Water is Life rally highlights watershed logging issues

by Art Joyce

With nearly all of the West Kootenay’s domestic watersheds slated for logging during the next year, Jessica Ogden felt something had to be done. Her campaign to raise awareness included organizing a rally at the FLNRO office on Nelson’s north shore on November 2 and another on November 24 at Nelson City Hall.

About 50 people showed up in Nelson to sign petitions and listen to guest speakers. Passing drivers honked in solidarity.

Timber licenses have been granted for watersheds that supply drinking water to Ymir, Balfour, Laird Creek, New Denver, Silverton, and several others.

“The Annual Allowable Cuts set out by government are based on timber supply assessments from a decade ago,” said Ogden. “The volumes being cut aren’t taking into consideration the cumulative effects of clearcutting and wildfires. We’re in critical times now. We need to change legislation to protect community watersheds.”

Sinixt elder Marilyn James offered.

“Perhaps the government has finally learned something now with all the effects of climate change,” said Burgoon.

“We’re hoping they’re waking up to the fact that we need to take some of these forests out of the working forest.”

Nelson City Councillor Rik Logtenberg also spoke, stating that protection of watersheds is a critically important issue for our times, both for water quality and quantity as well as providing a vitally needed carbon sink to slow down climate change. “Climate change also puts the potential for new growth or regrowth of forests at risk,” he said.

Ogden referred to the various reports on professional reliance that concluded that this model has failed to sustainably manage the forest land base. She said the time is ripe for legislative change, in particular the way AACs are governed. Community forests and timber license holders need to step being penalized for not meeting their annual cut requirements; she said. None of the top five logging corporations who hold timber licenses in BC are allowed area-based rather than volume-based harvesting.

Ogden explained that forestry corporations have actually been cutting jobs during the past decade, even as rural water suppliers are experiencing water theft and flooding, Houghton said.

Despite the fact that rural water license holders and communities are directly impacted by logging in their watersheds, Ogden said, they have received little support. “I’m trying to educate them.”

She said the time is ripe for legislative change, in particular the way AACs are governed. Community forests and timber license holders need to stop being penalized for not meeting their annual cut requirements; she said. None of the top five logging corporations who hold timber licenses in BC are allowed area-based rather than volume-based harvesting.

Ogden felt something had to be done. Her campaign to raise awareness included organizing a rally at the FLNRO office on Nelson’s north shore on November 2 and another on November 24 at Nelson City Hall.

The rally was supported by photographer Lucas Jmieff, who donated several prints for fundraising.

Jennifer Houghton came all the way from Grand Forks to film the rally for a new documentary she’s making. She and her husband had their home severely damaged by the catastrophic flooding that occurred in the city this spring.

“Hundreds of people lost their homes but don’t get the connection between logging and flooding,” Houghton said.

To support Ogden and other volunteers working hard to protect community watersheds, donations can be made to the Kootenay Water is Life campaign at the GoFundMe website or an e-transfer can be made directly to KootenayWaterIsLife@gmail.com.

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Your independently owned regional community newspaper serving the Arrow Lakes, Slocan & North Kootenay Lake Valleys
by Jan McMurray

Aimee Watson, director of RDCK Area D (North Kootenay Lake), was elected as chair of the RDCK board of directors at the inaugural meeting November 16. She takes over the reins from Karen Hamling, former mayor of Nakusp and RDCK board chair for four years. Ron Toyota, mayor of Creston, was elected vice-chair. He succeeds Lawrence Chernoff, former mayor of Castlegar and RDCK vice-chair for six years.

“I am sincerely honoured to have the board’s support to lead them through the coming year,” said Chair Watson, who was first elected director of Area D in 2014 and was acclaimed in 2018. “The RDCK board is composed of diverse perspectives, all grounded in representing their communities in the best way they can. I am excited to work with all of my colleagues to help us achieve our collective goals.”

Garry Jackman, director of Area A (East Shore), ran against Watson as chair, and Leah Main, Silverton’s RDCK director, ran against Toyota as vice chair.

There are six new directors around the board table after the local government elections on October 20. Councillor Colin Moss is representing New Denver, Councillor Joseph Hughes is representing Nakusp, Mayor Diana Lockwood is representing Salmo, Councillor Janice Morrison is representing Nelson, Mayor Bruno Tassone is representing Castlegar, and Adam Casemore is the new director of Area C (rural Creston).

There are 20 directors in total on the RDCK board – eleven representing rural electoral areas and nine representing municipalities.

Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the third Thursday of each month at 9 am at 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, unless otherwise specified. Agendas and minutes are made available on the RDCK website. Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, and much more. For more information, visit www.rdck.ca.

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PUBLIC HEARING

The Regional District of Central Kootenay would like to invite members of the cannabis industry, interested community members and other stakeholders to provide submission and comment on the proposed land use amendments for implementation of the Cannabis Act within the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK).

A Central Public Hearing will be held at the RDCK Board Room, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson B.C. at 6:00 pm, Thursday, December 6th, 2018.

For more information on the proposed Land Use Amendments and engagement undertaken to date, please visit the project website at www.rdck.ca > community planning > cannabis regulations or contact the RDCK planning department.

WRITTEN AND ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ARE ENCOURAGED

PROPOSED LAND USE REGULATIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF CANNABIS RETAIL SALES, MICRO-CULTIVATION, STANDARD CULTIVATION, MICRO-PROCESSING AND STANDARD PROCESSING AND ADDITIONAL HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF ACCESSORY STRUCTURES ON RESIDENTIALLY ZONED PROPERTIES.

Written submissions for or against the proposed amendment can be provided or verbal submissions made at the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the Hearing, written submissions must be delivered to the Regional District of Central Kootenay, prior to 4:00 pm on the day before the Hearing. All written submissions are public information pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act. Submissions can be made via mail to: Regional District of Central Kootenay, Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4 fax at (250) 352-9300 or by email at planddept@rdck.bc.ca. Please direct enquiries to Meeri Durand, Planning Manager at (250) 352-8162 or toll-free 1-800-668-7325, email mdurand@rdck.bc.ca.

DATED at Nelson, B.C. this 19th day of November, 2018.

Mike Morrison, Corporate Officer
Herb Hammond speaks about the importance of forests in a climate change world

by Moe Lyons

On Wednesday, November 14, about 40 people came out to the Vallicon Whole to listen to well-known ecological forester Herb Hammond talk about the forestry industry, in BC in particular.

“Water is key,” Hammond says. Water literally connects everything. Water is the veins and arteries of the earth. Water is alive. If you don’t believe that, you don’t believe you’re alive.”

So of course water conservation is of the utmost importance, and the forest is the best ecosystem for water conservation. The older the forests the better, because they have multi-layered canopies that result in water dripping to the ground, and they have large amounts of decayed fallen trees that are Nature’s water storage and filtration system. “The whole system works way better in old forests – they are filled with lichen, moss, shrubs, herbs, etc.”

Old forests are essential to carbon collection and storage. Through photosynthesis, they sequester carbon, sometimes for as long as 1,200 to 2,000 years. The largest 1% of trees contain 50% of the biomass. Clearcuts take about 70-100 years to regain the level of water conservation and management compared to old forests. They intercept 30-40% less water. In our snow-dominated winter climate, this means that snow packs are 30-40% deeper in clearcuts than in old forests. And, because snow in clearcuts is exposed directly to the sun, in the spring, it melts 30% faster than in old forests. This results in spring floods and fall droughts.

After one year of drought, it takes four years of normal weather for the forest to recover. Due to climate change, this is a growing problem, because we no longer get normal weather patterns that permits the forest to recover.

Forests are our most important terrestrial climate regulator. However, by converting old, natural forests to clearcuts and young tree plantations, conventional forestry results in lower levels of carbon capture and storage, leading to significant climate change impacts, Hammond explained.

The intense storms associated with climate change are, in part, the result of 7% more water being found in the atmosphere for each 1°C of warming. Environment Canada records show that winter temperatures have warmed by about 3°C over much of Canada. Coupled with clearcuts and tree plantations, more water in the atmosphere results in deeper snowpacks that melt quickly, resulting in the floods that are becoming more and more common.

“Every little crease on the surface of the earth is a watershed,” says Hammond. “If 20% of the small watersheds in a larger watershed, like the Little Slocan River, are logged excessively, that pushes the system to a tipping point where it starts falling apart.” The main concerns for water are: quality, quantity and time of flow.

Hammond points out that 95% of our forests are public, and “the people that own the land need to manage the land.” We need to “manage for all values,” but instead the dominant use of public forests is short-term timber profits for private companies.

Who benefits from the current system? Corporate forestry. “Corporate forestry” means that foresters employed by industry are responsible for where and how logging occurs. There is no effective government regulation and no government responsibility for planning, which results essentially in a privatized public forest.

The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) is a self-regulating professional body which Hammond states is “dominated by industry” and “does not defend public interests.” This is the body entrusted with the managing of our forests.

The current government has proposed legislation to provide a government body to oversee governance of natural resource professions. A step in the right direction, says Hammond.

But without eliminating professional reliance and replacing it with clear, publicly available standards for managing forests on public lands that are administered by a reinstated forest service, short-term interests of the timber industry will continue to prevail.

BC has fewer jobs per tree cut than any other province. Thirty logging trucks load fewer than one job.

There is virtually no value-added timber use in BC. Raw materials are kept cheap so that the timber industry can argue for low fees for cutting timber on public land. Sadly, much of our commodity lumber is sold across borders, remanufactured, and sold back to us.

The timber industry relies increasingly on computer modelling, using out-of-date forest inventory information, sometimes more than 15 years old. Forest inventories that show forest conditions were once required by Hammond.

His advice: “Focus on what to protect, and then on what to use,” Hammond says.

Who pays for the current system? The public and “non-timber” interests do. Loss of water quality, carbon storage, and biological diversity mean loss of well-being, and the current situation creates significantly fewer employment opportunities than ecologically and socially responsible forestry. As a matter of survival there is a growing urgency that broad public interests, like water, climate change, biological diversity, and meaningful employment be given priority on public lands, not short-term timber industry profits.

“Focus on what to protect, and then on what to use,” Hammond says.

How do we get to a reasonable approach to the forest? Hammond has several suggestions. Reinstate the Forest Service with land use planning and regulatory authority over public forests, including tenure reform, and establish regional log sort yards where logs are auctioned off to people who will make them into high value end products. Log sort yards return more dollars to the Province than current timber cutting fees and increase forest-based employment. Establish regular, field-based forest inventories that identify all of the ecosystem services of public forests. Have meaningful consultation and shared decision-making with First Nations and the public at all levels.

“Sacrificing in the present to protect the future.”
You missed the point!

In response to Carmen Gustafson’s letter in defence of her Dad which appeared in the Valley Voice on November 15 – you completely missed the point! Let me be more clear. Sexist and ageist people are no place coming from persons representing our community.

I am aware that Vern Gustafson is a nice guy and well liked in the community. However, as a person running for public office, he is responsible for his words. When Gerald Wagner, also running for council, took the opportunity to piggyback on these comments with his own additions, this showed poor judgement on his part and clearly illustrated the infectious power of words.

Public representatives of all the members of the Village of New Denver are responsible for their words and these two councillors should realize that they are accountable for the words they choose to use in public.

Morgen Bardati
New Denver

Recycling problems in Winlaw

Winlaw was once a nice clean place and now it’s becoming the dirtiest recycling/trash place in the Slocan Valley. It’s a growing problem and it’s shameful and awful as well as illegal to litter.

This is a recycling centre and NOT a trash dump. We are sick and tired of cleaning up someone else’s trash either on the road or beside the recycling containers.

Throwing garbage all over the place not only dirties our surroundings and pollutes the environment, making it very unhygienic, but also causes bad odours and encourages the infestations of cockroaches, flies and other insects, not to mention attracting dogs, bears etc...

Please read the rules on or near the recycling containers. We must keep our surroundings neat and clean to help us live healthy and better lives and for the betterment of society.

We have it all: recycling centres, transfer stations, landfill, return-depot. Please dispose of your garbage properly.

In the end, it’s all about education.

Karin Leja
Winlaw

Willa Mine: Taking stock

The Willa Mine, located south of Silverton, which has been touted as a profitable investment by a series of different owners over the past 35 years, has been abandoned by its present owners, MX Gold Corp. For two years the mine has been in a dangerous state of neglect. Huge rocks above the lower portal entrance are very unstable, and the security screening is down. The bridge over Aylwin Creek to the upper portal is disintegrating and the slope is severely eroded. Warning signs have fallen apart.

The Red Mountain Residents Association (RMRA) alerted the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR) to the current safety issues, and an onsite meeting was held on June 20, 2018. The senior ministry staff in attendance agreed that there were serious safety concerns and promised immediate action to make the company deal with these issues, and ultimately undertake a more comprehensive reclamation plan. Now five months have passed from the date of MEMPR’s promise of swift action, but so far nothing has been done at the site to reduce risks.

It is now two years since MX Gold Corp walked away from the Willa. In April of this year MX was attempting to unload the mine for $1 (one dollar). By contrast, its interests in the Magistral mining project (Mexico) were for sale for $4.5 million (US), and the Midas property in British Columbia for a purchase price of $1.6 million. This speaks volumes about the true value of the Willa site.

Even as MX has abandoned Willa and is divesting itself of its mining assets to focus on bitcoin mining, it has not closed its Willa permit. It is an all too familiar pattern. Since the 1980s there has been a revolving door of companies owning the claim: BP/Rio Altons/Northair, Tremmico, Orphan Boy Resources, Bethlehem International, Discovery Ventures, and currently MX Gold Corp. Predictably, each junior mining company promotes the site and persuades shareholders to invest; then the company abandons the project and leaves the site in an even worse state than the one before, playing out permits as long as possible to forestall any cleanup or reclamation enforcement.

The contrast between promotional hype and reality is stark. In 125 years no ore of any significance has been processed from the site. Recent exploration and reports have confirmed the paucity of the deposit. In MINFILE Record 2004 it states: “The drilling in the peripheral areas of the Willa deposit was not successful in locating significant new zones of potentially economic mineralization.” Similarly, in the Amended Preliminary Economic Assessment Technical Report (Wayne M Ash PE@ et al. 2015/2018) it states: “There are no Mineral Reserve estimates for the Property (p.75) Mineral Resources that are not Mineral Reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability.”

Whatever the motives of the companies who have invested in this mine, the results are the same. Local residents have endured industrial-scale noise and lights, site contamination, and concerns about contamination of creeks and domestic water sources. Residents have spent thousands of hours over three decades, monitoring these activities and keeping various ministries apprised of their concerns. At the moment, public safety is the most pressing concern. Open portals and damaged fencing are an invitation to curious explorers. The lower portal is large, easy to access, and the potential for falling rock is very high. Under these circumstances, one might expect MEMPR to act promptly before someone gets injured or killed. Reclamation of the site is another story, more complex, but it is equally incumbent on MEMPR to act. As of January 2018 the Ministry has new powers regarding compliance and enforcement. In addition the government is currently looking at changes to the laws governing closure and clean-up of old mines, as well as regulations around bonds for reclamation. RMRA is hoping that such changes will enable the Willa site to be red-flagged as a waste of time and resources for citizens, government, and investors alike, and that it will be cleaned up and closed once and for all.

Mines Committee Red Mountain Residents Association

Pro rep will improve the system

In a democracy, there are no more fundamental questions than, “Who gets to decide?” And, “How do the few control the many, and what might be done about it?”

First past the post is a phrase borrowed from horse racing. And, of course, the first horse to stick his nose past the finish line is the clear winner. But that’s where it ends. First past the post is an unfortunate phrase to be applied to a political race. And by what magic legislation does it translate into transferring majority rule to a minority of the elected people? I’ll wager that that’s a more difficult explanation than showing the benefits of the various proportional representation systems.

We are in the middle of the question “How do the few control the many, and what might be done about it?” With one side tyrannically trying to come up with a better, more rational system and the other side simply shouting “No!” We are in the middle of the question trying to improve the system.

David K. Stewart
Kaslo
Climate change, wildfires and forests

According to climate change experts, the brightest light for climate change is the function of forests. The Perry Ridge Water Users Association has launched a new petition reflecting this. The petition asks that the BC government remove the remaining intact forests on Perry Ridge from the working forest and declare it a Conservancy.

It is important to note that protected forests are “working forests.” A group of 217 scientists, educators, and land managers signed an open letter opposing a measure in the 2018/19 Farm Bill to adopt increased logging as an easy— but largely ineffective— response to wildfires.

“One of the favourite responses of some politicians to devastating wildfires is to call for increased logging on public lands,” Wildlife Today explains. But logging does not eliminate forest fires. For example, in a clearcut there is still fuel remaining, some of which can spread a fire faster than a forested area. “Creating fire breaks, for example, easily ignitable vegetation that is even more susceptible to propagating a fire from airborne embers up to a mile away from the main fire.”

The latest scientific research shows that protecting old growth and mature forests from logging is an efficient way to slow down wildfires. Old forests contain large trees that are difficult to burn. These large trees provide shade, keep the forest floor cool and damp, and stop the high winds that fan the flames into crowns.

Weather generally makes rainy days and sunny days, rainy seasons and dry seasons. It is generally very sporadic. The forest is a moderator, absorbing like a sponge excess water on rainy days, reducing flooding, and releasing slowly allowing a river to flow in the dry season. The canopy also keeps the soil moist during the hot sunny days. The transpiration keeps the humidity up even in dry times. If the forest is big enough, that transpiration can even trigger new summer showers.

Remove the forest and you remove the moderating effect.

The most effective way to manage fires is to maintain a forest ecosystem. Invasive species are accidental, usually caused by carelessness or, for example, by the destruction of fireflies. The loss of fireflies leaves the land more vulnerable to invasion by other pests. If you would like to help with the petition, it is on our website for signing and a printable version will soon be there. www.perryridge.org

Governments in many countries understand these important functions of forests as outlined in our petition and are setting aside more protected areas. It is time the BC government became a part of the solution for climate change and protected more forests.

Marilyn Burgoson, President
Perry Ridge Water Users Association

Voting for proportional representation

During my early days as a university student, I learned about different electoral systems in my Political Science 100 class. The system I learned about at the time was First Past the Post, the system that we have in BC. As I learned more, it became evident to me that we do not have the electoral system that best matched how we as Canadians practice democracy. We needed proportional representation. We specifically needed Mixed Member Proportional. I wrote a paper about it, and began advocating for changing to a system that better reflected who we are as a group.

That’s why I’m proud to be part of a government that is putting this issue to you in the referendum on our electoral system. Not only do we have the right to vote, but we need to have each of our votes count.

In our current system of First Past the Post, the party that just wins the case. For example, the BC Liberals had 100% of the power for 16 years, but they only won between 57% (2001) and 44% (2013) of the votes. Our system only allows one party to be in power, the BC Liberals in this case, and that party has no accountability, no collaboration, and it is supposed to work better for the public.

Political systems, on the other hand, result in a government that reflects how people voted. A party wins 45% of the votes, they have 45% of the power. And as is often the case, the party with the most popular vote (roughly 40-45%) MUST collaborate with at least one other party to be able to make a government work. We’re doing this now in BC, and it is working.

It’s not easy, but it’s more the system we want. Collaboration is supposed to work better for the public interest, and I can tell you first hand, it does.

Some worry that proportional systems allow extremist parties to flourish. The truth is, every electoral system, including First Past the Post, has extremist parties already operating. In fact, the BC Liberal government, there was no money laundering. I can tell you that in the eight years as your MLA under a BC Liberal government, there was no money laundering, I can tell you that in the eight years as your MLA under a BC Liberal government, there was no money laundering.

So, in my opinion, that isn’t the case. For For the remaining proportional seats, our MLAs will have to collaborate more, work together and be a better government for all of us.

Let’s make our democracy stronger. Get your ballot in the mail before Friday, December 7.

MLA Michelle Mungall
Nelson-Creston
Council mulls public art policy, energy efficiency

by Jan McMurray and Moe Lyons

Chief Financial Officer Colin McMacle gave the quarterly financial report. Revenues are not as high as expected. Campground revenues are almost $17,000 or 42% lower than what was budgeted, and Memorial Hall rentals are lower than expected, as well. However, the Village has managed to keep the expense side of the budget as expected.

Ken Poznikoff wrote to council with concerns about the $1,800 annual cost of the bull trout study in Silverton Creek, and the $10,000 spent on the independent hydrology/terrain stability report for the area slated for logging in the spring. The Splatsin Development Corporation’s resource management company has done the planning for this logging operation. Poznikoff feels the money expended on these studies could have been better spent. During public time, he raised his concerns. Mayor Clarke clarified that an annual bull trout study has been recommended and will be considered in each year’s budget process.

Council received a letter from the RDCK regarding recycling. The RDCK’s recycling system is transitioning to the Recycle BC system in 2019. There will be 12 core depots in the RDCK; the core depot for the North Slocan Valley will likely be at the Revelstoke transfer station. The RDCK letter asks if Silverton would like to host a satellite recycling depot. Satellite depots must be in a fenced/gated location or the containers must be able to be locked, and the containers must be checked regularly. Ongoing site maintenance would also be required. The RDCK is supportive of having a satellite depot, but needs more information before making a decision. The CAO will consult with the RDCK on this matter in the future.

Information regarding the RDCK’s Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) was received. According to the information: “This program will make it easier for homeowners and tenants to make their homes more energy efficient, and will support the RDCK in achieving its climate action goals.” Council approved CAO Hillary Elliott as Silverton’s liaison to the program. A delegation will be invited to Silverton’s February meeting to make a presentation about the program.

[Further discussion on council matters]

Pro Rep Info Line launched submitted

Fair Vote Canada BC is launching a Pro Rep Info Line to answer any questions voters may have about proportional representation.

“Use are launching the Pro Rep Info Line because of all the valuable conversations our volunteers have had with voters over the past months,” says Gisela Huckert, president of Fair Vote Canada BC.

The second question on BC’s ballot is optional, and excellent information is available from Elections BC. But, Fair Vote Canada BC hopes that people would appreciate a conversation with a fellow voter who is informed about the issues.”

The Pro Rep Info Line will take calls from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily and will be returned as soon as possible by a Fair Vote Canada volunteer – usually within 24 hours.

“We know many voters are still undecided, and while advertising is important, it’s a one-way conversation. In addition to being out in communities across BC, we wanted to make sure as many voters in BC as possible can get the information they want.”

The Pro Rep Info Line can be reached at 778-388-9563. Voters are encouraged to leave their name, number and question clearly.
Shadrack seeks fairness in FortisBC residential rates

by Art Joyce

Current electricity rates in BC, whether you’re a FortisBC or BC Hydro customer, have been rising at five times the rate of inflation. That’s according to Kaslo’s Ward Shadrack, who has submitted an extensively researched report to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) on behalf of the Kaslo and District Seniors Citizens Association branch #81.

This spring, Shadrack says 10% of his members have come to him with electricity billing problems. A couple who came to him were paying over 30% of their combined monthly pension income on electricity. His research shows that electricity prices in BC since 2007 have risen 55%, or about 5% per year, whereas the consumer price index has only risen by 11.3%. Inflation currently averages about 1% per year.

“That’s how badly the government is doing the job!” says Shadrack. “The utilities commission has handled this situation, and we’re headed for a confrontation in this province because people on fixed incomes cannot afford these ongoing price increases.”

Shadrack’s report also alleges a deep disparity between FortisBC basic residential customer charges compared to BC Hydro. On a monthly bill that rates $16.05 or the low $10.99 bimonthly. That’s about 284% higher than what residential customers pay BC Hydro; 205% higher than Nelson Hydro; and 179% more than Puget Sound Energy Washington State.

And this is nothing new, says Shadrack. Customers of Fortis have been paying that much more since 1992, after the sale of the corporation’s grid to BC Hydro, because Fortis only generates 45% of the electricity it sells and the majority of its energy is rural.

“The range of consumption by residential customers is all the way from zero kilowatts a year to 35,000. So someone living in a 500 square foot cabin in Kaslo is paying the same as someone with a 5,000 square foot, million-dollar home with a heated swimming pool, Jacuzzi, several bathrooms, you name it. This does nothing to promote energy conservation.”

Meanwhile, Shadrack’s research shows that over the past 20 years, Fortis’s costs to deliver the service have gone up 79%. BCUC has during that period ordered Fortis to raise the cost to the customer from $6.67 to $16.05, triple the rate of inflation.

“Maybe it’s time for the residential portion of Fortis to be taken over by BC Hydro, because why should people in the Fortis area be paying 25% more for residential electricity?”

Shadrack presented his case before the BCUC and has been in discussions with them since April this year. He’s prepared to appeal any commission decision that fails to correct the disparity. Failing that, there’s the appeal court or Supreme Court of BC, though he hopes it doesn’t come to that. But he isn’t backing down. Copies of his report have been delivered to Minister of Energy and Mines Michelle Mungall, Minister of Social and Development Family Katrine Conroy, the leader of the Opposition and the leader of the BC Green Party.

“It simply is not acceptable that electricity rates rise at five times what a senior citizen gets in terms of an increase on their pension,” says Shadrack.

Kaslo council, November 13: CAO’s letter of resignation received

by Jan McMurray

Letter of resignation from CAO Neil Smith was received.

FortisBC has finally told the Village what its 2017 earnings from the Kaslo community were – $1,559,812. The CAO has been asked for this figure since the spring.

A letter to the BC Utilities Commission from the Village provides the figure, noting that it represents a 13% increase in revenue from Kaslo over the past year. Kaslo’s revenue increase of 35% is a result of increased revenue from Kaslo customers over the past nine years.

The Village is a registered intervenor in the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) review of FortisBC’s proposal to return to a single, flat rate. Currently, the company has a two-tier system, which encourages conservation.

• The contract to install the railings around the Legacy Park perimeter was awarded to Shane Hindsley Construction of Kaslo at a cost of approximately $9,500.
• JV Humphries would like to apply for a $6,000 grant for the outdoor education program from the Village’s RDCK Community Development Fund. A representative from the school will be invited to a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the application.
• Councillor Leathwood will help build and continue strong relationships with other governments, the staff, finances, and physical resources.

The Village of Kaslo is seeking applications for the position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is responsible for the overall management of the Village’s daily operations. Reporting to Mayor and Council, the CAO is responsible for the implementation of by-laws and policies as well as the management of the Village’s staff. Applications close at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 11th, 2018.

Preference may be given to candidates with the following qualifications, skills and experience:

• Excellent interpersonal skills and a genuine desire to be a part of an effective team.
• An understanding of local government and municipal finance and administration.
• Strong leadership abilities with proven experience in management and administration.
• Experience in budgeting, financial planning, and accounting.
• Experience creating effective annual and capital budgets.

The Village of Kaslo

6pm December 1

The Village of Kaslo is seeking applications for the position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is responsible for the overall management of the Village’s daily operations. Reporting to Mayor and Council, the CAO is responsible for the implementation of by-laws and policies as well as the management of the Village’s staff.

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• Experience creating effective annual and capital budgets.

The Village of Kaslo
Slocan council, November 13: Gift from Seniors Housing Society presented

by Jan McMurray

• Inagurate Marr of the Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society presented council with a gift in recognition of the Village’s support of the Slocan City Suites housing project. “Over the last five years, the Village of Slocan helped a lot,” she said. The framed photograph of Lydia Kania and Corky Evans will be hung on the wall in council chambers. The photograph was taken by Moe Lyons.

• Chief Financial Officer Colin McDonald gave the “very positive” quarterly report. He commented that the “fantastic campground season” and new tenant at the wellness centre have resulted in higher revenues than expected. There were, however, unexpected expenses at the water plant, particularly the installation of three turbidity meters ($18,000). The Village also received a $174,500 CBT grant to complete major renovations at the Legion will be spent next year. The main street waterline replacement is also anticipated to be done in 2018. The hydro project is on hold until the Village receives a power purchase agreement with BC Hydro.

• Council received the Springer Creek Campground 2018 report. “The report demonstrates an overall exceptional year. Visitors were recorded from all over the world, with reservations well in advance of the season. The Village will provide a $200 RDCK discretionary grant to the WE Graham Community Service Society for the Christmas Hamper program. A letter from WECSS includes some interesting statistics: the organization distributed 120 hampers to Slocan Valley residents last year, provided 870 boxes of food to 171 households over the past year, and is on track to support 40 people at seniors lunches every month, helped out 80 families in the Networks for New Parents program, and provided 85 children with six weeks of outdoor programming at 2018 Summer Camp.”

• A letter from the Slocan City Outdoor Rink Enthusiasts (SCORE) asks for community donations for the purchase of a snowblower. Council voted to support the Village’s request in full.

Slocan Village Council: Madeline Meehan, Balley van Bynen, Mayor Jessica Lunn, Ezra Bulter, Jan McMurray

Public Notice: Utility Payment Reminder

Utility payment reminder

If you have not yet paid your 2018 Utility Bills for water and garbage collection charges, please do so before December 31, 2018. Payment of the remaining months in the billing year is due by March 31, 2019. Balances may be paid by cash, cheque or debit at the Village Office, or through KSCU’s online payment service. 2019 Utility Bills will be mailed to property owners in early January. If you have questions about the status of your account, please contact the Village Office.

Preparing for Winter Snowplowing

The Village of New Denver reminds residents that snow removal is a priority over the winter months. The Village requests your cooperation in removing items from the lanes, alleys and boulevards so that plowing can be done efficiently and safely.

Road Closure – Merchant’s Night

Residents of the Village of New Denver are reminded that there will be a temporary street closure on 6th Avenue between Union Street (Hwy 6) and Bellevue Street will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 6, 2018 in order for the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce to host a Christmas Merchants’ Night.

by Jan McMurray

• Village Council held the public hearing on November 13 for the proposed zoning bylaw amendment. Two members of the public attended.

The amendment would accommodate Jason Lessard, who owns ten lots on Harold, between Park and Ward. He has three three-lot parcels up for sale, and plans to develop the four-lot parcel at Harold and Ward. He’d like to construct a commercial building with two residential units – one behind the commercial space and one above on the second floor. The current zoning bylaw allows for only one residential unit per site in the C2 Core Commercial zone. The amendment would allow for two residential units if the building site is four standard Village lots or bigger.

Nina Knott, owner of Slocan Market Village, asked council to consider allowing two residential units if the size of the build site is just three Village lots or larger. She said she is considering buying one of Lessard’s three-lot parcels to build commercial spaces for lease, and the ability to build two residential units for rent as well would remove some of the financial risk. Knott pointed out that both rental housing and leaseable commercial space is needed in Slocan. She said that business tends to be seasonal, so being able to have year-round residential rentals as part of a commercial development would provide investors with a level of assurance.

Don Currie, who lives very close to Lessard’s three-lot development site, also spoke at the hearing. He said he has watched “a logging operation on private property zoned commercial” and thought it was “horrible” from his house. He acknowledged that the logging appears to have been done professionally and said he assumed the Village was able to work having been done in compliance with all regulations. However, he is concerned about site clean-up and asks council to ensure all debris is chipped and disposed of. “Under no circumstances should it be burned,” he said. “Burning of slash in the centre of the downtown core and in close proximity to residences...cannot be in the public interest.” He also points out that the site is potentially hazardous in its current condition, and the Village could hold some liability. Currie said the zoning amendment is “precedent setting” and is enabling only – it doesn’t guarantee that the proposed development will occur.

Later in the regular meeting, council gave the amend bylaw third reading, with Councillor Perriere opposed. When asked after the meeting why she voted opposed, Councillor Perriere asked council to consider the zoning amendment as consistent with her vote at the August meeting, when the proposal was first presented to council. “I do not feel there is enough difference to warrant the passage of the commercial lots on Harold Street,” she said. “For me, working on the way we arrange the commercial areas, and the residential portion of the building would be a better solution.”

Adoption of the bylaw is expected to occur at the December 10 meeting.
Village of Kaslo CAO Neil Smith resigns for family reasons

by Jan McMurray

Neil Smith, the Village of Kaslo’s Chief Administrative Officer, has resigned.

“I’m sad to be going and had hoped to stay a bit longer,” Smith said in an interview. “I resigned purely for family reasons that emerged in the spring of this year.”

Smith has accepted the CAO position in Nanton, Alberta, and starts there on January 7. He will be leaving Kaslo in mid-December.

“My decision had nothing to do with the job here – I will be fortunate to have as great and rewarding an employer again in my career,” he said.

Neil Smith, the Village of Kaslo’s Chief Administrative Officer, has resigned.

Sinixt pictographs explained at Slocan Valley Historical Society AGM

by Art Joyce

The Slocan Valley Historical Society held its AGM the evening of November 22 at WE Graham School with special guest speaker Eileen Delahanty Pearkes, Nelson author. About 50 people showed up, many of them drawn by Delahanty Pearkes’ topic, “Pictographs: Things Wished For or Desired.”

President Rory Lindsay gave his annual report on the society’s activities, which were impressive for such a small group. This included launching the Warner family history and the heritage signage project initiated in 2013 with funding from Canada 150 and now featuring nine sites and 15 interpretive panels. A website for the panels will soon be created. The society’s cemetery activities, which were impressive, were a phenomenal

The society has installed two display cabinets at the Village office with historic artifacts, with plans for more in the community. It is also pursuing the Merriwack project, the 1920s gillnetter boat built by master boat builder Matsumoto. The plan is to eventually create a dry-land exhibit with the boat, but the society must first resolve an ownership dispute.

And the society is interested in collaborating on the preservation of the Crooke Lodge fishing retreat, originally built in 1908 by the CPR near the current FortisBC office.

Delahanty Pearkes said the Slocan area is fortunate to have a wealth of pictographs created by the region’s indigenious Sinixt people. Many pictographs were destroyed by rock blasting for highway construction or flooded over when the Columbia river dams were built, particularly on the Arrow Lakes, where only a few survive. There were extensive pictographs on Kootenay Lake, mostly on the east shore, now mostly faded beyond recognition.

The society is that little is known of the history of pictographs. Are they just a random scribble on rocks? Or are they a message from the past? Are they an abstract art form? A kind of dream language? Could they be markers for territory or directions? They seem to contain elements of all of these possibilities. Only a few of the symbols have been decoded. Delahanty Pearkes stressed that it’s important to look beyond literal meanings.

As part of the title of her talk, Teit wrote that pictographs represent “things wished for or desired” by those who painted them. In particular, many of them were painted during vision quests of adolescent Sinixt boys and girls reaching the age of majority. One that recurs often in local pictographs is the symbol for a fir branch. These were used by Sinixt adolescents, worn on the head, or used on their teepees or lodges during coming of age rites. Some of the symbols likely relate to animals, birds, or even insects encountered during vision quests. For the quester, these would then become lifelong symbols of personal power, helping them establish their individuality. But this was an individuality that sought to find its highest expression in what it could give back to the tribe. Pictographs represented a linking of these conscious and unconscious energies.

According to Teit some pictographs are representational, some symbolic. One pictograph near Creston shows a sturgeon, an important tribal food source. Another one at Cayuse Creek on Lower Arrow Lake depicts a buffalo, an animal never found in this region. However, the site was known by the Sinixt as ‘Buffalo Robe,’ so it may represent trade with plains nations, or be a status symbol of something rare and precious. Anthropologists think one symbol may represent the traditional berry rake used to harvest huckleberries, another important local food source.

Audience participation was robust, with lifelong Slocan resident Gary Burns stating that he photographed pictographs in the 1970s. He said that most if not all of the pictographs he’s seen were made on negative slopes to protect them from the weather.

Delahanty Pearkes was excited to learn that Phyllis del Puppo’s father, the late Atkinson Crossley, extensively photographed pictographs before the dam reservoirs were flooded. Crossley then incorporated pictographs into his glazed pottery designs and sold them at craft fairs. They are now prized items and Delahanty Pearkes had a few samples to show the audience. She suggested that the society consider creating a pictograph inventory of Slocan Lake.

The Eisenhauers return to The Langham

The Langham Guest Artist Series presents the popular local folk/country duo The Eisenhauers, who bring the warmth and vitality of their simple, spare and beautiful songs in a perfect tone of reflection for the season, with the work of legendary Henhouse Studio.

Pictographs were painted with yellow or red hematite, ground up and mixed with animal fat to create a paste applied to rock. Delahanty Pearkes referred to the work of anthropologist James Teit, whose scholarly writing on pictographs from 1896 to the 1930s remains among the most authoritative on the subject. Teit was married to an Interior Salish woman and got much of his information directly from indigenous people. The Sinixt were an Interior Salish people, unlike the Ktunaxa who originated from prairie tribes.

The fact is that little is known of the history of pictographs. Are they just a random scribble on rocks? Or are they a message from the past? Are they an abstract art form? A kind of dream language? Could they be markers for territory or directions? They seem to contain elements of all of these possibilities. Only a few of the symbols have been decoded. Delahanty Pearkes stressed that it’s important to look beyond literal meanings.

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The Eisenhauers return to The Langham

The Langham Guest Artist Series presents the popular local folk/country duo The Eisenhauers, who bring the warmth and vitality of their simple, spare and beautiful songs in a special holiday show at the Langham theatre.

Sheree and Jeremy spent a busy 2017 and 2018 touring in support of their album The Road We Once Knew which they recorded in Nashville, no less, with Steve Dawson at his legendary Henhouse Studio.

Their songs explore the concepts of distance, time and the wakening arcs of separation and reunion – a perfect tone of reflection for the winter season.

The show is December 15 at 7 pm, doors open at 6:30. Tickets are $15 at Willow Home Gallery and Sunnyside Naturals, Kaslo; $18 at the door. www.thelangham.ca
Restoring native ecosystems at Summit Lake Provincial Park

Over the past two years the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS) has been working on a restoration project at Summit Lake Provincial Park. It began during the summer of 2017 when summer students mechanically removed invasive burdock located at the entrance of the park. In 2018 when CKISS coordinated two community weed pulls. The first event took place in May when grade five and six students from Nakusp Elementary School went to the park to help beat back the burdock.

Burdock removal continued in 2018 when CKISS coordinated two community weed pulls. The first event took place in May when grade five and six students from Nakusp Elementary School went to the park to help beat back the burdock. The other took place during the popular Toadfest event hosted by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. CKISS staff, board members and volunteers got their hands dirty in order to assist with restoration efforts. Volunteers were instructed to hand dig the burdock rosettes, taproot and all! All removed plant material was placed in clear bags and brought to the landfill for free. (Did you know that all landfills in the RDCK and RDKB accept invasive plant species for free?)

A native seed mix consisting of bunch grasses and yarrow was then spread over the disturbed soil. In 2017, CKISS staff and volunteers planted kinnikinnick, Nootka rose, ocean spray, red osier dogwood, snowberry and goldenrod. A site visit on May 30 showed the native species were thriving; all but one kinnikinnick survived the winter months.

There was an abundance of native grasses and yarrow growing as a result of seeding efforts in 2017. BC Parks staff were vital in keeping these plants alive by hand watering the site after it was planted and seeded in 2017.

The site was assessed again in July by CKISS Education Program Coordinator Laurie Frankcom and Plant Ecologist Evan McKenzie. They observed that native species were still thriving but common burdock rosettes were still present, especially in shady areas. Soil samples showed the soil indicated a mesic (average) soil moisture regime and is nutrient-rich. After the site visit McKenzie provided CKISS with a report that offered guidance on native species selection and planting locations.

On October 1 CKISS led a field trip for grade 5 and 6 students from Nakusp Elementary School at the park. Every student had a chance to assist with restoration efforts by planting native species, removing burdock rosettes and spreading native seed.

Despite the wet and cool weather students dug deep in order to get the native species planted – four Nootka roses, four red osier dogwoods, six twin berry, and four western cedars. In addition to planting, students spread close to five pounds of native seeds around the site. The native seed mix consisted of blue wild rye, western fescue, Columbia brome and slender wheat grass.

This project is far from over. CKISS says it is in the process of securing additional funding for this restoration endeavour.

Candlelight Blue Christmas

A time to honour those we miss - a time of support and understanding for all walks of grief.
Please join us as we reminisce about our losses and look with hope toward enjoying the festive season once more.
This is an event for all ages and faiths.

Robertson Memorial United Church
117 3rd Avenue, Nakusp
Wednesday, December 12th, 2018 at 7:00pm
Refreshments graciously offered by the United Church Workers following the service
To arrange transportation please call Thompson Funeral Services at (250) 352-3613

Get into the Christmas spirit with Slocan Valley Recreation’s annual Christmas Tea for Seniors. All seniors invited to Christmas tea

All seniors invited to Christmas tea
submitted
Get into the Christmas spirit with Slocan Valley Recreation’s annual Christmas Tea for Seniors! On Saturday, December 1, join in at the Slocan Park Hall from 1 – 3 pm for this free, fun-filled event. Seniors throughout the region are invited to attend.

Enjoy delicious food, terrific draw prizes and the company of great friends. As well, be treated to the wonderful sounds of Two for Tripping and the joyous voices of the community choir. This event is made possible through the generous sponsorship of many local businesses as well as a great crew of volunteers.

A free bus will be available for pick up from Castlegar. Space is limited so call today to reserve your seat. For more information or for bus reservation, please call Slocan Valley Recreation at 250-226-0008.

The new School District 10 Arrow Lakes board of education: Lora Lee Brekke (trustee at large), Melissa Teindl (Central Zone – Nakusp), Daney Simon (Southern Zone – Edgewood, Faquier, Burton), Christine Dixon-Grout (trustee at large), Rhonda Farrell (Eastern Zone – New Denver, Sheraton). Melissa Teindl was elected chair and Lora Lee Brekke was elected vice chair at the inaugural meeting.
She is trained in somatic experiencing, is registered with the BC College of couples, children, and families. She seek and maintain balance.

awakening the body’s natural wisdom to building strong foundational vitality and consultations that are aimed at delivering ages. Offering iridology-based health pre and postnatal care and eldercare, specializes in family wellness, including Western-focused herbal medicine and to Winlaw in 2011. Educated and Herbals in 2003, relocating the business Suites at Emery Herbals.

provides health services in the Healing on for details of each practitioner who connecting with your community!

This event will coincide with the annual Winlaw Winter Wonderland/Community event and artisanal marketplace. Come and join in on the fun, have a cup of hot herbal tea and spend some time connecting with your community!

The practitioners of the Healing Suites offer a wide range of health services including chiropractic, massage therapy, herbal & aromatic medicine, counselling, energy medicine, acupuncture, NAET and more. Read on for details of each practitioner who provides health services in the Healing Suites at Emery Herbals.

Lisa Delorme is a Metis woman, mother and midwife and has a passion for empowering parents on their journey of growing their families, supporting gentle beginnings for the next generation. Lisa graduated in 2003 with a Chartered Herbalist Diploma from Dominion Herbal College and went on to formal midwifery education, graduating from Bastyr University in 2013 with a Master of Science in Midwifery. In 2014 she completed the International Midwifery Pre-registration Program at Ryerson University. Since then she has been working as a registered midwife. In 2017 Lisa started Colibri Midwifery to serve the families of the Slocan Valley and to provide culturally relevant care to Indigenous clients in the West Kootenays. As a Metis woman, Lisa is very involved in supporting the growth of Indigenous Midwifery in BC. She is co-chair of the Committee of Indigenous Midwives.

Heather Policelli, registered massage therapist, has been practicing since 2007. Passionate about creating a nurturing, safe space for her clients, Heather strongly believes in building a good foundation, and creating alignment for the intrinsic wisdom of the body to open to healing. Heather has a contagious joy for life, which carries over to her practice and treatments. She often finds herself and her clients in healing laughter during a session. Heather listens to the needs of the clients with her heart, hands and ears - she also lets the body show her what it needs. Some of the modalities Heather works with include: myofascial release, cranio-sacral, deep tissue, relaxation, trigger point therapy, essential oils, hydrotherapy, somatic massage therapy. Heather is delighted to be offering her service to the community.

Larry Zaleski, D.C. has been in practice for over 30 years in the USA. Larry was a national instructor of Network Chiropractic where he taught about the philosophy and technique of releasing the body’s innate intelligence (natural ability to heal). As a licensed chiropractor, he uses a gentle honouring sequence to adjust spines and release vertebral subluxations from the nervous system. Larry believes that a clear nervous system is essential for health and well-being. He provides a relaxed and safe environment which enhances the healing process whether you are working with symptoms, pain or are seeking well-being.

Sue Mistretta, M.A.,CCC has over 20 years of experience in the “art of listening” and creatively responding to each of her client’s particular needs. Her counselling approach draws upon aspects of cognitive, humanistic and transpersonal psychology and she often utilizes the expressive arts to assist people in moving through the challenging passages in life. Sue’s style and unique tool bag has helped many people get to the root of their issues in a safe and gentle way and has assisted many with uncovering their own inner resources and finding new perspectives in their life situations. Contact Sue if you are experiencing anxiety, depression, complicated grief, a health crisis, major life transition or simply are feeling stuck or uninspired.

Heather has been practicing for almost 10 years. She received her acupuncture diploma in Nelson and her NAET certifications in Los Angeles. She offers traditional Chinese medicine such as acupuncture, Tuina massage, cupping and Moxa. She also offers NAET allergy therapy which stands for Nambudripad’s Allergy Elimination Technique. NAET specializes in eliminating allergies and sensitivities as well as allergy related conditions. Working directly with the body’s immunity by employing NAET and traditional Chinese medicine, this technique works to improve defense and healing mechanisms. Due to its gentle approach NAET is very easy to administer on children and babies.

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Ten reasons to Shop Local

1. Local Economic Stimulus. When you purchase at locally owned businesses rather than nationally owned, more money is kept in the community because locally-owned businesses often purchase from other local businesses, service providers and farms. Purchasing local helps grow other businesses as well as the local tax base.

2. Non-Profits Receive Greater Support. Local business owners donate more to local charities than non-local owners.

3. Unique Businesses Create Character & Prosperity. The unique character of your local community is defined in large part by the business that reside there, and that plays a big factor in your overall satisfaction with where you live and the value of your home and property.

4. Environmental Impact Is Reduced. Small local businesses usually set up shop in the village centre, providing a centralized variety that is much friendlier to the community’s walk score than out of town shopping malls. This generally means contributing less to sprawl, congestion, habitat loss and pollution.

5. Customer Service Is Better. Local businesses are friendly and helpful. They are your friends and neighbours!

6. Local Business Owners Invest In Community. Local businesses are owned by people who live in this community, are less likely to leave, and are more invested in local charities and non-profit organizations.

7. Most New Jobs Are Provided By Local Businesses. Small local businesses are the largest employers nationally. Plus the more jobs you have in your local community the less people are going to have to commute which means more time and less traffic and pollution.

8. Public Benefits Far Outweigh Public Costs. Local businesses require comparatively little infrastructure and more efficiently utilize public services relative to chain stores.

9. Competition And Diversity Leads To More Consumer Choices. A marketplace of thousands of small businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and low prices over the long term.

10. You Matter More. We talk a lot about exerting influence with your purchasing choices, or “voting with your wallet.” It’s a fact that businesses respond to your values and desires are much more influential to your local community business than the large big box stores.

KASLO LIGHT-UP
Celebrating Local Business

Celebrate Light Up with warm fragrant herbal tea and tasty snacks from us!

Enjoy our in-store specials all day and join us for the ceremony.

404 Front St., Kaslo

Auxillary hosts craft tables at the Seniors Hall from 10 am to 4 pm, with muffins and coffee by donation. There will be several events at Rise Again Boutique. There will be live music starting at 3 pm, a kids craft table at 4 pm (craft material supplied), and face painting from 3 to 5 pm. A Aislemeet 5 Dance Party with live music by Heavy Folk starts at 8 pm.

The Children’s Scavenger Hunt starts at the Bluebelle at 2 pm. Homemade event happens throughout town, and is meant for younger children accompanied by adults.

The Angry Hen, in collaboration with Between a Lake and a High Place, invites one and all to a bonfire with fiddling, maple treats and beer (of course). Families welcome. Drop by the library for Children’s storytime from 4 to 5 pm.

The bonfire at the top of Front Street will be lit at 4 pm, and hot dogs and hot chocolate will be served from 5 pm by Kaslo Minor Hockey outside Kaslo Front Street Centre.

Kasl Light Up starts at 6 pm, followed by Santa’s workshop. Celtic Kitchen will be carolling at Western Financial, and Rielle Oswald and Eric Moon will play at the Bluebelle from 6:30 to 9 pm.

With cozy restaurants and late night shopping, come out and take advantage of the Christmas activities and join in fun for the entire family.

Santa Claus will be attending Kaslo Light Up as usual.

Cornucopia Come Celebrate Light-Up in Kaslo

Come in and shop wonderful spa, health and wellness gifts, stocking stuffers and Christmas candy all month long.

COMMITTED TO YOUR HEALTH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Phone: 250-353-2224
403 Front Street, Kaslo
Phone: 250-358-2500
309 6th Avenue, New Denver

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The Valley Voice   November 29, 2018
The 30th Annual Kaslo Christmas Light Up Celebration takes place this year on Saturday, December 1.

Check out the Kaslo Legion Hall, open from 10 am to 4 pm with tables overflowing with handmade wares from local artisans, crafters, jewellers, photographers and more. The Victorian Hospital Ladies Auxiliary hosts craft tables at the Seniors Hall from 10 am to 4 pm, with muffins and coffee by donation.

There will be several events at Rise Again Boutique. There will be live music starting at 3 pm, a kids craft table at 4 pm (craft material supplied), and face painting from 3 to 5 pm. A Aislemeet 5 Dance Party with live music by Heavy Folk starts at 8 pm.

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Eric’s Meat Market & Deli
Family-operated business for more than 75 years

- Fresh Meats & Cheeses
- Fresh & Frozen Fish
- Party Trays made to order
- Homemade Sausages
- Fresh Turkeys and Hams

Light Up Sale!

Eric’s Meat Market & Deli
Family-operated business for more than 75 years

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- Fresh & Frozen Fish
- Party Trays made to order
- Homemade Sausages
- Fresh Turkeys and Hams

425 Front Street • Kaslo, BC • 250-353-2436
Late night shopping on Merchants’ Night in New Denver, Thursday December 6

Take to the street in New Denver Thursday, December 6 from 5 to 8 pm for Merchants’ Night! It’s a fun night to socialize with friends and neighbours on the street, in the shops, and in the restaurants. Stores will be open late for shopping – don’t miss the many special Merchants’ Night deals on offer.

The Youth Choir will set up on the main street and sing some Christmas carols to get us into the Christmas spirit.

The Outlet will be hosting their fabulous cookie decorating event.

Santa will arrive by fire truck outside the credit union at 6 pm, ready to receive the children and hear their Christmas wish lists. New Denver’s royalty and friends will be serving free hot dogs and hot chocolate, and goodies baked by Robin McNabb at a table next to Santa.

Don’t forget to pick up a draw prize ticket at the Valley Voice office. Have it initialed at all the shops listed, then return it to be entered into the draw for a basket full of items donated by local businesses. The draw takes place at the Valley Voice at 8 pm.

Merchants’ Night is sponsored by the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce to encourage local shopping. In the words of Michael H. Shuman, author of the book Going Local, shopping locally “means nurturing locally owned businesses which use local resources sustainably.

Happy Holidays
by Art Joyce

Music lovers and record collectors from across the West Kootenay will be excited to learn that a new store has opened in New Denver, Big Dog Music. Thanks to a recent resurgence of interest, the vinyl record has acquired a new lease on life, and owner Rod Neufeld has a keen eye for the rare, out of print or newly reissued collectible album. Neufeld sells a complete line of guitar accessories and guitars and plans to offer beginner’s lessons on the instrument. Big Dog also sells second hand vintage stereo systems, the full range including turntables, amplifiers, receivers and speakers. 2017 was a peak year for record sales at over 14 million globally – the highest since 1991, the last year vinyl records were printed prior to the industry’s complete switch to CDs. This has been a boon to collectors as long out of print albums are now being reprinted. With over 800,000 copies sold in Canada alone, last year was another in a seven-year streak of booming record sales. Of course, we are in the digital age, so sales of music from ‘streaming’ topped the bill at 39 billion globally. The resurgent interest in vinyl was largely driven by indie bands who preferred the quality of analogue sound and began pressing their own LPs as an option for fans. Another factor was audiophiles who find that highly compressed digital music files simply lack the depth and dimension of full analogue sound.

Neufeld has a long history in the business, having started his first record store, Back Street Records, in Vernon in 1991. He was publisher/ owner of the Lumby Valley Times from 1998 to 2016. Even there he couldn’t resist selling records. From 2010–15 he operated a record store in Vernon called Eclectibles, which is now Record City. From there he moved to Squamish, where he started a store called Kelly’s and his family moved to Lumby in 2015. He’s particularly enjoyed playing for musical theatre productions and was active on the scene in the north Okanagan. He can do basic guitar repairs, though if it’s a major job he prefers to pass the job on to an expert. “I’ve always had a deep appreciation for the guitar ‘beaters,’ the ones that get abandoned in thrift shops. I enjoy fixing them up and making them playable again.”

Neufeld is always on the lookout for record collections but understands quality and how to separate the gold from the dross. No true audiophile wants to buy a scratchy old album, unless they’re only looking for a rare, out of print album cover. “We carry pretty much everything in records; I’m probably a little heavy on the older stuff. A lot of record store purveyors stay away from jazz because they don’t have a feel for it. But I’ve always loved jazz. More often than not I’ll be playing a jazz album in the store and a customer will say, ‘oh I like that, what is it?’ I just enjoy helping people make their selections.”

Rod Neufeld has just opened Big Dog Music in New Denver.
Winlaw School nears completion of outdoor classroom

by Art Joyce

Principal Jon Francis of Winlaw Elementary School is excited about a new outdoor classroom being built on the school grounds. The timberframe gazebo structure will provide a place for the school’s WILD (Winlaw Indigenous Leadership Development) outdoor education program.

Francis says the K-6 school is currently above capacity at 109 students so the extra space will be welcome. The project was conceived by Winlaw parent Shauna Robertson, who first applied for funding in the project in 2014. All of the labour has been donated by Winlaw parents.

“We kind of liked what Blewett had, a gazebo structure built by Mandala Homes,” Francis says. “The wood for ours actually came from Gail and Crispin Elder’s property and it was milled by another parent here.”

Robertson said she first got the idea when she received a notice from the Canadian Scholarship Trust that they were offering grant opportunities for school projects in a program called the Inspired Minds Learning Project. She met with Linda Out, a teacher at Winlaw school, in April 2014 and together they put together a proposal called Growing Nature Stewards, an outdoor experiential learning program.

“Part of what we were applying for was to have an outdoor structure where children could learn outdoors,” says Robertson. “And part of the idea was to have a field study kit.”

The Canadian Scholarship Trust program uses a voting system to determine who wins the awards, so competition between schools is intense. Two rounds of voting got them no closer to winning. However, they qualified for a $5,000 grant from a jury-adjudicated program that chooses a winner from each category whether or not they win the popular vote. Out next applied to the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives program on its ‘dot day’ and received another $2,000, which was used mostly to purchase materials.

“We got the tables and benches built but then the school was slated for closure for two years, so we put everything on hold, because we didn’t know if we’d still have a school,” she said. “Then once we knew we were secure we brought in Tim Reilly from TBC Timberwork to create the design for the timberframe structure. And he came up with this gorgeous octagonal timberframe design.”

Three busy Saturdays of volunteer labour got the footings, timber supports and roof structure built. The services of a crane were donated to lift the roof onto the posts. Robertson says they’re looking for a roofer willing to donate the labour to shingle the roof. The decking material is cut and ready to be installed. Francis says the gazebo should easily be finished by next spring.

“Three busy Saturdays of volunteer labour got the footings, timber supports and roof structure built on the gazebo at Winlaw Elementary."

The community donates plant beds due to the difficulty in maintaining regular watering. Robertson says the ‘indigenous’ in the WILD program title means land-based experiential learning and reflects the program’s goal of fostering local kids who will grow up to pursue careers in ecology.

“I’d just really like to thank all the volunteers who helped on this project,” says Francis. "I'd just really like to thank all the volunteers who helped on this project," says Francis.

Those wishing to volunteer to help finish the gazebo can contact the school at 250-226-7217.

Deadline for Referendum on Electoral Reform extended to December 7 submitted

The voting period for the 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform has been extended. Elections BC will now accept completed voting packages until 4:30 p.m. on December 7, 2018.

“We have worked closely with Canada Post to understand the full impact of rotating strikes on the referendum process,” said Chief Electoral Officer Anton Boegman. “Rotating strikes have impacted accessibility. As a result we have extended the deadline to ensure that voters are not prevented from participating through no fault of their own.”

Voters are encouraged to return their completed voting package as soon as possible to ensure it is received by Elections BC before 4:30 p.m. on December 7, and to give Elections BC enough time to contact them if their returned package is missing required information.

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Would you like to invest directly into local businesses that provide economic, social, environmental and community impacts?

Great! The West Kootenay Boundary Community Investment Co-op is now seeking founding members.

From November 27th to December 6th public launch sessions will be held throughout the West Kootenay Boundary region. We will be accepting membership applications from individuals, corporations, governments and first nations, who wish to invest in the places they call home.

To apply online or to RSVP to a public launch event near you, visit us at: www.WKBIInvestmentCoop.com

Season’s Greetings

From the Council & Staff of the Village of Slocan

Holiday Hours:
The Village Office will be closed at 4pm on Thursday, December 20 and will reopen at 9am on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Garbage pickup is scheduled for:
FRI, DEC. 21 – Commercial
FRI, DEC. 28 – Residential & Commercial
WED, JAN. 2 – Residential & Commercial
FRI, JAN. 4 – Commercial (Dec. 29 and Jan. 1 cancelled)

Wishing all of you a safe and happy holiday!
Coexisting with grizzly bears in the Slocan Valley

by Moe Lyons

On November 17 and 18, Gillian Sanders of Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions (GBCS) presented workshops at Pass Creek and the Vallican Whole on electric fencing for bears and grizzly bear safety. About 50 keenly interested people turned out at Pass Creek, while a smaller but attentive audience came to the Vallican event.

Sanders raises bees and small livestock in the North Kootenay Lake area and has been using electric fencing to protect her beehives since 1996. Through her work with GBCS, she has helped to install 240 electric fences throughout the Kootenay region. Word has spread about the effectiveness of electric fencing to deter bears from agricultural attractants. She says the cost to fence the average chicken coop is about $400 plus two hours, with two people. GBCS will provide a 50% cost share up to $500 from project funds on the price of electric fencing equipment in grizzly bear habitat.

Basically, says Sanders, when bears dependate on livestock, it results in dead bears. She says, “Properly installed and maintained electric fencing prevents bear conflicts and is an appropriate non-lethal response to livestock depredation and property damage from bears.” This may increase tolerance for bears moving through private property in low elevation habitats where bears and people coexist. Besides, she says, “Fencing is easier than staying up all night with a shotgun.”

Success of electric fencing is determined by known exclusion of the bears, maintenance by the resident, and resident satisfaction. Sanders stressed that ‘electric fencing’ is a broad term used for all kinds of enclosures for domestic animals and that it must be installed and maintained correctly to work.

One of the attendees at the Vallican workshop was a man with considerable backwoods experience. His family lost all their poultry to bears in the spring and for years to come. Sanders stated that “Electric fencing” is a term used for all kinds of enclosures for domestic animals and that it must be installed and maintained correctly to work.

One of the attendees at the Vallican workshop was a man with considerable backwoods experience. His family lost all their poultry to bears in the spring and for years to come. Sanders stated that “Electric fencing” is a term used for all kinds of enclosures for domestic animals and that it must be installed and maintained correctly to work.

In talking about prevention of conflict, she says to remember bears are “forgiving of almost all human behaviour but will happily eat our food when it’s available to them.” Don’t allow bears to feed on human foods and anticipate what will happen if you run into a bear. Never run from a bear and try to avoid surprising a bear or disturbing a mother and her young. When travelling in the backwoods be cautious and don’t camp in areas with fresh bear sign and do manage your food and garbage. If you come across a carcass or see scavengers, stay away. Bears are powerful animals that may be defensive of a food source such as a carcass, of their personal space, and of their cubs.

The safest way to respond to any bear interaction is to stop, remain calm, assess the situation, and prepare to use bear spray if the bear approaches. Bear spray represents an effective alternative to lethal force and is an effective option for personal safety for those recreating and working in bear country. The spray should be used as per manufacturers’ instructions and directed full in the face of an approaching bear.

GBCS works to improve human-grizzly bear coexistence through education, collaboration, and the use of practical tools. GBCS is funded by Columbia Basin Trust, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Transborder Grizzly Bear Project, Valhalla Wilderness Bear Smart Program and Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund.

To learn about effective electric fencing designs to deter bears from all kinds of agricultural attractants such as chicken and other poultry coops, beehives, small livestock, fruit trees, crops and more, contact Sanders at grizzlybearsolutions@gmail.com

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COMMUNITY

The Slocan Waterfront Restoration and Development Society (SWRDS) held a mushroom cultivation workshop on November 16, followed by their annual general meeting.

“We did the oyster mushroom workshop to educate folks about good, healthy locally grown mushrooms,” said president Denise Dufault. “Professor Robert Macrae from Selkirk College was kind enough to provide the instruction, and brought his students from the School of Environment & Geomatics, and grew the oyster mushroom spawn!”

Workshop participants learned how to inoculate a cottonwood log with the spawn, and took them home to place in their yards for mushrooms in the spring and for years to come. “The workshop was a follow-up to Rob Macrae’s seminar on sustainable economic development for the Slocan Valley,” Dufault explained. “One of his many great suggestions was a co-op mushroom business. He learned more on this idea while he was in Japan, where the farmers farm in the summer and then grow mushrooms in the winter. We can grow a variety of mushrooms locally, as a food source, for medicines and as an economic driver.”

The new SWRDS board, elected at the AGM, includes Dufault (president), Rob Lerch (vice president), Carrie Adams (secretary), Kai Cabodyna (alternate secretary), Daphne Fields (treasurer), Nick Dimitri, and Sandra Dokker.

SWRDS hosts mushroom workshop

by Jan McMurray

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Nakusp Trails Society discusses proposed logging and communication tower on trails
by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp and Area Community Trails Society met on November 15 to discuss several items, including Interfor’s logging plans along Saddle Mountain Trail and the Columbia Wireless proposal for a communication tower on Kuskanax Mountain.

Chwachka chaired the meeting. Aidan McLaren-Caux has resigned as president, as he is now a Village councillor.

Richard Friedenberger of Interfor and Don Johnson of Mel Roy Forestry Consulting were in attendance to answer questions about Interfor’s proposal to log a 25-hectare cutblock surrounding an 800-metre segment of the trail. This is an area of old growth forest where there was a massive blowdown in 2018. About 5 hectares of the 25-hectare block were affected by the severe winds. There is also some evidence of spruce beetle in the cutblock area so Interfor plans to clearcut 22 hectares of the block, leaving two wildlife tree retention areas totalling about 3 hectares. Trail crossings at three different locations on the trail will be necessary, and will be rehabilitated afterwards. A 20-30 metre buffer has been proposed for either side of the trail. The company proposes to create a new trailhead with parking lot and possibly an outhouse at one of the proposed landing sites.

Rod Martin asked Interfor to postpone this logging operation, pointing to the high value of the trail in the new tourism economy.

Wulf Mense said cutblocks cause blowdown so it becomes “a vicious circle,” and “the beetles will come when you log or not.” He also pointed out that “we will never get it [the old growth forest] back.”

Another comment was that Saddle Mountain Trail is an iconic trail for the community, leading to the alpine and a chance to see grizzly bears. “I think Interfor should be sensitive to multiple use values, and concentrate only on taking out the blowdown.”

Others were in favour of the logging, saying that Interfor is a responsible forest steward.

Chwachka said the members present seemed evenly divided on the issue, and acknowledged that NACTS is not the decision maker. She thanked Interfor for informing the society about their plans and for coming to the meeting. She also said the Rec Sites & TRCs BC representative who works with the society, Justin Dexter, has no problem with the logging. “In our agreement with Parks & Rec, resource development has first dibs over recreation – not to say we aren’t considered,” she said.

The trails society encourages members of the public to contact Interfor for more information or to comment on this logging proposal. The society also welcomes comments and feedback.

The next topic of discussion was the Columbia Wireless proposal for a communication tower “snack dab in the middle of” the Kuskanax Mountain Trail. Chwachka had recently spoken with Columbia Wireless owner Ben Leslie, who told her he has a good line of sight to the communities he wants to serve – and because Front Counter BC indicated there was nothing there. Leslie agreed to find another site for the tower this winter, and will keep the society informed.

Wulf Mense gave the group some information on the negative health impacts of radiofrequency radiation, which is emitted from wireless communication towers. Some of the health disorders found to be linked to wireless radiation in numerous studies include infertility, cancer, insomnia, cardiovascular problems, neurological problems, and ADHD. “Clearly, the communication tower won’t be built on our trail, but where will it be built?” the asks Chwachka.

Chwachka said the society has no desire to stop Columbia Wireless, but acknowledged that some community members may have concerns. Mense said he is happy to be the contact for concerned community members.

Andy Gabb, technology representative on the Nakusp and Area Development Board, reported that the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation has submitted a funding application to the province to bring fiberoptic cable up the Slocan Valley to Nakusp. If this happens, an internet service provider (ISP) will be required to build the last mile – connections from the fibre to homes and businesses. Gabb said it’s unlikely that any of the existing internet providers – Telus, Mascom and Xplornet – will take on that role, so ISPs such as Columbia Wireless will be needed.

The board also discussed applying for $25,000 under the new CBT Trails Enhancement funding program for the project to replace the Gardner Creek Bridge on the Peter Roulston Trail. Other funding sources for the project would be the CBT Community Initiatives/Affected Area Funding and a possible private donation of $10,000.

The Saddle Mountain Lookout restoration project is almost complete. Signage about the project, created to be on display in town, was available for viewing at the meeting. The society will soon approach the Village to ask for permission to install the signage at a suitable location – perhaps along the waterfront business.

The NACTS membership also voted to adopt updated bylaws, in accordance with the new BC Societies Act.

Straight from Cairo: new librarian thrilled to live in Nakusp
by Claire Paradis

Of all the things she’s missed since moving from Cairo, Jackie Barber misses her duvet most of all. Nakusp’s new librarian is very happy to be surrounded by nature far from the traffic, noise, and air and night light pollution of Cairo, Egypt.

"Nakusp is a detox from that," Barber mused as we talked at the Nakusp Library, which is one of the reasons why she, her partner, and her son were eager to make the move.

And the transition to a small rural town isn’t as large as you might suppose: the ex-pat community in Cairo is extremely small, said the librarian, so everyone there knows your business, just like any small community.

As wonderful as it was to be surrounded by the wild beauty of the desert or diving in the Red Sea, there were some serious challenges associated with living in Egypt, said Barber. Political oppression and instability, and some unpleasant cultural norms such as sexual harassment and lying were daily nuisances she doesn’t miss having to deal with.

Barber was acquainted with Nakusp before this move because her family has ties to Nelson. They often took the trek between Revelstoke and Nelson, stopping in Nakusp on their way. When she heard the Nakusp Public Library was hiring, Barber and her family jumped at the chance to leave the desert and move to the Kootenay interior rainforest.

Initially hired as an Assessment Moderator for an American International College, Barber, who has a Master’s in Library Science (as well as one in Sanskrit), was also asked to start a library for the school. The librarian relished the task of turning the tiny space into a comfortable room with a growing book collection.

Barber says she has “little plans” for the Nakusp library, because the “big plans” she had initially brought weren’t needed. When she arrived, she recognized the public institution is already a community hub. Still, she is making helpful but more modest changes, including streamlining processes and “bringing new eyes” to operations.

The 33-year-old librarian is keen to connect with community groups and tell them what the library has in its collection that may interest them. As an example, Barber mentioned that the library has several books on avalanche safety that could be of interest to backcountry sledders and skiers. Online Gale courses suitable for professional development will also become available this coming February, free to anyone who has a library card. With luck, Barber’s duvet will also have arrived in Nakusp by then, and she won’t be missing anything at all.
Slocan River turbidity explained

Submitted by The Slocan River Streamkeepers

Why is the Lower Slocan River soo turbid and why doesn’t it clear out?

Since late summer we’ve seen a high level of turbidity in the river, downstream from the confluence with the Little Slocan River. The turbidity comes from a slide located approximately three kilometres up the Little Slocan that occurred in 2012. The initial event brought down a lot of material (soil, trees, etc.). Efforts were made by the land owners and Streamkeepers to plant native species in the actively eroding sections of the slide and it worked. Willows, other trees and shrubs grew very well, and many reached a height of two to three metres.

Then last August, the slope slid again, covering established vegetation and depositing a large amount of material in the river. The slide also grew and has expanded to reach an earlier slide that came down in 1997. Fortunately, most of the trees and shrubs were protected by the Boy Scouts at that time, are still standing.

You probably recall other events like the Gwillim Creek and Mulvey Creek slides in 2013, which were bad, like the Gwillim Creek and Mulvey Creek slides in 2013, which were bad. The north side of the lower Little Slocan River flows beside a Kame terrace. This formation is the inspiration for the name for the new space: The Lift. The society’s aim is to support community activity picks up again when we get high flows and lots of rain. The slide has greatly affected fish and fish habitat in both the lower Little Slocan and main Slocan River, but fish can swim upstream. Other aquatic life – insect larvae, snails, frogs, vegetation are more stationary and suffer from lost habitat and food. Water quality in the small pools is impacted. The sediment becomes anaerobic and toxic to life.

Does human activity make the problem worse?

Land that’s been logged releases water more quickly, causing erosion. Whenever we alter or block side channels, the river is directed to the other bank causing more erosion on the exposed side. Many years of logging and road building change the hydrology of a river, creating problems – especially on unstable landforms. Slides occur naturally, but we need to take a precautionary approach to land use. Ecological restoration of the slide area, and time, will help the river life return.

The turbidity in the Lower Slocan River comes from a slide located approximately three kilometres up the Little Slocan.

Silvertown Co-Work Society plans lean start-up

submitted
Looking for an uplifting work space? Following wide community participation in the online survey and in-person focus group session, the Silvertown Co-Work Society (SCS) plans to become a home for non-profits, individual freelancers and entrepreneurs in the old Silvertown General Store at 222 Lake Ave.

The SCS has officially formed as a non-profit society with president George Meier, treasurer Ellen Kinsel, secretary Mark Lada and project manager Danika Hammond. The society has spent the last several months reviewing the information collected over the summer and has decided to embark on a lean start-up approach to the co-work space. The space will work out of the ‘shop’ upstairs behind the back two rental apartments. With its beautiful large windows, unique layout, and large windows, unique layout, and large windows, unique layout, and large windows, unique layout, the building has ample space for a boardroom as well as a dynamic co-work space. The amazing antique freight elevator, a heritage centre-piece, is the inspiration for the name for the new space: The Lift.

The Silvertown General Store will continue to operate the main floor of 222 Lake Ave. hosting semi-regular markets and will manage the basement storage units.

The benefits of a lean start-up approach are plentiful. Using a smaller space creates a cozier atmosphere while having fewer capital costs for renovation and furnishings.

The Silvertown General Store has already commissioned new local architect Jason Mills for a prospective drawing of some renovations to the exterior, and a potential floor plan has been designed to get a sense of the possibilities of the space.

In the next few months coming into the new year, the SCS will pursue Rural Dividend funding and/or approaching the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) for Community Development funding to assist with renovations, furnishings, and/or start-up costs. The society will also look for more community donations to help get underway. Already through the summer the SCS had $12,000 pledged to the project. Cash donations will be vital to securing matching grants.

Stay tuned as The Lift will hold the first co-work meet up in the space in late January or early February to discuss more detail space planning and services. If you’re interested in joining, either as an individual or a non-profit, want to hear more about the society’s new plan and see the space, or make a donation contact Danika Hammond at danielakylehammond@gmail.com (778) 879-5844.
Slocan waterfront plan presented to the public

by Jan McMurray

The conceptual plan for Slocan’s waterfront was presented to the public on November 20 at the Silvery Main, Silverton’s director on the cancellation of bus routes. Leah in service following Greyhound’s transportation options.” We tried to create a unique stormwater management system where in flash floods or large storm events, the water is slowed down to prevent property damage. “The parking lot acts like a sponge. Underneath the paved surface, there is a huge capacity to hold water.” One resident pointed out that the invasive Japanese bamboo in the parking lot area will thrive with the water retained underneath. Jones replied that excavation is an effective way to eliminate the invasive plant, so the construction of the parking lot will provide an excellent opportunity to address the problem. Jones said there was room for at least nine and maybe up to 12 angled 50-foot parking stalls for trucks and trailers. Several residents told him that wouldn’t meet the demand during the busy season. Jones explained that there just isn’t enough room without losing a lot of car stalls.

The boat launch area has been improved for safety, usability and circulation in the plan with a turning circle. “Pedestrian safety is created by bringing them in front of the cars backing into the boat launch,” Blyth said. Jones added that the centre of the turnaround offers an opportunity for an interpretive feature to highlight the history of the railway, mill, and/or indigenous peoples. People at the meeting suggested a second boat launch for kayaks, canoes and SUP boards in an area west of the boat launch. The consultants will look at incorporating this into the plan.

The breakwater design has been changed in the plan. “Instead of a straight line, we’ve made it more interesting,” Jones said. “We’ve broken it up with steps down to the beach in three different places, and we’ve included a ramp so that the beach is fully accessible.” Blyth said the breakwater would be no higher than two feet, and would have sandy beach below it and grass above it. The Village had begun the breakwater project, but stopped work to ensure it would fit in with the waterfront plan.

To address concerns about undesirable behaviour in the park, the consultants propose removing the hedge. “The more eyes you have on a place, the safer it is,” Blyth said. Jones said having the playground in the middle will make the place more family friendly, and will help change some of those use patterns.

Blyth reported that people indicated they were happy with the washroom in the survey. However, there is a new washroom building in the plan, intended for a later phase, to accommodate growth. The building would have washrooms and change rooms, and a small area could be heated in the winter to be used as a warming shelter.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Christmas Craft Fair at the Silverton Memorial Hall (Also selling off old rental skin). Whole School Blue Moon Coffee House Fundraiser! Saturday, December 8, 5:30-10 pm at the Silverton Whole Community Centre! Music, Indian dinner, bake sale, & silent auction. Admission $3 (kids 12 and under free). Dinner $12/adult, $6/child. No alcohol please. Call (250) 265-7775 for info.

INAUGURAL EVENTS AT THE Eurythmy Studio on Front Street, Kaslo! November 30, 7 pm: Introduction to the Art of Eurythmy – adult class offered by Colan Poer. In Eurythmy, the human soul is made visible through imaginative movements and gestures that embody the inner nature of the word (poetry) and tone (music). Suggested donation: $10. December 1, 3-5:30 Eurythmy Studio Open House. On the day of the Kaslo Christmas Light-Up, we welcome all to the studio for conversation and refreshments. December 1, 7-9 pm: Shakespeare’s Divine Work – a lecture by Wendy Poer. This lecture will unfold the background to the unstoppable substantiality of William Shakespeare’s plays as seen in the light of anthroposophy, the world conception founded by Rudolf Steiner. Donations gladly accepted. All Events at the Eurythmy Studio, 400 Front Street, Kaslo. For info call 250-353-7675. Goat Mountain School Annual General Meeting held on December 4, 2018 at 3:15 pm, Lorette School.

The Langham Presents The Eisenhausers Saturday, December 8 at 7 pm. The local folk/country duo share the warmth and vitality of their simple, beautiful songs in a special holiday show. $15 Willow and Sunnyide, Kaslo. $18 at Door 6:30 pm www.thelangham.ca

Cafe Langham Presents The Surprising Origins of Santa Claus, Saturday, December 8, 2 pm. Join in for an entertaining afternoon presentation by Selkirk College instructor Robert Macfarlane exploring the curious evolution of St Nick. By donation at the door. www.thelangham.ca

Join the Vulkan Wall Whole Community Choir at their Annual Holiday Concert and Seasonal Sing-a-long! On Sunday December 16, from 3 to 5 pm in the Vallican Whole Community Choir invites you to join voices with our harmonic singers, directed by Sharon Lang. Our seasonal singing is in a seven-year tradition of community spirit! We will provide mulled apple cider and goodies at this festive occasion. Admission is by donation. It is a family affair and supervised children are welcome. The Grassner Grammums will also be there with their annual Christmas decoration fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Decorations and home baking will be for sale. The Vulkan Whole Community Choir is located at 762 Little Slocan South Road. See you there!


Silverton Christmas Market! Saturday, December 14th 10 am-3 pm, Silverton Memorial Hall! New vendors! Sweet and savory food – Hot drinks! Win a basket! Local musicians accompany on the piano throughout the day. Come out and support our local artisans. Make a day of it!

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Silverton Christmas Market!

Saturday, December 14th, 10 am-3 pm, Silverton Memorial Hall! New vendors! Sweet and savory food – Hot drinks! Win a basket! Local musicians accompany on the piano throughout the day. Come out and support our local artisans. Make a day of it!
Biologist speaks on saving bats from deadly disease

A prominent bat biologist, Dr. Cori Lausen, will speak in Argenta December 6 on ‘Preparing BC bats for the arrival of White Nose Syndrome: A comprehensive conservation approach.’ The talk starts at 7 pm in Argenta Hall.

As the primary consumers of night-time insects, including forest and agricultural pests, bats play an important role in keeping ecosystems healthy. Bats face increasing threats with unprecedented declines across the continent. Most urgent is white-nose syndrome (WNS), an invasive and deadly fungal disease that has killed millions of bats since its discovery in 2006 in New York State.

BC has approximately 16 species of bats, more than double the number found in eastern Canada. Through international collaborations, the WCSC is developing survivorship models that predict which bat species are likely to experience the highest mortality rates from WNS, taking into consideration latitude, winter length, hibernation conditions, and bat physiology.

WCSC has teamed up with Thompson Rivers University, McMaster University, UBC Okanagan, the BC provincial government, and BC Wildlife Park to develop, test and eventually implement a new potential application to reduce the severity and spread of WNS. This is through development of a naturally occurring probiotic that can positively alter the wing microbiome of bats to more effectively fight off WNS infection.

A prototype probiotic cocktail has been developed that contains bacteria found on some BC bats that inhibit the growth of the WNS fungus.

This approach is potentially self-propagating, can be delivered in summer, and is more realistic than any other proposed WNS treatments for western bats to date. And there are other mitigation strategies including the promotion of habitat enhancement using such artificial structures such as bat boxes. One of the up-and-coming projects includes an assessment of bat boxes across North America to determine if bat reproduction is enhanced or hindered by these structures; the field work for this project will focus largely in the West Kootenay.

Conservation research biologist Dr. Cori Lausen lives in Kaslo. After completing her PhD in bat ecology, she worked as an independent bat biologist. During this time she initiated several research projects, setting the foundation for a western Canada bat conservation program which she continues to develop and expand as a full time associate research scientist with Wildlife Conservation Society Canada.

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New physiotherapy practice opens in Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo's new physiotherapist, Nikita Harvey, has just opened Kootenay Trails Physiotherapy.

“I worked in Vernon for a year after receiving my master’s degree, and was looking for an opportunity in the Kootenays,“ she says. “I called someone in Salmo, who suggested I contact Elizabeth Scarlett in Kaslo. I did, and we talked for about a year, making plans. She was very helpful throughout the whole process. She’s been so wonderful helping me get set up!”

Scarlett retired from her physiotherapy practice in September 2015, and had hoped to have someone ready to take over. “Unfortunately, that fell through at the last minute and it hasn’t been so wonderful helping me get set up!”

Ron and Kathy spent Remembrance Day at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing, dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres area during World War I and whose graves are unknown.

“We went to one of the biggest cemeteries, with 20,000 graves plus the names of 10,000 people they never found. It was mind boggling to see so many graves,” Kathy recalls. “During the last 100 days of WWI, 10,000 people died, needlessly really. A couple of soldiers from Silverton died in October and even the beginning of November. We found the grave of Lawrence Price, the Canadian who died two minutes before the armistice.”

“It was a moving experience,” Ron said. “We’re so glad we went.”

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Silverton couple back from armistice centennial tour

by Jan McMurray

Silverton residents Ron and Kathy Provan are just back from a tour of Europe, where they attended events commemorating the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I.

“We wanted to go because both our grandparents were there, and Ron was in the navy,” Kathy said. “And Kathy has an interest in history,” Ron added. “She did a lot of research on the Silverton Memorial Hall.”

The couple went to three events – one at Vimy (France) on November 9, one at Paschendale (Belgium) on November 10, and one at Menin Gate (Ypres, Belgium) on November 11.

“In Paschendale, there was a torchlight parade along ‘Canaladamente,’ the road that leads from the Canadian memorial to the town square. Ron and Kathy spent Remembrance Day at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing, dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres area during World War I and whose graves are unknown.

“Vimy was amazing,” Kathy said. “It’s very sad to think about why it’s there, but it’s an amazing memorial for the people who served for Canada. It took 11 years to build and cost $1.5 million at the time. The two pillars are 70 metres tall, and cost $1.5 million at the time.

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Where did Santa Claus come from anyway?

Café Langham presents Selkirk College instructor Robert Macrae as he looks to answer this question in an engaging and informative presentation, The Surprising Origins of Santa Claus.

This show is an entertaining, thought-provoking, illustrated exploration of the evolution of Santa Claus over time, across borders, and between cultures, revealing some startling facts about one of western culture’s most iconic figures.

Macrae is an environmental technology instructor with a strong commitment to community outreach and public education, and regularly presents lessons on topics as varied as mushrooms to renewable energy.

Come hear some remarkable stories about our good St. Nick! By donation at the door. www.thelangham.ca.

Dr. Cori L. Lausen
Preparing B.C. Bats for the Arrival of White Nose Syndrome:
A Comprehensive Conservation Approach.

7 PM Thursday Dec 6
Argenta Hall

A Friends of the Lardeau River Speaker Series Presentation

Admission by Donation
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In Memory of Wayne Kernachan
Owner of Keegz South Country Towing of Genelle
Wayne was killed on Hwy 22 south of Castlegar on Saturday, November 17 while assisting a driver who had hit a deer. He was struck by a passing vehicle. Wayne was 51 years old.

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