathy, acupuncture or Thai massage, bully for you! If you have syphilis, you need powerful antibiotics, not a faith healer, a shaman, or the Dalai Lama.

There is a reason why you have cancer, syphilis or heart disease. Do you expect a faith healer or a shaman to cure your disease? The reason is you have a deficiency or a disease that needs antibiotics, insulin and offer diabetics fruit and vegetables fresh and raw, eat vegetarian. Yes, eucalyptus oils work for a bad cold or a sinus infection, and many homeo, patients, and multiple sclerosis patients find relief. "Edibles." But does that mean we should abolish insulin and offer diabetics aromatherapy or a joint? I am just asking.

If you find relief in Reiki, foot reflexology, osteopathy, homeopathy, aromatherapy, blue-green algae, Carbon 60, yoga, acupuncture or Thai massage, bully for you! I am very happy for you. I am very happy for you. But — alas and alack — by then the obstreperous females would already be too deeply ensconced in their home court. If anyone is wondering where that would go, get on the Internet and take a peak at the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. 

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Sally Baugh
Passmore
Local Fair Vote reps talk proportional representation at the Valkyanne Whole

continued from page 1

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Question 2 asks which PR system you prefer out of a choice of three, and asks you to rank them. Remnant said it is not mandatory to answer this question, and many people are relieved when they hear this. She also said that if you vote for FPTP in question 1, you can still answer question 2. If the majority of people vote for PR in question 1, we will adopt the system that gets the most votes in question 2. Both Remnant and Derkx urged people not to get overly concerned about question 2, saying “It doesn’t really matter which system we get,” Derkx said. “It doesn’t make that much difference. These things evolve. Whichever system we choose will evolve. Keep the big picture in mind. Question 1 is the most important.”

Remnant and Derkx said their preference is the Rural-Urban system, “but I will be delighted if we get one of the other ones. There is nothing bad, nothing scary,” Remnant said.

Derkx explained that the three systems proposed on the ballot all meet certain criteria that were determined in the public engagement process launched in November last year, led by Attorney General David Eby. “In the Rural-Urban system, we want to keep our local representation. We want most of our votes to count. We want to vote for real people. We want to be simple to understand. We don’t want more politicians,” said Derkx. “Attorney General David Eby has said all three systems will give proportional results; no region will have fewer MLAs than it has now, and there will be no significant increase in the total number of MLAs.”

Derkx described all three systems as “FPTP Plus” – “because FPTP is good for local representation. We keep our local representatives and add proportional representation.”

In the Dual Member system, we would double the size of the ridings and each riding would have two MLAs. Two existing ridings would be amalgamated into one. The first MLA would be elected by FPTP, and the second one would be elected based on the province-wide outcome. Electing the second MLA adds proportionality. Both MLAs in the new, bigger riding would be from the riding. People would get one vote only, so would vote for one candidate and one MLA. BC’s very largest ridings would not change and would continue to elect only one candidate via FPTP. In response to a question from the public, Remnant said, “This one gives us less choice. You can’t vote across party lines and you only get one vote.”

Mixed Member

In the Mixed Member system, we would elect both a local candidate and a regional candidate. Ridings would be 40% larger than they are now. Six ridings would become four, and there would be four local MLAs and two regional MLAs. The two regional

MLAs ensure proportionality.

Rural-Urban

In the Rural-Urban system, we would have different systems for rural and urban ridings. Rural voters would use Mixed Member (described above), and urban voters would use STV (Single Transferable Vote). Ridings would be 20% larger than they are now.

If a PR system is chosen, there will be an all-party committee that will sit down together and hash out the details,” Remnant said, and the Electoral Boundaries Commission will decide the boundaries of the ridings. Derkx added, “There will be public consultation. There will be a process. It will probably take about a year. If we choose PR, there will be a referendum after two elections.

Another option recommended by OECTA is the use of power-line radiation meters to monitor the impact of microwaves and other wireless devices that make use of existing school wiring.

Close on the heels of the US National Toxicology Program study released in 2017 showing definitive links with RFR exposure to cancers in laboratory mice, Dr. Anthony Miller of the University of Toronto announced at scientific conferences that the use of wireless technology has reached a “consensus of risk.” This was corroborated by a statement from Physicians for Safe Technology that “the time has come to take the next point of emerging science similar to early recognition of health impacts associated with tobacco, asbestos, coal dust and lead.”

Parental concerns lead to Wi-Fi switch at WE Graham school

by Art Joyce

A “kill switch” for Wi-Fi is being installed in the WE Graham Elementary in Slocan as a result of parental concerns about their children’s exposure to microwave spectrum radiation. Principal Mike Hurley said the school district always tries to see issues from both sides and is willing to respect parents’ concerns whether the district agrees with them or not.”

“Let’s face it, the teaching is about learning, and if the system is blocking the learning, then we turn it off. It’s not convenient, so we’re not choosing the convenient route, but it’s respectful and responsible to the children and their parents,” Hurley said.

Winlaw Elementary is another school in School District 5 that had a “kill switch” installed in 2013 in response to parental pressure. This was completed by the time current principal Jon Francis arrived. He says parents seem to be happy with the switch and that the district is better off because it’s a “no brainer.”

School District 8 policy supports “seamless access to web-based technologies, rather than... periodic use of technology in dedicated computer labs or single user classroom stations.” It is understood that wireless networks allow for greater student mobility and enhance learning opportunities in a flexible environment.” However, according to Superintendent Dr. Christine Perkins, “We are all aware the wireless industry, and school boards must work together in the future to continue to evolve and support parents and families in that area.”

Canadian radiofrequency radiation expert Dr. Magda Havas of Trent University has written in an “Open Letter to Teachers and School Boards Regarding Wi-Fi Networks in Schools”. “Children are more sensitive to wireless technologies and that includes microwave radiation. A wireless computer (Wi-Fi) exposes your entire upper body and if you have the computer on your lap, it exposes your reproductive organs as well. Certainly this is not desirable, especially for younger children and teenagers. For this reason, we need to discourage the use of wireless technology by children, especially in elementary schools.”

Dr. Havas and many other international experts recommend a wide connection if possible for children.

Individual school boards across Canada and elsewhere have had to grapple with the growing body of scientific literature – now numbering into the thousands of studies – linking microwave exposure to biological effects. Already by January 2005, the Vancouver School Board had passed a resolution that prohibits construction of cellular antennas within 1,000 feet (305 metres) of schools and daycares.

Like WE Graham and Winlaw Elementary, the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) has favoured having Wi-Fi “kill switches.” It issued a policy paper advising the precautionary approach in classrooms: “Controls for Wi-Fi would best be guided by the ALARA principle (As Low As Reasonably Achievable), as well as by applying the concept of prudent avoidance.”

Ontario Catholic schools are instructed to use one of the five Wi-Fi vendors, and to use a traditional Ethernet infrastructure, and, “where new network connections are required, add to the existing wired network by running new wiring to that location.”

Bosun Hall studies done: time to choose an option

by Katrine Campbell

The question of whether to renovate Bosun Hall or to tear it down and build a new one was put up to the new New Denver council.

The Village of New Denver has determined that the cost of the first phase of renovations – improve foundations and build a new roof – would be in the range of $600,000 – $700,000. The cost to renovate the walls is still unknown, but it’s expected the costs to go up to $3,100,000. The proposed new hall would be about the same size as the old hall, but the mezzanine and balcony would be opened up and a basement built.

The new council will decide which way to go. Staff will present them with a report sometime in the near future, but the mezzanine and balcony would be opened up and a basement built.

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Pickleball: an explanation and an invitation submitted

Pickleball is a sport played with a paddle larger than a table tennis paddle on a badminton court with a net like a tennis net and a ball much like a wiffle ball. It thus claims to be a paddle larger than a table tennis paddle and parking is available next to the soccer pitch. Besides opening the door to these facilities, registration guarantees you will know about schedule changes, and some are coming. A special open house with free instruction and play is planned for some time in November. Watch for an announcement.

Kaslo Search and Rescue working hard to keep area safe submitted

After one of the busiest years on record (2017), Kaslo Search and Rescue is on track to break that number in the next few weeks.

What to do with all the bears? submitted

The Friends of the Lardeau River have invited Dr. Michael Proctor to be their November presenter. The Friends of the Lardeau River’s school gym. Pickleball Kaslo is growing quickly and hopes to find recreation partners, sponsors and grant funding for a new outdoor facility. Current thinking is to accommodate pickleball, tennis and basketball with a micro version of the just-opened Nelson venue. Perhaps more sports should take advantage of such an initiative and your ideas or questions are welcome at pickleball@kaslo.org.

Province is part of the Trans-Border Bear Conservation Issues’ will be his November presenter. ‘The Province has invited Dr. Michael Proctor to

The program includes strategic private land purchases to reduce human densities in wildlife corridors, efforts to secure bear attractants where human settlement and agriculture exist, and non-lethal management of conflict bears and more. Attractive management includes cost-share electric fencing and other techniques, bear-resistant garbage containers, and deadstock containment.

Kaslo Search and Rescue working hard to keep area safe submitted

Aside from a hectic training schedule and new certifications for their technicians, the team continues to respond to motor vehicle accidents, mountain rescues, lake rescues and other emergencies that fall into their area of responsibility.

While the organization was able to benefit from a solid intake of new recruits (10 additional members that are GSAR certified) and train them at the beginning of this year, the demands of the volunteer roles always mean that there is a place for new members.

“...in the past the nature of the roles we have played us to be generalist in training. Today however, the size of the organisation and the demands put on it require that we start streamlining technicians into areas of key responsibilities,” said Stefan Lettrari. “We are working hard, together with other SAR teams in the area, developing focussed swift water, mountain rescue and helicopter line teams who are all capable in more fine-tuned disciplines. We hope to stream technicians into focussed areas which makes it more exciting for new applicants also.’’

The quality of training for new members qualifies them at the leading edge of the industry in each discipline and allows them to be productive volunteers.

For more information on how to volunteer for Kaslo Search and Rescue, contact 250-353-2917.

• Kaslo Search and Rescue reminds you that with winter approaching, it is time to get your vehicle serviced to make sure it is in the best shape possible for the extreme climate we experience. Don’t forget that some form of snow tire is now mandatory on the passes around Kaslo and the safest option is a tire with the mountain and snowflake logo on it. In order to maintain control of your vehicle in snowy and icy conditions, make sure all four tires are the same pattern and similar tread wear.

For more information, visit facebook.com/kaslosar

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription Only $10-$30

The support I received on Election Day was incredible and I owe it to you. With your trust, I will work tirelessly on your behalf to address challenges, and to secure leading and meaningful improvements to Kaslo. Not only am I thankful for your support, but also for all the candidates who offer to serve our community and seek solutions for public problems. It is not easy to put oneself out there in such a public forum, so I give credit to those with the initiative to do so.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to be committed to Kaslo.

- Henry Van Mill
by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

• An extra-long public participation period allowed for an extended and at times, heated discussion about the upcoming cell tower phone tower. Ricole Cabot, a resident of Tulameen, asked that the installation be delayed.

Kevin Millership, a resident of Brandon in the RICX, said “it disgusts me and revolts me” that there had been no open house about the cell tower. “Shame on you” he said, “for not allowing us to talk to Tulameen.” Mayor Lunn replied, “We did receive a ton of comments,” but an issue is how small the Village would be compared to cell towers in Greenwood and Grand Forks. Cabot explained radiation from multiple sources “a stacking thing” and said that radiation was proven to be carcinogenic. Mayor Lunn replied, “a lot of things are carcinogenic… the sun… It’s a matter of looking at the whole picture.”

• Council was delighted to accept an offer from FortisBC to change the streetlights on the Village portion of the trail so that they would be LED by informing residents of radiation danger, including that cell phones should be kept 5/8 away from the body at all times. He asked for information on total EMF radiation in the Village. Ezra Bueller, candidate for council, asked for data on average community levels.

Mayor Lunn said there was no data on this and talked about how small the Village’s tower would be compared to cell towers in Greenwood and Grand Forks. Cabot explained radiation from multiple sources “a stacking thing” and said this radiation had been proven to be carcinogenic. Mayor Lunn replied, “a lot of things are carcinogenic… the sun… It’s a matter of looking at the whole picture.”

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**Slocan Waterfront Development Strategy: waterfront tour engages the public**

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy


The Waterfront Development Strategy will be a long-term plan for the waterfront west of the mill site and will include conceptual drawings, cost estimates, and a report with recommendations. About 15 people participated in the almost two-hour tour and discussion. In attendance were local residents, Mayor Jessica Lunn, Councillor Joel Pelletier, Public Works Supervisor Tim Hill, Susan McKenzie, Remax realtor for the Springer Creek Forest Products former mill site, and Ralph Tomlin, Springer Creek property manager.

The boat launch was described as a “pinch point” where safety is a big concern. Jones and Blyth agreed that there needs to be a “continuous pedestrian thoroughfare” between the beach and the rail trail. Boaters backing up cannot see pedestrians. The power line crossing the launch area is both a danger (if sailors don’t know to remove masts before driving under it) and a cause of congestion. Sailors must put up and remove their masts while tied up to the dock, a time-consuming procedure. Tim Hill said a lot of kayakers and canoers would like to have their own launch area on the east side of the public beach where the old dock used to be.

A more welcome main entry to the beach, possibly with a timber frame arch to celebrate Slocan’s logging history, would create a “sense of arrival,” said Jones. Blyth asked if the earth berm and the fence between the beach and the parking lot should be removed. Dave Boultham pointed out that the berm is a windbreak, and others noted that the berm keeps the beach private and hides the parking lot. On the other hand, pedestrians on Harold and Arthur Streets and Delany Avenue are denied a view of the beach. Jones said he has had a plan for extending and rearranging the beach area and burrying the escape buffer but open up the area so that there are more entries to the beach.

Jones also suggested extending the use of the waterfront through the shoulder seasons and winter by adding a warming hut or windbreak. Residents were concerned that a hut would draw transients – already there are issues with people camping at the beach, in the gazebo, and at the Owl Walk. Jones said the shelter would not need to have a heat source or door, it could just be a place for skiers or snowshoers to get out of the wind.

Residents said they would like children’s and adults’ beach recreation areas to be separated, especially now that pot smoking is legal. A playground and family picnic areas could be created on the west side of the beach. Adding changing rooms, moving the beach bathroom closer to the launch, extending and rearranging the adult recreation areas, removing the power pole and overhead lines, and burying the electric power to the washrooms were also discussed. Creating a walking/biking trail along the waterfront to connect to the rail trail, and landscaping the former beach parking lot area were other ideas.

A design for the waterfront is complicated because the Village owns the beach area and part of the former mill site on Main Street; no one knows what will happen on the adjacent lands owned by Canadian Pacific and Springer Creek Forest Products. For years, Canadian Pacific has not responded to requests for information about their plans for the land they own by the Village beach (part of the parking lot), and the former Springer Creek mill site is for sale. Ralph Tomlin, Springer Creek property manager, said, “We are happy to work with the Village on the planning process, keeping in mind that the owners would not like to see the value of the property eroded as part of the process.” Susan McKenzie, realtor, was also concerned that the waterfront plan would “de-value” the mill property.

Blyth answered that “it could work the other way too” – that a plan could add value to the surrounding land. He said it would be a “concept plan” and not binding. Once there is a community vision, he said there will be an opportunity for any new owner to work with the Village. Jones said once the Village has a long-term plan, there will be different ways it can move ahead. The Village could look into land swaps, land purchases, or agreements — for example to “formalize and consolidate” the parking arrangements.

Another unknown is what will happen to the foreshore in front of the mill property. Springer Creek Forest Products currently leases the foreshore from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development. Jones said he knows there is a desire to connect Tunnel Road (the old highway) with a trail along the foreshore by the mill site to the beachfront, “but we can’t dictate what happens on the mill site.” Jones said he would keep the design plan “fairly loose.” Blyth agreed, saying this design plan is “loose” and that they would have “a goal-based approach.” For some areas, he and Jones would just make general recommendations. Blyth noted “the high level of community interest” in the plan. In addition to the tour, 160 area residents have responded to an online waterfront plan survey. Those responses are currently being reviewed for incorporation into the plan.

Jones and Blyth will present the draft Waterfront Development Strategy at an open house at 6 pm on November 20 at the Slocan Legion Hall. The community will be able to make further suggestions at the event that will be considered for the final plan.

The Village of Slocan received a grant from the BC Rural Dividend Fund for the development of this plan and contracted Larch Landscape Architecture and Selkirk Planning & Design. The two firms created a design plan for Slocan’s commercial core on Harold Street earlier this year.

Several members of the public toured the Slocan waterfront on October 15 with the consultants who are creating the Waterfront Development Strategy.

Free arts and culture grant writing workshops submitted

Want to learn more about how to apply for arts and culture grants delivered by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance? Attend a free workshop with Krista Patterson, who will share how to apply and what to expect from the application process.

Individuals working in all artistic disciplines as well as arts and cultural organizations residing in the Columbia Basin are invited to attend the workshops. The Columbia Basin Trust’s arts and culture grants are managed and administered by CKCA. The Trust proudly supports initiatives and projects that spotlight Basin arts and culture, and for 2019/20, the arts and culture grant program allocation is $751,000.
Protesters ‘Occupy Telus’ at Slocan cell tower site

by Art Joyce

A small group turned up the morning of October 18 to protest the installation of a Telus cell tower on Humo Street in Slocan. Among them were parents who cited concerns about potential health risks to their children attending WE Graham school about 100 metres from the site.

The protestors were disappointed that Village council turned down an offer by Telus to hold a public meeting. An offer by resident Daphne Fields to present information to council was also declined. However, Mayor Jessica Lunn says the Village has received input from over 200 people. “All letters, emails and petitions have been read and forwarded to Telus. Telus has responded to written submissions. We also heard from members of the public at our council meetings.”

Mayor Lunn says the Village sought a third party analysis of Health Canada’s Safety Code 6, which regulates radiation exposure standards in Canada. “The small antennae being installed will result in less exposure at base of pole than emitted by WiFi routers located in homes and schools (0.74% of Health Canada’s maximum threshold – and even less as you move farther away from the pole). This means that at maximum power of the site, the area at ground level with the highest exposure would be less than 1% of the maximum value (represented at 100%) that Health Canada considers to be safe to occupy on a 24/7 basis.”

Yet several international experts have criticized Safety Code 6. Dr. Magda Havas of Trent University, one of the country’s leading researchers on the topic, says the Health Canada guidelines are “totally arbitrary, they have nothing to do with science and they’re certainly not protective. Those guidelines have been in existence for a long time and they have no relationship whatsoever with the scientific research that has been done on the health effects.”

Kevin Millership said prior to the announcement that Slocan council had requested cell service from Telus, he’d only been vaguely aware of the issues, but has since found plenty of evidence to support his concerns. “Two $25 million studies just came out linking it to cancer. It’s not a possible carcinogen anymore, it’s a probable carcinogen.”

Kevin Millership is considering launching legal action against the Village. “I went to council and told them they have a legal liability to inform people of the risks of using that technology. So they could be ordered to provide multiple notices to everybody in the city to use it only for short durations, use text over talk, or use a headset instead of putting it up against your head in order to bring down the radiation levels. And if they don’t do that, they could be legally liable for all the damages.”

Mayor Lunn said a strong motivating factor for cell service in the village is the economic stimulus it would provide, as outlined in the Slocan Valley Economic Development strategy. Ricole and Kai Cabodyna moved from Calgary because they were attracted by the lack of cell service in Slocan and the area’s pristine nature. The Cabodynas says it’s a missed opportunity to market Slocan as a ‘white zone’ for people suffering from radiation sensitive individuals seeking refuge from wireless radiation exposure.

Without your continued generous support we would not be so successful in our fund raising efforts.

The lucky winner was Cindy Fertato.

COMMUNITY

Eleanor Marjorie Quirk

Eleanor was born in Horsforth, England, March 2nd, 1955 to parents Gwynneth and John Quirk. When Eleanor was 13, the family immigrated to Canada, settling first in Vancouver, and then in Steveston. As a young woman, Eleanor travelled through the Kootenays and decided right away that she would live there someday. In 1977 she moved to New Denver, where she worked as a nurse in “the old hospital.” She eventually left nursing to spend more time with her young children, after which time she worked as a midwife, a Reiki Master and a teacher of anatomy and physiology. Eleanor loved art and was always creating. She wrote every day, and loved to play music, knit, sew, draw, cook and garden. By the time she passed, Eleanor had been living with cancer for over 13 years. She died at home in New Denver, October 16th, 2018, surrounded by her children. She is survived by her children, Geoff, Zoë and Sin, her granddaughter Kaya, her mother Gwynneth, and her siblings, Ewan, Ruth and Eva. Our family would like to thank all of the friends, neighbours, community members and loved ones for their care and support over the past few months. Memorial service information to be announced.

The Valley Voice November 1, 2018
Lobbying in Ottawa for climate solutions

This summer’s smoke and wildfires made climate change very real to people in our area. There is a growing understanding that climate change is happening now, not just in the distant future. It is impacting all of us, but particularly the health of our children and our seniors.

The recent United Nations IPCC report, which came out on October 8, summarized reviews of more than 6,000 scientific papers. Their message is clear. We have a little more than a decade to take unprecedented actions to aver catastrophic climate change. Otherwise we will see a world with a continually shifting climate with ever more extreme floods, fires, heat waves, and drought, along with millions of climate refugees.

Hearing such news can drag many into feelings of hopelessness and despair. However, two Nelson area residents – Judy O’Leary and Laura Sacks – shook off those feelings and joined more than 50 other citizen volunteers from across Canada to lobby our elected leaders in Ottawa in mid-October.

Before lobbying, they attended a two-day conference hosted by the non-profit, non-partisan organization Citizens’ Climate Lobby (CCL). At the conference, they learned about climate solutions from health care specialists, youth leaders, and experts in carbon pricing. They also attended a four-hour workshop on motivational interviewing, a proven technique for engaging people on difficult issues.

“It was a powerful experience,” says Sacks who founded the local CCL chapter. “Between the travel, the conference, lobbying our elected leaders, and the parachutes display, we came back inspired but pretty exhausted.”

Sacks is referring to the Parachutes for the Planet project, a youth-inspired collective of art installations and educational projects aimed at increasing concern for climate change. CCL hosted a national display of parachutes from across Canada on Parliament Hill, including 14 parachutes from the West Kootenay. Sacks and Judy O’Leary also brought several parachutes created by children in the area to their meetings with our local MPs.

While in Ottawa, they also witnessed the Emergency Session on Climate Change, where Parliamentarians debated addressing the climate crisis in light of the recent IPCC report.

“I felt very fortunate to be in Ottawa for this historical debate,” says Sacks. “I was heartened to hear MPs from all parties echo the urgent need to address climate change.”

O’Leary also attended the session. “It was an honour to have this experience,” says O’Leary. “We presented about the urgency of climate change – including our local impacts last summer – as well as the need for strong carbon pricing policy. We also stressed the importance of Canadian leadership as we transition to a clean energy world.”

The week after they returned home, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the federal carbon pricing backstop policy that will be put in place for the four provinces that do not have an equivalent carbon pricing system. That policy is remarkably similar to carbon fee and dividend, the policy that CCL Canada has been advocating for since its inception in 2010.

“Starting next year, it will no longer be free to pollute anywhere in Canada,” announced Trudeau on October 23. “We are going to place a price on the pollution that causes climate change from coast to coast to coast. We’re also going to help Canadians adjust to this new reality.”

“This carbon pricing system will be very similar to B.C.,” says O’Leary, “except most of the revenue will be returned to citizens in the form of a dividend cheque. In B.C., revenue mostly goes toward business and personal tax cuts.”

BC has had a carbon tax since 2008, and will not be impacted by the federal backstop policy.

O’Leary sums up the Ottawa experience: “Every time I meet with our elected officials, I am struck by the power of constituents. Worrying amongst our friends and family members about climate change doesn’t get us too far, but sending a letter to, or meeting directly with, your MP or MLA about this carries much more weight that we realize.”
Student trustees join School District 8 at the leadership team table

submitted

School District 8 board meeting attendance is up this year thanks to a new commitment by the trustees. 2018-2019 will be the first academic year that a group of selected students, representing each high school in the district, will take a seat alongside the trustees at regular monthly board meetings.

“The board strives to inclusively consider the perspective voices of parents, teachers, district, school and support staff,” explains board chair Lenora Trenaman. “It just makes sense to include the most important stakeholder voice – the students!” Recruitment took place for student trustee positions last spring where interested high school students in the district were encouraged to apply. Grade 11 and 12 students are eligible and may serve up to a two-year term if they begin in their grade 11 year. Ben Eaton, Director of Inclusive Education, has been assigned to mentor this student leadership group.

With the help of the chair, particularly during meetings, the student trustees will be supported to ensure their understanding of board governance and procedure. While they will not be permitted to move motions, they may suggest a motion on any matter during regular board meetings.

When asked about what kind of contribution she might make in the role of a Student Trustee, Eden Solarik from LV Rogers Secondary replied, “I’ve always been interested in getting the views of students to our administration, and before this opportunity, there hadn’t really been a clear way of how to communicate directly with the board.” She says she is excited about being a representative and bringing issues such as access to WiFi and timetable concerns forward.

The Board of Education says it values the importance of student leadership and the contribution students make to the learning process and commends this group for taking the initiative to be leaders amongst their peers.

“Our students are the focal point of every discussion and every decision of the Board of Education,” says Trenaman. “Their learning is affected by decisions made at the board table. They should absolutely have a voice.”

Superintendent and CEO Christine Perkins says there isn’t a full complement of student trustees as this is the first year, “but we are hopeful we can get the rest of the schools on board by next fall.”

Student trustees join School District 8 Kootenay Lake at the board table this year.
**Toad People, featuring Summit Lake toads, wins prestigious award**

**by Jan McMurray**

A film that features the western toads at Summit Lake and several of the local people working to protect them has recently won a prestigious international Wildlife Film Festival award. The film, Toad People, tells the story of individuals, families and communities across western British Columbia, taking action to save endangered species in their own backyards. It focuses on the plight of the western toad. “The Summit Lake toads and the people involved in conserving the toads are an integral part of our film,” said Isabelle Groc, co-director of the film with Mike McKinlay. “Our main character is [Summit Lake resident] Debbie Pitiaoulis, whose passion for toads has truly inspired us and many communities across BC who have watched the film. Many people have told us how much they felt connected to Debbie, and admired her incredible work to save the toads.”

Other local people in the film include Debbie’s partner Tio and their dog Ember (who has been trained to watch for toads); Jakob Dalisse, wildlife biologist who has done extensive work studying the Summit Lake toads; Wayne McGregor of the Valhalla Wilderness Society, who is working to protect the toads at Fish Bear Lake; and New Denver resident Eloise Charet.

**“Being able to film toads at Summit Lake, a very significant site and the home to the largest known population of western toads in BC, was a real privilege,” said Groc. “Most of all, getting to know the local people who have worked so hard to conserve this species was a real inspiration for me. I am happy that I had the opportunity to tell their story, so that their dedication and commitment to the natural world and endangered wildlife can be an example for others to take action.”**

For the Wilderness Committee and the film’s production team, the win is bittersweet. The film’s passionate producer Gwen Barlee, policy director for the Wilderness Committee, passed away six months after its completion. Barlee saw the film as a way to build support for a BC Endangered species law. “This film really was a labour of love,” said Wilderness Committee Co-Executive Director Joe Foy. “It is very exciting to have a locally made film about local people and species win on the world stage. We are looking forward to the day that Barlee’s dream of a BC law to protect endangered plants and animals comes true.”

Wildscreen is a biennial festival that takes place in Bristol, UK. Mike McKinlay, co-director of Toad People, called Wildscreen “the most prestigious wildlife film festival in the world.” The Wildscreen website states that the Wildscreen Panda Awards are “the highest accolade in the wildlife film and TV industry.”

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**Fauquier raises the roof – and money for fire vehicle**

**submitted by Jan McMurray**

Saturday evening, October 20, saw the residents of Fauquier and the surrounding communities a rocking and a-hopping to the down-home country strains of John Hall and the Spring Chickens. The event, a fundraiser organized by community members in support of the Fauquier Fire Brigade’s goal of buying a rapid response vehicle, drew more than 150 people and, with the added attractions of a silent auction, a door prize and a 50-50 draw, raised an impressive $4,500.

Being a ‘no minors’ event, there was slight concern that too few people would attend. No one needed to have worried. Apparently there’s no shortage of mature residents willing to enjoy a good weekend workout in this part of the world.

Fauquier Fire Brigade volunteers would sincerely like to thank all those who so generously donated their time and energy towards making this such a successful event. They would especially like to thank all the wonderful donors, their names too many to list, who helped put a smile on everyone’s face and brought the goal of acquiring a rapid response vehicle that much closer before.

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**Owner reunited with vintage motorcycle, stolen in Nakusp**

**by Jan McMurray**

Peter Peach is happy now that he has his 124cc Gilera vintage motorcycle back. It was stolen in Nakusp in mid-September, and found in a Nakusp shed in late September. He returned to pick up his bike on October 25.

The bike was stolen in Nakusp the night before the Rocky Mountain Motogiro event in September, and was found about a week later. Peach returned to Nakusp to pick up his bike on October 25.

Peach, from Calgary, competes in the Rocky Mountain Motogiro every year, and he says this incident won’t stop him from coming back. “People like me who love small motorcycles just love coming out here for the Motogiro,” he says. He has won ‘best in class’ several times with his Gilera, and this year, he was hoping to win ‘best in class,’ ‘best overall,’ and ‘audience favourite.’ But it was not to be. He arrived in Nakusp Friday night, parked his van behind the Old Firehall, and checked into The Lodge at Arrow Lakes. When he went to get his bike out of the van the next morning for the Saturday event, he discovered that it was gone – and that the van had been badly vandalized.

Peach says the culprits broke the driver’s window to get into the van, destroyed the dash while trying to hotwire it, and cut the wires. “But they didn’t steal anything else [except the Gilera] out of the vehicle. It seems that they wanted the van, not the motorcycle. There were motorcycles parked all over the place,” he said.

The Gilera was found with just a small chip in the new paint job in late September, about a week after the Motogiro event, in a shed in Nakusp. The property owner found it and reported it to the RCMP. Wolfgang Haerter of Columbia Car & Cycle in Nakusp recovered the bike and stored it for Peach until he could come and get it. Peach was very thankful to all those involved in getting the bike back into his hands, “Nakusp cares!” he said.

Peach says his Gilera was originally purchased from a 1968 Sears catalogue for $495.

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**Wildscreen Panda Award**

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Kaslo council, October 23: Policy adopted on liquor and cannabis retail licencing procedure

by Jan McMurray

• A policy for community consent of Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch licencing applications was adopted. The fee for the Village to review an application for a retail licence for liquor and cannabis is $1,500. First, staff makes sure that the proposal conforms with Village bylaws. Then a referral information package goes out to council, the local fire department, local law enforcement, adjacent property owners, the Kaslo Chamber, and any other municipal committee or commission that council would like comments from. A notice will also be published in the newspaper to solicit public input. The application and comments are reviewed at a Committee of the Whole meeting, to which the applicant is invited. The Committee of the Whole then makes a recommendation to council on whether to approve the application.

• The Village’s letter with comments on the RDCK’s proposed amendments to land use bylaws on account of the new Cannabis Act were received in Kaslo. The Village asks to be consulted right away if any Anza D property on Village water or land proposes to operate a cannabis related business or production facility. In Kaslo, a maximum of two cannabis related businesses are allowed in Kaslo, and they cannot be located adjacent to one another. The Village will purchase a new truck with plow and sander (2019 International HV 607 SBA), plus a plow and spreader equipment for the Village’s Dodge 3500. The equipment for the Dodge will be purchased from Work Truck West for $16,240 and will be paid for out of the Capital Buildings, Machinery, Vehicles and Equipment reserve fund. The estimated cost of the new truck is $115,000. This will be financed through a loan from the Municipal Finance Authority.

• A grant application will be submitted for the Kaslo Wharf Removal project through the federal/provincial Investing in Canada Investment Program (ICIP) – Rural and Northern Communities program, which will fund up to 100% of the project cost. The wharf removal project is estimated to cost $378,000. The Village committed to covering any cost overruns, as required for the grant application.

• An application for the SS Moyie National Historic Site retaining wall project, estimated at $136,000, will be submitted to the ICIP – Community, Culture and Recreation program.

• Recreation Grants of $500 each were awarded to: Kaslo & Area Youth, Kaslo Community Garden, Petterswik North Kootenay Lake Community Services, Kaslo & District Seniors, Kootenay Lake Historical Society, Kaslo Dragon Boat Club, Kaslo Arena, Kaslo Curling Club, JV Humphries. The Kaslo Pickleball grant of $311.67 will be awarded provided they find a sponsor.

• Council set policy around late night activities. The bylaw sets the fees for administrative services such as photocopying, rental and lease of Kernball building space, rental of City Hall court room and council chambers, downtown patios, gravel sales, sani- dump sewage disposal, campground, park rental, business licences, liquor and cannabis regulation branch licencing, garbage bag tags, burning permits, subdivision, development permits, cemetery services, dog licencing, water user fees, etc.

• The Kaslo City Hall renovation will be nominated for a 2019 Wood Works Award and the Heritage BC 2019 Award.

• A letter of thanks will go to Carole Summer, whose letter of resignation from the Health Select Committee was received.

• The Village will order one seasonal multi-bike rack from Urban Racks, to be paid for from an RDCK Community Development Program grant.

• The question of temporary racks for kayaks and canoes in park areas was referred to the Parks Recreation and Open Spaces Committee.

COMMUNITY

New skyscraper installed at Passmore Lodge

It was a misty and dramatic October morning when crane operator Ron Milton swung the new skyscraper to Passmore Lodge up to the waiting crew of Paul Wilkinson, Jerome Liboiron and Raymond Dube. The whole operation went smoothly due to Wilkinson’s fine measuring and preparation, and the help of all those involved. A number of people contributed their services to the big project. Simon Constantin has replaced the old cedar cladding around the lodge. “We realize now how it had not suited for the Lodge.” said one regular at the Paddy Shack.

The original skyscraper, installed during the lodge’s construction in 1998, opens the entire main hall to natural light, during the past months it’s been covered with a tarp to prevent leakage in one cracked corner, several times repaired temporarily by maintenance worker John VanderMeulen.

“What a difference to have the natural light; during the past months it’s been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.” The natural light is appreciated not only by tenants, but also by the more than 10,000 visitors who pass through the lodge each year. The Lodge has even had a natural light appreciation visit from the local library, during the past month, the library staff have been yellowing.”

Rememberance Day in Slocan: Legion welcomes all submitted

On Remembrance Day, Sunday, November 11, everyone is invited to gather at 10:45 am at the Slocan Valley Legion Hall for the march to the Slocan Cenotaph followed by a service in the hall. A light lunch will follow the service. At 4 pm, if you wish to join us at the Slocan Cemetery, we will be placing candles on veterans’ graves.

The Slocan Valley Branch #276 of the Royal Canadian Legion would like to take this opportunity to thank the folk of the Slocan Valley and the members and friends who helped at and/or supported its fundraising events in the past year, thanks to your support and a Community Gaming Grant, the branch has donated $25,980 to the following: $4,200 to the food bank, $2,930 New Denver Pavilion, $500 West Kootenay Science Fair, $2,000 Slocan Community Library, $500 school music program, $75 annual Easter egg hunt, $2,200 Halliwee’en Hoot, $1,700 Veterans Transition and Service-Dogs programs and gifts, $2,500 seniors’ luncheon program, $1,000 KDLH Foundation, $500 Kids Help Phone, $1,500 New Parents’ Program, $600 Appledale Day Care Program, $2,000 Senior’s Housing Society, $1,000 BC Wild Fire Fund, $350 track and field programs, $100 Slocan Community Band, $425 need in community, $1,000 barnraisers, $1,500 Network for New Parents Program.

The hall is also donated for the use of funerals/memorials.

The branch area coverage is from Summit Lake to the Playmore Junction.

The Legion is Canada’s largest veteran support and is the cornerstone of communities across Canada, providing one of the largest volunteer bases in the country. The Legion exists so Canada never forgets.

Anyone can be a member of the Royal Canadian Legion. Applications are available by phoning 250-355-2672, or drop by the Legion in Slocan on Sunday evenings, or online at www.rcanvb.com. To check out benefits that are offered to Legion Members, and dues are only $45 per year at the Slocan Valley Branch.
New Nelson to Kelowna bus service up and running
by Jan McMurray

A new bus service from Nelson to Kelowna started on Tuesday this week. Silver City Stage Lines Ltd., a Trail-based company, is doing the run with a 14-passenger Sprinter bus six days a week — every day except Saturday. Reservations are necessary at flirttravels.com.

“I’m really excited about it,” says Silver City Stage Lines owner Fritz Keller. “It’s a private company — we’re not subsidized — so the population supports our service. I live here in Trail and when I can help out, especially the senior pop, I’m super happy about it.”

The bus leaves Nelson at 6:30 am from the A&W by the old railway station (now Nelson Visitor Centre) and arrives in Kelowna at noon, at Orchard Park Mall, near the Bay. Keller says this is the “perfect spot” in Kelowna, with City transit bus stops right around the corner.

The bus leaves Kelowna at 1 pm to make the return trip to Nelson, arriving at 6:30 pm.

The bus will make stops in Castlegar (A&W, Trail (A&W), Grand Forks (Kenco Gas), Greenwood and Keno (the old Greyhound stop at the gas station) and Rock Creek (Husky Gas). The main stop is in Grand Forks, where Keller says there is a nice new diner across the street.

The cost of a one-way trip from Nelson, Castlegar or Trail to Kelowna is $75 (taxes included). A ticket from Nelson, Castlegar or Trail to Grand Forks costs $35 and to Greeneway, Midway or Rock Creek costs $39.

Passengers will be allowed to bring two 50-lb. suitcases, which will be pulled behind the bus in a trailer. There is room on the bus for carry-on bags. Silver City owner Fritz Keller has hired a former Greyhound driver full-time to share the job with him, and has on-call drivers who have been with him for 10 years. Bus drivers can legally drive for 14 hours per shift, so the 12-hour Nelson-Kelowna return trip gives two hours wiggle room.

Fritz Keller, who held a contract with Greyhound for 10 years, has stepped up to fill the interline service between Trail and Nelson, Castlegar or Trail to Kelowna.

For more information: fritztravels.com.

Silver City Stage Lines Ltd.
403 Front Street, Kaslo, BC V0G 2C0
250-354-2224 / cell 250-354-2227
fritztravels.com

The Professional Governance

by Katrine Campbell

The last meeting of this mayor and council was held with a full public gallery, Mayor Ann Banka welcomed all, and acknowledged the presence of the new councilors who attended.

There were seven items in the Correspondence for Information file, three of which were important concerning the Auditor. Councillor Heather Fox asked if there was anything council needed to consider re: local approval for cannabis retail sales. Councillor Joe Hall noted there are wide powers; a new cannabis retailer would go through the same process as any new small business. One of the letters was from the Kootenay Boundary Regional District, saying the Province was assessing licensing applications for retail sales.

“It will be up to each municipality to determine where they think cannabis can be sold, and whether it is sold in private or government stores, or a mixture of both.” When the Province receives an application, it will notify the local government, which can then make comments and recommendations, or choose not to make recommendations — in which case the application would fail.

Councillor Nadine Raynolds said the Village needs a smoking bylaw, to cover tobacco as well as cannabis, something council had discussed in the past but didn’t create. Woodbury said a bylaw wasn’t necessary as there are now provincial regulations regarding where a person is allowed to smoke, whether tobacco or cannabis.

“Amelia company’s request to close portions of several roads on November 8 and 9 was granted. VR300 Media is filming a historical document titled Short Remembering the History; The Internment of Japanese Canadians in a number of locations in New Denver. The closures would not be continuous but might occur periodically throughout the two days, if needed. The documentary will be filmed in 360° video, also-called immersive video or virtual reality. The streets affected would be the 400 block of Main St., Bellevue by the Bosun Hall, and Bellevue between Josephine and Kildare.

Councillors for information a water quality control report from ALS Environment. This testing is done once a year to determine the water chemistry and any changes from the previous year. New Denver’s water is within Canadian Environmental Protection Act limits. Weekly testing is done to detect any coliform bacteria.

The Heritage Advisory Commission Repeal Bill #18, 2018 received final adoption.

Council received the Annual Report, which Woodbury acknowledged was supposed to be prepared prior to June 30, but it was not available for public inspection for a minimum of 14 days before it is considered by council in an open meeting. “Although the CAO met with council, no questions were obtained in regards to council regarding content for the draft… the document was not completed by staff or returned to council for review.” The report includes the status (completed or ongoing) of projects in all departments, as well as the Statement of Objectives and Measures for 2018/19.

Woodbury said the council discussed what it wanted in the annual report during a Committee of the Whole meeting, and then the information was given to him to produce it. “It was prioritized but other projects took precedence,” he said. “Council wanted to see it before they left, and the mayor reminded me several times — they wanted it done so the new council could see the old council’s priority list.”

Oddly, although the provincial government requires municipalities to produce an annual report, there is nothing in the legislation that says a council is bound by it. Its purpose is to give the public an indicator of what council sees as priorities.

The report is posted on the Village website, newdenverca.ca.

The inauguration of the new council will be held in the council chambers November 5 at 7 pm.

For more information: flirttravels.com or 250-512-1385.
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Buddy’s Pizza, Kaslo**
Award-winning, hand-stretched artisan pizza. 250-353-2322.

**KASLO HOUSING SOCIETY**
Housing Coordinator, assisting residents of Kaslo and Area D with affordable housing. Office hours: Tuesday 1-3 Wednesday & Thursday 9-12 or by appointment. 23 The 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. 23 The Langham, Kaslo. 250-353-8363. Funding Thursday 9-12 or by appointment. #23

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Flatdeck Service
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Help Wanted

GALENA CONTRACTORS LTD is seeking a full-time heavy-duty mechanic with their interprovincial Red Seal with road building and logging equipment experience. Galena is a diverse contracting company specializing in, but not limited to, road building and forestry fleet of equipment. Field and shop duties are required. Welding is an asset. We offer competitive wages and benefits based on experience. We are looking for an employee to join our organization, no subcontractors please. If you are interested in working here, please contact Kevin at shop@galencontractors.com.

The New Denver and Area Youth Centre Society is seeking a part-time supervisor for the Outlet. This position requires working during evening hours, some cooking, a commitment to youth advocacy and provision of a current Criminal Record Check. Experience working with youth is an asset. For application information, please contact Harriet at 358-7904; nakuspinfo@gmail.com. The deadline for submission is Monday November 12, 2018.

IN MEMORIAM

John Patterson
Your needs in life were simple
Your love for us was true
As long as we were happy
You were happy, too
You gave us all you had to give
Gifts, both small and grand
But most of all you gave us love
The greatest gift of all
Missing you and your love,
Your family.

The Valley Voice

November 1, 2018

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New book brings seniors and youth together

submitted

Some might think that teens and seniors are miles apart — but author and retired counsellor Lee Reid decided to take a deeper look, initiating conversations about what one teen described as the “big thorny issues” in life. It turned out there was a lot to talk about.

That fascinating social experiment became, with the support and vision of Corrine Younie at Nelson Cares and photo documentation by Blaise Enright, a thoughtful, compassionate book. Reid launches Growing Together: Conversations with Seniors and Youth on Thursday, November 15 at 7 pm at the Nelson Public Library.

Reid’s 2017 book, Growing Home: The Legacy of Kootenay Elders, was an investigation into — and celebration of — the resilience of seniors. Younie’s commitment to expand services to seniors and reduce isolation by building intergenerational connections created a synchronicity between the two seniors’ advocates, and the combination of their skills set created fertile ground for the project. Nelson Cares acquired federal funding; Reid led and transcribed the conversations between the cross-generational groups, shaping the narrative into the book Growing Together.

Conversation topics between seniors and LV Rogers Grade 11 students included loneliness and depression, climate change, gender oppression, the ‘Me Too’ movement, old and young love, and hopes for the future.

“None of us realized how deep, raw, and empathetic the conversations would turn out to be,” said Reid, who explained that tragic losses that occurred in both groups took the conversations to a new level. “I realized that the generations could help and hold each other through difficult passages.”

Both generations expressed an interest in continuing the connections they had formed, and both said they felt stronger in facing the future. One student said that, as a result of the project, she had become clear about her future vocation, which would involve education in psychology to address depression in seniors.

The Nelson Library launch of Growing Together will include participants from both groups and an exhibition of photographs that depict the relationships formed through the project.

Lee Reid (front right) with participants in the book project Growing Together: Conversations with Seniors and Youth.
School District 10’s Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer report

submitted

Marginal Enrolment Increases: Current enrolment is up overall, in a trend that appears to be continuing ever since the school year began. This is the first year in many that enrolment has increased. Total enrolment of 457.43 FTE, or 452 actual students, was submitted for the annual September count. This number is up 21.96 FTE students overall from September 2017 (435.47 FTE) – the first increase in enrollment for many years!

- 70 students self-identify with Indigenous ancestry compared to 64 students last year.
- 49 are special needs students compared to 44 in September 2017; of these, 20 students have Level 2 or 3 designations while the remaining 26 are students with learning disabilities; no students with Level 1 disabilities.
- Lucerne Playground Upgrade: Ministry funding of $90,000 to replace old and unsafe playground equipment at Lucerne Elementary Secondary School was awarded in June. Extensive consultation with students, parents and staff both in June and this fall has meant that the equipment has not yet been ordered. Installation will likely have to wait till spring.
- Ministry of Education K-9 Reporting Pilot Update: Classrooms in four schools in the school district are piloting the new K-9 draft reporting order along with many schools and districts across our province; using the Draft Policy is voluntary. Teachers involved in the pilot use a proficiency scale rather than letter grades in K-9, and rather than the traditional report cards, a range of ways to communicate student learning called ‘Points of Progress’ are used. These include Fresh Grade (a digital portfolio of student work over the school year providing opportunities for parents, students and teachers to give feedback on learning), paper portfolios of student work over the year along with student and teacher assessments of learning, and student-led conferences.
- Fauquier School Property Update: The school district has been granted preliminary layout approval for the proposed subdivision of the Fauquier School property which means all requirements have been met. Final steps are to submit a final plan, tax clearance certificate and $250 fee. SD 10 will sell the current Fauquier School lot and building to the community at a modest price and pay the second lot on the market. Funds raised go into shareable and non-shareable capital reserves for future capital projects.
- Higher speed Internet for Edgewood School: Thanks to lobbying by IT Manager Patrick Martin and the Ministry of Education’s commitment to upgrade schools in the NGN (New Generation Network) from 10 mbps to 20, Edgewood Elementary will be upgraded to 20 Mbps in November. Across the district, schools have varying Internet speeds dependent on numbers of users and usage determined by the Ministry’s NGN team; NSS – 100 Mbps; NES – 50 Mbps; BES and Lucerne – 25 Mbps; EES – 10 Mbps.

St. Andrew’s United Church celebrates 125th

submitted

A full house of enthusiastic spectators and participants enjoyed the 125th anniversary of St. Andrew’s United Church in Kaslo recently. Lynn VanDeursen presented a marvelous display of the new role that St. Andrew’s plays in the Kaslo community. Speaking from the pulpit, VanDeursen linked both the old and the new

St. Andrew’s United Church provided the Kaslo Food Hub with a $371 donation at its 125th anniversary event. L to R: John Whitehead and Mary Stickett from St Andrew’s and Erin Carr and Patrick Steiner from the Food Hub.

Celebrate the Light event seeks acts

submitted

The Slocan Lake Arts Council is seeking poets, musicians, skits, and short story telling for the seventh annual Celebration of Hanukkah, Solstice and the winter season. Celebrate the Light event in Silverton on December 8.

- There is time for all to perform.
- The presentation was followed by a social time in the hall and a donation of $371 was given to the Kaslo Food Hub which is in the hall’s

Devon Guenichen and Gabriele Nennstiff perform at a previous Celebration event.

The glorious return of The Small Glories

submitted

Folk powerhouse The Small Glories are Cara Luft and JD Edwards, a dynamic duo planted on the Canadian Prairies. Co-founder of The Wailin’ Jennys, Juno Award winner Luft may have found her best musical match yet in a partnership that could almost make you believe in fate.

These two veteran singer/songwriters built a buzz around their tight harmonies, authenticity, visceral live performances and guitar prowess that doesn’t come around too often. And Luft packs a mean banjo!

Don’t miss this unique musical union in song and sound, weaving and tangling traditional and modern folk and roots music at the Langham in Kaslo November 14 at 7 pm. Tickets are $20 in advance at

Sunnyside Naturals & Willow Home Gallery, $22 at the door. www.thelangham.ca
Nakusp women’s hockey team plays first tournament in over a decade

Kootenay Thunder travelled to Revelstoke October 12-14 to participate in the Revelstoke Kodiaks’ annual Diva Cup Tournament. Six teams from Dawson Creek, Kamloops, Vernon, Golden, Revelstoke and Nakusp competed for the cup.

The Thunder went into the tournament with only two skates under their belts as Nakusp’s ice wasn’t ready until Thanksgiving weekend. The other teams had been skating and practising since August. Half the team had never been in a tournament, as they are still new to the sport and had only played in four games against the Kodiaks over the past two years.

Nakusp’s first game was Friday night at 7:45 against Kamloops and it was clear right from the first puck drop that Kootenay Thunder was going to be outplayed. The team played their hearts out but were no match for the very experienced and very skilled Kamloops team and they lost 8-0. Goalie Stephanie Stenseth received ‘player of the game’ which was well deserved as she was pummeled by the Kamloops team but never gave up.

Thunder’s second game saw them playing Golden at 8 am on Saturday morning. It was a rough game with the Dawson team playing hard and taking down Nakusp players. Defence Sheila Seaton took a hard hit while protecting goalie Stenseth and forward Margaret Andrews took a hard hit from behind. Forward Tracy Smith received a nasty slash on her upper thigh and Stenseth was repeatedly slashed by one Dawson player every time she was on the ice. Unfortunately for the Thunder, only two penalties were called against Dawson and the game ended in a 7-0 loss. The team came off the ice tired and sore.

Their last game saw them up against Revelstoke Kodiaks on Sunday morning at 10:45. They played their hearts out and finally Karlee Cooke scored their first goal of the weekend, assist going to Leah Gilliland. The excitement from the team was thunderous and even the Kodiaks celebrated with them. Unfortunately, the team lost 6-1 but they were still smiling. Star of the game deservedly went to Karlee Cooke.

Stenseth was asked about her perspective of the weekend and she replied, “With 80% of our ladies never being in a hockey tourney before and only ever having played Revelstoke, I think we, as a team, got our eyes opened … There is room for improvement and I firmly believe a coach and drills would be beneficial for the Thunder team.”

The Revelstoke Kodiaks had a surplus of players and two women from their team joined the Thunder for the weekend. Both were experienced and enthusiastic and the Nakusp team was grateful to have them as they contributed so much to the team both on and off the ice.

The jerseys donned by Kootenay Thunder this weekend were brand new out of the box hours before their first game and the team would like to thank Recreation Commission #4 for the generous grant that made it possible.

The tournament saw most of the teams wearing dark colours, so it was confusing at times for the teams to know who was who on the ice. Kootenay Thunder girls are actively looking for another sponsor so they can purchase a second set of game jerseys in a light colour to avoid this in their next tournament or game. They are also looking for a coach to help them out on the ice, so if you or anyone you know are interested in becoming a sponsor or coach, contact Sheila Seaton at 250-265-1998.

The team practices Wednesday nights 6:45 – 8 pm and newcomers and all levels are welcome to join.