Investment co-op lets you bank on your community

by Claire Paradis

If you’re putting your money into GICs, term deposits and other investments, you probably have little or no idea where your investment funds are going. Even though responsible investments may stop your money being invested in tobacco or weapons, or may funnel your money into renewable energy, it’s still taking capital far away from your community. Community investment co-ops (CICs) keep wealth local and enrich where you live by investing in local ventures.

As of December 5, the date when CIC consultant Eden Yesh gave his presentation in Silverton and Nakusp, the West Kootenay Boundary Community Investment Co-operative had 57 of the 60 minimum founding members it needed to start the incorporation process. By the time this article was written two days later, the number of founding investors was closer to 70. The founding members come from all four sub-regions: Grand Forks-Boundary; Trail-Rossland; Nelson-Castlegar; and Arrow, Slocan and Upper Kootenay Lakes. Directors on the co-op board representing the Arrow, Slocan and Upper Kootenay Lakes are Jonathan Buttle, Joanne Cowan, and Aidan McLaren-Caux.

When Yesh initially toured the Kootenay regions in January and February to see if there was interest in setting up a CIC, the response was overwhelmingly positive. So much so that two investment areas were formed: the East Kootenay Columbia Community Investment Co-op, and the West Kootenay Boundary Community Investment Co-op.

Community investment co-ops swim against the global trend of urbanization and concentration of wealth and money in cities. Putting your money into a CIC keeps funds local, and can direct them into investments with social and environmental benefits, as well as financial gains. Some CICs have invested in renewable energy, housing, agriculture, and small-medium investments – as determined by the priorities set by the CIC. What this means is that people will be able to invest in local ventures, know where their investment dollars are going, and take pleasure in growing both their money and their community.

The CIC is not a get-rich-quick scheme. The West Kootenay Boundary Community Investment Co-operative has a five-year redemption period, which means you must keep your money invested for a minimum of five years. Investors can come from anywhere in BC or Canada, but at least 75% of CIC members must reside in the West Kootenay-Boundary area.

Member shares are $1,000 each, and you can buy a maximum of $5,000 worth, unless you’re an accredited investor. But no matter how much you have invested, there is one vote per member. The shares have a non-par value, which means their value fluctuates depending on the CIC’s gains and losses, with the share value being set each year. And shares are non-transferable. Because of their partnerships with other local organizations like Community Futures and credit unions, Yesh said the community investment co-op won’t cost a lot to run. With expertise such as loan application analysis being available through financing partners, the CIC’s expenses will be mainly administrative, and will be covered by returns on investments.

Partnerships with business-savvy members and organizations will allow the CIC to offer mentoring to borrowers. Members are notified when a loan is awarded and they can then choose to support the new local business, which will in turn help their investments succeed and keep money circulating locally. Yesh said the default rate associated with community investment co-op loans is less than 2%, thanks to the mentoring offered, community support, and an increased sense of responsibility people have when borrowing money from their neighbours.

You can become a member anytime, but if you’d like your name on the incorporation documents, become a member before December 14, 2018. Your money will be held in a trust account until incorporation and you’ll be in at the very beginning. Becoming a member means being part of a cooperative that will strengthen your local economy.

The 2018 Mobilizing Local Capital (MLC) project is a joint initiative between Kootenay Employment Services, BC Rural Centre, the Province of BC, and dozens of West Kootenay Boundary (WKB) economic development organizations. Over 30 economic development stakeholders formed an advisory committee and participated in four months of business planning activities. During July and August 2018, the CIC consultant, along with a co-op developer and a lawyer, compiled the WKB Investment Co-op’s founding documents.
Scientist to research cannabis in opioid overdose treatment

Examining the potential of cannabis in addressing the opioid overdose crisis is a top priority for Dr. MJ Milloy, a recognized leader in the field of epidemiology and the first Canopy Growth professor of cannabis science at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

Initially, this professorship will lead clinical trials to explore the role cannabis can play in helping people with opioid-use disorder stay on their treatment plan. In the first nine months of 2018, an estimated 1,143 people died of a suspected opioid overdose in BC.

“Our government has been bold and innovative in providing treatment options – based on evidence – for people with living with addiction,” said Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. “This first-of-its-kind professorship will lead research and clinical trials on how cannabis products can be used to address the overdose crisis that is taking three to four lives a day.”

Dr. Milloy is a research scientist at the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU). As a substance-use epidemiologist, his research has focused on the inter-relationships between illicit drugs and HIV, as well as the public health impact of cannabis regulation and the medical application of cannabis and cannabinoids, especially for people living with HIV or substance-use disorders. Research shows that fewer than one-third of people who start opioid agonist treatment (OAT), with methadone or buprenorphine/naloxone, remain in treatment after six months. Dropping out of addiction treatment is a serious risk factor for overdose death. Findings from these clinical trials could help identify ways to better support people with opioid-use disorder with cannabis-based therapy.

Dr. Milloy’s research will contribute to an emerging body of evidence suggesting that cannabis can have a positive impact on the well-being of people with opioid-use disorder. Dr. Milloy has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed articles on the impact of policy on the health outcomes of people who use drugs. His recent research includes studies that have found that using cannabis every day was linked to a lower risk of starting to inject drugs among street-involved youth. Daily cannabis use increased likelihood that people will stay in OAT treatment. Intentional cannabis use has also resulted in declines in crack use among crack cocaine users.

This professorship was established through funding from Canopy Growth and the Province of BC. The Province invested $500,000 to the BCCSU in support of research leading to solutions to the overdose crisis. Canopy Growth is contributing $2.5 million to UBC and BCCSU to establish the professorship and create an enduring legacy of research through the Canopy Growth Cannabis Science Endowment Fund.

Winlaw dog dies in Conibear trap

by Jan McMurray

Sadly, another dog has died in a trap, this time in Winlaw.

Shasta, a 10-month-old Australian Shepherd, was out on a walk on the Toszzo Forest Service Road with her owner Anik Descoteaux, Anik’s partner Jason Seguin, and his dog, Chinook. When Shasta smelled the bait in a Conibear trap not far off the road, she ran to it, only to get caught in the trap. Anik and Jason tried to free Shasta, but could not, and watched their beloved dog die.

Anik and Jason have walked in this area many times, and never knew there was a trapline there. Signage warning people of nearby traps is not mandatory in BC.

The couple has teamed up with the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals to advocate for mandatory signage near trapping areas. An online letter writing campaign has been launched at TheFurbearers.com/BCTrapSigns, calling on the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to require trappers to post bright, visible signage at all access points when traps are within 20 metres of a street, service road, trail, pathway, or other publicly accessible area.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) reports that about eight pets die in traps every year, but that many more incidents likely go unreported.

In 2013, a yellow lab named Nikki died in a Conibear trap in a similar scenario in Burton, on the Arrow Lakes. At the time, Nikki’s owners also advocated for mandatory signage near traps.

The Valley Voice asked FLNRORD why there is resistance to making this signage mandatory. In response, a ministry spokesperson said, “The Wildlife and Habitat Branch is working with the BC Trappers Association on proposing a program to produce warning signs for licensed trappers to use voluntarily in active trapping areas.”

There has been no response to our query to the BC Trappers Association.

Visit TheFurbearers.com/BCTrapSigns to send a letter calling for mandatory signage near traps to the FLNRORD minister.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas Season and a Healthy and Happy New Year, from Vince, Mathew, Joel and the staff at Vince DeVito Shoes and Orthotics.

Christmas Hours: Open Dec 24 till 2:00 Closed Dec 25 Dec 27 - 31 regular hours Closed Jan 1 Jan 2 regular hours
Federal government to phase out neonicotinoids

by Art Joyce

An online petition campaign to ban the use of neonicotinoids—a class of pesticides implicated in the drastic decline in bee populations—has been answered with a commitment from Canada’s federal government to phase them out over the next three to five years.

Signers of the petition received a standard letter from Minister of Health Ginette Petitpas Taylor explaining the phase-out of “all agricultural uses and a majority of other outdoor uses” of imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam.

The use of pesticides in Canada is regulated by Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), which is partly basing its decision on an evaluation of the science used to support the European Parliament’s ban of all outdoor uses of neonicotinoids.

As part of standard practice, the PMRA re-evaluates listed chemicals every 15 years. “Product phase-outs consider the time needed to remove or dispose of existing products from the marketplace, the nature of the restrictions being implemented, the impact on farmers and others in the industry, and availability of alternatives,” explains Minister Petitpas Taylor’s letter. “Re-evaluations update risk assessment methods, take into account newly available data and consider regulatory reviews from foreign jurisdictions,” says the minister’s letter, which notes PMRA’s collaboration with both the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

The European Parliament voted to ban all outdoor uses of neonicotinoids in April this year, based on an accumulating body of scientific evidence linking them to Colony Collapse Disorder in bees. Initial studies by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) confirmed the link to beehive population crashes. However, the agency’s review cites some benefits to their use in the management of devastating pests affecting citrus and cotton growers.

According to the Centre for Biological Diversity, 29 independent scientists who conducted a global review of more than 1,000 independent studies on neonicotinoids found “overwhelming evidence linking the pesticides to declines in populations of bees, birds, earthworms, butterflies and other wildlife.”

The minister’s letter states that in aquatic environments in Canada, neonicotinoids have been measured at levels that are harmful to aquatic insects. A report by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation explains that, “neonicotinoid insecticides are systemic pesticides that kill insects by attacking their central nervous system. These insecticides are absorbed into plants and distributed throughout their tissues to their stems, leaves, roots, fruits and flowers.”

The 90% decline in bee populations over the past two decades is of critical concern to farmers and cultivators globally. In the US, bees are now trucked around the country to pollinate vital food crops. The California government report notes that commercial honeybee colonies pollinate $15 billion worth of crops each year in the US alone. Of these, 1.8 million colonies are required just to pollinate California’s almond crops. There has been a population increase of 3% in the past two years in the US, rising to 2.89 million colonies in 2017 compared with 2.8 million a year earlier, according to the US Department of Agriculture. The California report stops short of recommending a phase-out, concentrating instead on a risk assessment and a schedule of tightly controlled applications for various crops.

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Local bat specialist working on preventing white-nose syndrome

by Karen Newmoon

Dr. Cori Lausen of Kaslo, research biologist and bat specialist, directs the bat conservation program of the Wildlife Conservation Society Canada (WCS). As part of the Friends of the Lardeau River speaker series, she presented information at the Argenta Hall on December 6 on the conservation work currently being done to prepare BC bats for the arrival of white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease harmless to humans but responsible for the death of millions of insect-eating bats in eastern North America in just a few years. It is predicted to arrive in BC within the next 10 years, states the website www.bcbats.ca. It was first found in North America in 2007 at the Port of Albany, New York, and arrived near the Port of Seattle, Washington, in 2016. Bat conservation is important because, in BC, bats represent approximately 20% of all small mammal species – a substantial portion of BC small mammal biodiversity. There are 15 species of bats in BC, and at least 11 of them are found in the Columbia Basin region.

As well as white-nose syndrome, threats to bat survival include forage habitat loss, roost habitat loss, persecution – which is now decreasing with public education – pesticides and wind turbines.

According to Dr. Lausen, “Bats are very susceptible to population die-back and we do not know how to predict the impacts of the loss of bat populations. They have vital roles in ecosystems, agriculture, forestry, and aquatic ecosystems. They are the main consumer of nighttime insects.”

Working with her team Heather Gates and Dana Blouin in Kaslo and Jason Rae in Nelson, Dr. Lausen is conducting research relating to white-nose syndrome in bats, including the physiology and winter survival of bats and predicting how the fungal disease may affect the different species. The WNS fungus grows on bat wings while they hibernate. In eastern North America, the focus has been on trying to treat WNS in winter. “That does not work well,” says Dr. Lausen, “so in BC we are focusing on research into prevention during the summer and fall seasons.”

This research has led to finding two natural soil microbes, found on the wings of big brown bats in the Salmo area when bats were caught in mist nets and swabbed by researchers, that slow the growth of the WNS fungus. The microbes, or probiotics, are applied onto the wings of bats. The first captive trial was in the fall of 2018 at the BC Wildlife Park near Kamloops and has shown this probiotic looks very promising to be able to prevent bats from acquiring WNS. The second captive trial will be this spring followed by a field trial in a few maternity colonies in the Vancouver area in the summer of 2019.

Dr. Lausen was the first person to learn that bats fly in cold winter temperatures. “No one ever looked before,” she explained. “I was putting away my bat detector in fall and my father asked me why. I told him that bats do not fly in winter and he asked how I knew that. So I checked and discovered that they do.” Winter bat activity has now been documented at 133 sites in BC.

There are over 1,000 species of bats in the world – nearly 25% of all mammals. They represent an “evolutionary miracle” Dr. Lausen says, “because flight is energetically expensive.”

Bats mate in the fall, store sperm all winter, ovulate when it is warm enough and food is abundant enough. In spring females give birth depending on temperature. Non-reproductive females tend to hang out with the males, while reproductive females form colonies with their pups. One pup is born per year and mother bats tend to cluster, so they can take turns ‘pup sitting’ and going out to find food. Pups cannot fly when they are born but they grow very fast and by three weeks of age have reached almost adult size and attained the ability to fly.

Bats have a small body mass and a large surface area. Unlike most mammals, they do not always maintain a steady body temperature, but take on the ambient temperature of the environment around them when needing to save energy. In winter, they go into deep torpor and hibernate until temperatures warm up and insects begin to be available. In the summer, the mother bats need warm roosts for pups to grow. The Ktunaxa Nation rights recognition approach to a treaty, and held to the recognition of the Ktunaxa Nation Council as the legal government and rights-holder of the Ktunaxa Nation. “I am very pleased that the three parties have agreed to adopt an approach that explicitly and properly recognizes our inherent rights as Ktunaxa,” said Tenese.

“This agreement ensures the ongoing relationship between the Ktunaxa and provincial and federal governments will be based on mutual respect and understanding and is a key step on the path towards reconciliation.” A rights recognition approach explicitly recognizes that Aboriginal rights are inherent and cannot be extinguished or surrendered, and seeks to build a collaborative and predictive ongoing government-to-government relationship. Through this approach, the parties have agreed to develop a core treaty and move directly into the last stage of treaty negotiations.

Under the agreement, key elements such as self-government, land ownership and stewardship, and law-making authority will be written into a constitutionally protected core treaty. Administrative and policy matters will be addressed through supplementary agreements that can be more easily amended, allowing for the government-to-government relationship to evolve as laws, policies and interests change. This approach allows for a treaty relationship that is flexible and able to adapt over time.

Working collaboratively and developing new innovative approaches to government-to-government agreements is key to achieving reconciliation and building healthier and prosperous Indigenous communities in Canada.
Mt. Abriel bridge welcomes beginner and adaptive mountain bike riders

by Claire Paradis

Although it’s still waiting for a name, the new 180-foot-long bridge at Nakusp and Area Bike Society’s (NABS) Mt. Abriel project is now ready for bikers and hikers, and snowshoers when the snow starts flying.

Project Manager Janis Neufeld emphasized that the structure symbolizes bridging a gap that has kept adaptive and new mountain bike riders on the sidelines. Unlike most mountain bike trails in the area that are “granny and fast” single tracks that only skilled bikers can ride, the bridge is part of a wider, more flowy two-and-a-half-kilometre trail suitable for adaptive and beginner mountain bikers.

“Inclusivity is what this bridge is about,” said Neufeld. “We have invited the Ktunaxa to name the bridge as a way to honour and respect that we are on the traditional homelands of the Ktunaxa people. I have not heard a response to date, but we will be patient and hope they will.”

Without the beautiful wooden bridge, a very technical piece of single track suitable only for advanced riders would have been the only option to connect the bike trail, defeating its original purpose as an adaptive and beginner track. Thanks to funding from Columbia Basin Trust, BC Rural Dividend, and BC Rec Sites and Trails, building the bridge became a possibility.

Designed by SNT Engineering out of Nelson, the bridge was built by a construction team led by Caesar Dolhaine, along with four local apprentice carpenters. The amount of hands-on work put into constructing the bridge is impressive. Concrete for the footings was wheelbarrowed down to the site, and much of the digging was done by hand. The manual labour also included transporting in the 450-pound steel girders. Twelve thousand kilograms of concrete, 10,000 kg of lumber, 6,000 kg of steel, and three dump truckloads of fill were worked by the crew as well.

Nakusp Mayor Tom Zeleznik was also on hand at the celebration, along with roughly 60 people. The mayor recognized the importance of the Mt. Abriel project, which has some of the first purpose-built adaptive trails in BC. He also mentioned how projects like this will attract people to stop on their way between Revelstoke and Nelson to visit Nakusp, which will in turn enhance the community of Nakusp.

In a very touching spontaneous speech, Nakuspian Ken Aaltern spoke to how much the project means to him as a local and to the town he loves.

NABS President Christa Rebman said it was “cool to see what we’ve accomplished… The years go by so quick,” she remarked.

Soon-to-be Nakusp resident and adaptive rider Ethan Kruger praised the project for its vision, saying that “no one else in the province is going this far ahead.” He urged people to keep going while the momentum was high.

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No more slash piles
Woodstove recommendations are to burn dry wood to minimize pollution. Here we are tonight, November 5, with massive fires burning at Miller Creek. Slash piles set on fire, waste piles the size of entire groups of houses, a ‘natural,’ self-evident byproduct of an industry that has eaten away at forests like no other destructive force. It is sickening to see so much fire visible from five kilometres away. Incapacitated on purpose – shame on an industry that has so little regard for a resource on which it depends. Shame on the decision makers and those not courageous enough to initiate change.

No more clearcuts, no more slash piles, no more waste at Hanford. Pollution and moral imperatives: big changes quickly – significantly in our lifetimes. We must make some changes that are reasonable for the industry to swallow.

When the gentlemen I was pleasantly conversing with discovered I worked for Cominco in Trail, they began berating me regarding alleged harms that Cominco’s effluent had done to their Columbia River. When they were finished, I asked if they knew how many Iraqi children had died during the bombing of Iraq. They didn’t know. I said, “Fifty-five thousand.” Trail people know a lot about pollution and moral imperatives: big imperatives and small imperatives. We aren’t idiots.

I mailed a letter to Spokane’s Spokesman Review newspaper last year: “If you performed a craniotomy under and understood climate change and the last 40 years, you would know that the facts are all there in front of you. If you must rely on CO2 concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO2) reaching 405.5 parts per million (ppm) in 2017, up from 393 ppm in 2016 and 400 ppm in 2015. As I write this letter the CO2 level is 408.5 ppm.

When the World Meteorological Organization released its provisional statement on the state of the climate for 2018, it said, “We are not on track to meet climate change targets and reign in temperature increases.” The WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin showed that globally averaged concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO2) reached 405.5 parts per million (ppm) in 2017, up from 403.3 ppm in 2016 and 400.1 ppm in 2015.

“Greenhouse gas concentrations are once again at record levels and if the current trend continues we may see temperature increases 3-5°C by the end of the century. We expect all known fossil fuels resources, the temperature rise will be considerably higher.” Taalas added.

There are more than just numbers,” said WMO Deputy Secretary-General Elena Manakova. “Every fraction of a degree of warming makes a difference to human health and access to food and fresh water, to the extinction of animals and plants, to the survival of coral reefs and marine life.”

The prestigious medical journal The Lancet has just published a report stating successfully tackling climate change in Canada would be the single biggest thing governments can do to improve human health in Canada.

“Chronic exposure to air pollution from greenhouse gas-emitting activities is killing an estimated 7,142 Canadians a year, and 2.1 million people worldwide,” The Lancet report stated.

We humans are at a momentous point in our lives. We must make some big changes quickly – significantly decrease our reliance on fossil fuels, vastly improve energy efficiency in our buildings, and rapidly transform our transportation systems away from motor vehicles – if we are to avoid more extreme weather events, sea ice melt, and impacts on vital food production.

We have received our public alert about climate change. It is up to us and our political leaders to react.

Michael Jensen

Back to legislated work, CUPW
I have a small business, so the postal strike has definitely adversely affected me. My parcels shipped out worldwide. Sad to hear the CUPW, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, with over 50,000 employees, could not reach an agreement with Canada Post, the government. In 2011, Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the time, legislated the same striking CUPW back to work. The CUPW took Canada Post to the Supreme Court of Canada and won, with the forced legislation deemed a violation of Canada’s Constitution and the rights of CUPW. I am not a lawyer, but if the courts have already ruled in favour of the CUPW, why are we going down this dead-end road again? Why has seven years of talks only made bitter fruit? Mediator after mediator has been appointed to no avail.

With postal backlogs expected to go into January 2019, I have been forced to find alternatives. Workers forced back to work will not treat you package kindly, especially with a mountainous backlog. I have had numerous packages split or broken open, torn – one even had my space dumped all over it.

Alternatives for Canadians wishing to ship are very limited, especially here in the Kootenays. If you use Purolator, a 250-gram package to Montreal will be around $40 in six business days. With Federal Express, out of USA, they can deliver a 250-gram package to Montreal for $32 in six business days. UPS, out of Germany, will not allow domestic deliveries within Canada at the moment, as stated on their website. These are all the cheapest prices.

Pay to expect to pay $80 or more if you want that 250-gram package there in a few days. My prices are at a discount for a small business; expect to pay even more as a one-time consumer user of these courier services. If you live in a large city like Toronto, there are services like Chit Chat that will do local packages cheaply and efficiently.

Right now I am going with FedEx because they offer the best price. Even with the strike over, there is a huge backlog of parcels at all the major postal hubs in Canada. I don’t expect any care to be put into my parcels from a disgruntled postal worker forced back into work by the government. Using Canada Post for parcels after the strike is a mistake. Nothing is resolved and I imagine the CUPW will drag Canada Post into the Supreme Court of Canada (again).

I thought Canadians lived under the rule of law, but this clearly shows the government of Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, violating his own Supreme Court to send these CUPW workers back to work. Trudeau legislated the CUPW back to work for Black Friday, Cyber Monday and the birth of Baby Jesus. He did it for the economy, not necessarily for the Canadian people. Canadian taxpayers built the Canada Post system and they should expect a good service at a reasonable price. Canada Post is one of the most expensive postal services in the world. When I ship a 250-gram package to Montreal for $20 with Canada Post, I can send the same package to Australia for $8,50! The same 250 gram package goes to Europe for around $10. If the CUPW gets their 2.9% annual wage increase, shipping costs are going to climb even more. A lot of my Canadian customers already balk at the high rates I must charge them, even wondering if I am gouging them (I’m not).

For letter mail you cannot use a courier. Canada Post has a legal monopoly on letter mail within Canada. Couriers can only send packages.

So, do we continue to use an angry postal system, forced back to work, or should we scrap the whole thing and privatize? Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Holland and the UK have all privatized to some extent. Productivity went up, service locations increased and prices fell. The Canadian government should stick to what it does best: gathering obscene amounts of tax dollars and then placing all Canadians into debt, currently at $663 billion. Get out of the mail business, Trudeau, and build the pipeline already!

Nick Chatten

The Valley Voice
Your remarks reminded me of Trump's comments on Mexico when he stated they are “rapists, drug dealers and criminals.” Trump does think Mexico has nice beaches, though. I doubt you intended to come across sounding like Trump. I also think you have a much more sophisticated view to offer Valley Voice readers on your experience in Egypt. Perhaps you have read the works of the many great Egyptian authors such as Nawal al Saadawi. Citing #MeToo, she recently pointed out that women across the world “are in the same boat” when it comes to sexual harassment. Cairo has an incredible buzz to it like no other place and there is art, music and a vibrant counter-culture.

I do not want to undermine the fact that the region does have serious challenges like many places in the world at the moment. For example, early marriage is on the rise in Europe and even in Canada.

In our current global political discourse, sweeping generalizations can be taken out of context and used to decide. There are people that may not be familiar with the region and all they see is negativity. Such statements can reinforce stereotypes that people may not be willing or able to look beyond.

They also don’t account for the brutal colonial histories, absolute poverty and lack of access to education for millions of people in the region. Let’s face it, you and I are also privileged enough to move on as well.

With experiences in the region I think we have the responsibility of bringing the world closer together rather than reinforce divisions that already exist.

Jeff Mayo
Edinburgh, Scotland

Wolf kill programs should be abandoned

On November 23, CBC reported the BC forestry ministry said caribou herds are stabilizing where wolves are being killed. I urge people to ask more questions about the program. The ends don’t justify the means.

On November 20, Wolf Awareness was one of two non-governmental organizations from BC’s Columbia- Revelstoke constituency that saw a petition to end the Wolf Kill Program submitted into legislature during a meeting of the Assembly.

The petition was submitted in an appeal to prevent the inhumane program from re-starting this winter and ultimately to remove predator killing from the toolbox of options being considered as new recovery plans are being developed for caribou.

Killing is NOT conservation. It’s just about killing a lot of wolves, but whether it is even consensurable to begin with, Attempting to sanctify killing large numbers of predators for any reason is highly dubious. As a wolf lover and advocate I believe that “Just because you can, doesn’t mean you should.”

There is a critical moral dilemma not being addressed regarding the killing of wolves (and other mammals) under the guise of conservation, especially when humans have put caribou in this situation, and continue to work to save the species.

Millions of tax dollars have been spent since 2015 to kill more than 500 wolves – sentient animals – using inhumane methods, namely aerial gunning and killing neck snares, both of which have been implicated in the death of many wolves before death. Petitioners from across the province don’t want to see their taxes funding this inhumane program.

Dr. Paul Paquet, an ecologist and recognized authority on mammalian carnivores states: “The time has come to seriously examine our relation with predators. The question is not whether killing wolves is “sustainable” as wildlife managers are always trying to assert. The question is whether it is ethically, or economically defensible to kill large numbers of predators anywhere. The answer on all counts is no.”

The South Selkirk caribou herds have been steadily declining over the past ten years of killing wolves. The remaining animals are being moved to north Revelstoke in Mountain Caribou Recovery Planning Unit 3A, where a similarly funded wolf killing is slated to continue this winter as well as in the South Peace.

The petition is also seeking real protection for identified caribou habitat. Twenty-nine wolves were killed in the Revelstoke unit the past two winters, trapping species preservation and ecosystem health. The internationally bankrupt display that may tarnish British Columbia’s “natural and wild” legacy forever.

Jeffrey Robert Kolesnik

To the new librarian in Nakusp

You and I have some things in common. I grew up in Whistler from the mid ’70s to the late ’80s. I later spent a combined 10 years in Lebanon and Tanzania. I have travelled extensively throughout the Arab world, including Egypt.

After reading your introduction in the Valley Voice, I was disappointed that your comments on your cultural experiences in Cairo were all negative. However, you did highlight the beauty of the natural environment nearby. You expressed “cultural norms such as sex roles by no means challenge with living in Egypt and the only thing you miss is your duvet.”

I urge people to ask more questions about the program. The ends don’t justify the means.

Jeff Mayo
Edinburgh, Scotland
**COMMUNITY**

**ASLCS**

**Home Support Workers**

Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services has openings for Home Support Workers in the Nakusp and Burton areas.

Home Support Workers are responsible for providing personal care, light housekeeping, meal preparation and assisting with medications.

Successful candidates must have a Health Care Aide Certificate and be registered with the BC Care Aide & Community Health Worker Registry, a reliable vehicle, a class 5 driver’s license and current first aid. Must be able to provide a successful criminal record check.

If interested, please send resume to:

ASLCS

Attn: Human Resources

PO Box 100, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0

Email: hiring@aslcs.com       Fax: 250-265-3378

**Home Support Workers**

**Sinkhole Repair**

A sinkhole repair will be undertaken on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 on Sierra Road (Lot 7, Block 4, Plan 7519, Circumlocutory District of the City of New Denver, New Denver, BC). A posted detour will be in place.

**The Donation Store**

Merry Xmas and Happy Holidays to all

Regular hours 10-2
Closed from Dec 25 to Jan 31
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Main Street • New Denver

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New Denver, BC  V0G 1S0

**Village of New Denver NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, December 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.


Subject Property [shaded on map]:
Lot 5, Block 5, Plan 9502, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District (805 Josephine Street, New Denver, BC)

Purpose of the bylaws, in general terms:

* Village of New Denver Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw 719, 2018 will amend the land use designation for the subject property from “Single Family Residential” to “Commercial” and include the subject property in Development Permit Area #1.

* Village of New Denver Zoning Amendment Bylaw 720, 2018 will rezone the subject property from “R1 – Single and Two Family Residential” to “C1 – Core Commercial”.

All persons who believe that their interest is affected by the proposed bylaws shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard in person, by a representative, or by written submission, at the Public Hearing. Written submissions may be delivered in person to the Village Office at 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, mailed to the Village of New Denver, PO Box 40, New Denver, BC, V0G 1S0 or emailed to office@newdenver.ca.

Submissions must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 14, 2018 in order to ensure their availability to Council at the Public Hearing. All submissions must include your name and street address and are considered public information, pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Following the close of the Public Hearing, no further submissions or comments from the public or interested persons can be accepted by members of Council.

The bylaws referenced above and related staff reports and background information may be inspected at the Village Office, 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, B.C., during regular office hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, except statutory holidays).

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Village office. Property owners are asked to forward this information to their tenants.
December 13, 2018  The Valley Voice

Kaslo council, November 27: Deputy Clerk Stephanie Patience designated acting CAO

by Jan McMurray

• Deputy Clerk Stephanie Patience was designated acting CAO starting December 17. This will be reviewed/ renewed January 22. CAO Neil Smith’s resignation was received at the last council meeting. He will be leaving Kaslo in mid-December.

• The allowable hours of operation for cannabis-related businesses was changed to 9 am – 9 pm (from 8 am – 8 pm) in Bylaw 1231, Business Regulation Amendment, after council received input from residents, both written and verbal. It was pointed out in written submissions that federal law prohibits cannabis-related businesses to be open before 9 am and after 11 pm. Three people attended the Committee of the Whole meeting prior to the regular council meeting to speak to council about the proposed bylaw. Michael Hathaway said he wanted cannabis-related businesses to be able to have sandwich boards, and to be open until 11 pm. Steve Fawcett also spoke in favour of longer business hours. Michael Halliday spoke in favour of the 8 pm closing time, and was generally against having such businesses in the commercial core. Council changed the allowable hours to 9 am – 9 pm and gave the proposed bylaw third reading. No change was made to the clause disallowing sandwich boards for cannabis-related businesses.

• A report from the CAO says that Village administration staff “remains at its limits for the management of capital and other projects.” He says there is “an unquestionable capacity gap between municipal human resources and corporate plans.” He recommends that discussions take place in 2019 re: office staffing capacity, project management capacities, expanding public engagement, prioritizing a Development Cost Charges bylaw, committee structure and number, and council/staff crew social engagement.

• A Kaslo & District Community Forest report from Steve Anderson, the Village’s rep on the KDCFS board, says 2018 was a successful year, and the society is in good financial shape. Next year’s logging plans include timber sales at the north of the lake (19,000 cubic metres) and at Milford (10,000-15,000 cubic metres). Neil Johnson is replacing Chris Webster as the RDCK rep on the board. He said dumping of household garbage on logging roads continues to be an issue.

• Council extended congratulations to the many Kootenay Business Magazine’s Best of Business Award winners in Kaslo and area.

• Bylaw 1229, Fees and Charges, was adopted.

• Bylaw 1232, Sewer Regulation Amendment Bylaw, was given three readings. The goal of this bylaw is to allow interested property owners to connect to the system during the 2019 construction project. This is a transitional bylaw; the old bylaws will be repealed and replaced once the Province approves the Liquid Waste Management Plan.

• The CAO presented a draft policy regarding the Village contribution from general taxation to the sewer utility for municipally owned properties: City Hall, Kembell building, seniors hall, vacant lot, campground and public washroom, Moyie Beach washrooms. The adoption of this policy will follow the adoption of Bylaw 1232, Sewer Regulation Amendment Bylaw.

• A beer garden licence was granted for the Kaslo Hockey Jamboree December 21-23.

• The Village office will be closed December 22-January 1, reopening January 2, Christmas gratuities of $60 in Chamber bucks will be provided to all permanent Village staff.

Thank you Area D for the opportunity to serve this amazing community.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, safe and nourishing holiday season.

Looking forward to 2019 with peace in our hearts and ambition on our minds.

Aimee Watson
Director Area D, RDCK

Warm wishes to you and yours this holiday season

Holiday Hours: Closed Dec. 25 & 26 & Jan. 1

KASLO & DISTRICT

In Loving Memory Of
Peggy Konkin nee (Ratliffe)

Passed Away November 28, 2018
At the Age of 80 years
Residence – Creston, BC

Notice of Passing

Friends wishing to make a memorial contribution may do so to
Land Conservancy of BC
P.O. Box 50054 RPO Fairfield Plaza
Victoria BC
V8S 5L8

Funeral Notices are now available to view at
golferfuneralchapel.com
Singers for a Winter’s Night stages second annual concert

by Art Joyce

If you’re looking for a way to brighten the winter gloom, look no further than the second annual Songs for a Winter’s Night concert, at the Lucerne school gymnasium December 22, 7 pm. It’s a chance to see what more than 50 local musicians can do under the direction of two master musicians, Noel Fudge and Martine denBok – and an exciting evening of music it will be.

This year, steering away from a traditional roster of Christmas music, which for many has become too cliché, the two have selected the program with the goal to present an eclectic and varied program, from Tango to Middle Eastern, Classical, and Celtic. Fudge, who arranged the majority of the pieces for the program, takes care to write for the various different skill levels within the featured performing groups: the Winter Winds ensemble; the Silvryn Slocan String Orchestra; the Classical Kitchen Quartet; and the Valley Voices choir. Sometimes songs will feature the individual groups alone, and sometimes they’ll combine with other ensembles.

The evening also invites special guests, including world-renowned cellist Johanne Perron, Nelson-based clarinet player Nicola Everton, local favourites DJ and Gary Wright, and classically trained vocalist Kelly Courbrough, whose youth choir also has a spot to shine on the program.

“This project is our heart and soul – endless hours of dreaming and arranging – all because we want to create a space for combining all our various different musical groups and communities together somehow,” says denBok. “Coming from a symphony background, I find the magic of music is most spectacular when it’s being made by a larger group, everyone working together for one common goal, in that one moment. It’s a beautiful thing to be a part of, and it’s a beautiful thing to observe.”

This is a friendly event, with tickets on a sliding scale to keep a large-scale concert of this kind accessible to everyone. Because last year’s event at Silverton Memorial Hall sold out, it was decided to move to the larger venue of the school gym so more people could attend. Tickets available at Silverton Building Supplies, at Mountain Fruit in Kaslo, and select vendors in Nakusp. Check out the Facebook event page for more information, and some previews of the evening’s music.

Drop off bottles to support local health care

Have you noticed the new trailer with the bright graphics at Taghum Shell?

Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation and the Nelson Leaf’s Recycling Centre (NLRC) are collaborating to provide convenient new recycling opportunities for returnable beverage containers. When you drop off your recyclables at the trailer you will reduce waste going to landfills while providing funding for the hospital.

The initiative is made possible with the support of the NLRC, City of Nelson, the Regional District of Central Kootenay Area F and Area E, Columbia Basin Trust, Waste Management, Taghum Shell, Kokanee Park Marine, ArcRight Welding, and KLIH Foundation director Ron Mickel.

The recycling centre says it looks forward to partnering with these organizations as they look ahead to the next phases of this fundraising program: new and improved containers at the Lakeside recycling depot, and containers at Kokanee Park Store and the Nelson & Area Waste Transfer Station.

Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation is a volunteer-driven registered charity committed to the purchase of priority medical equipment for Kootenay Lake Hospital.
by Claire Paradis

The invisible, odourless, radioactive and carcinogenic gas radon rises from the ground, and could be in your house. And in our corner of the province, the chance of finding radon in your house is high.

That’s why every November, teams of educators raise awareness about the carcinogen.

Radon gas is the byproduct of the decomposition of natural uranium in the ground, and the interior of BC is rich in the stuff. The gas can make its way into a house through poorly or incompletely sealed basements or crawlspaces, and during the winter when windows and doors are closed tight, the levels of the gas are at their highest. This is why testing is encouraged in the winter, and why November is Radon Awareness Month.

According to Health Canada, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, after cigarette smoking, and is linked to 16% of lung cancer deaths across the country. That’s 3,200 deaths each year that radon plays a part in. That’s why health authorities and researchers are urging people to test homes and public facilities.

Environmental Engineer Chantal Wilson, a radon mitigation specialist, says that most homes and schools in the area haven’t been tested. Wilson had discovered that her own home contained more than the acceptable level of 200 Becquerels per cubic metre (Bq/m³) of radon, and her house was one of 38% tested that came back with elevated levels. The results were astonishing.

“It was not rare to find homes in the thousands: 3,000 to 4,000,” Wilson said. Neighbouring houses could have very different levels, and radon was found in old and new buildings, workplaces, houses with or without basements or crawlspaces. It was impossible to predict what test results would show.

One factor that does play a part is the overall geological profile, and the Columbia Valley is a high uranium region. In fact, the Southern Interior and the Cariboo region are both flagged as being potentially high-risk areas for radon. A 2014 study done in Castlegar involving 158 homes found 59% of the houses had radon levels over the acceptable 200 Bq/m³.

Radon gas is only harmful when it collects and concentrates in a container, like in a house with its doors and windows shut over a Canadian winter. With good ventilation, the gas blows away and is harmless. Without it, the gas accrues, and if breathed in, can have dire health consequences.

Chantal Wilson was part of the team that visited Nakusp and Revelstoke, along with her colleagues Micky Leung from Health Canada and Lindsay Forsman-Philips from CAREX, the carcinogen exposure research group based at Simon Fraser University.

The group was educating people and urging them to test their homes by placing small plastic detection canisters in an area where they spend more than four hours a day. The process takes some time, with the testing period itself being 91 days, and then sending in and waiting for the results taking another four to six weeks.

If there are unsafe levels of radon found, Wilson says there are a variety of solutions available, depending on what is needed. Sealing cracks in foundations and basements, increasing ventilation, or installing a sub-slab ventilation system are some of the ways to mitigate radon gas accumulation.

**Wishing you and your family a warm and festive holiday season!**

RHC Insurance Brokers Ltd.

**Holiday Hours:**
- December 24 – 8:30 to 3 pm
- December 25, 26 – closed
- December 27, 28 – open 8:30 am to 5 pm
- December 31 – 8:30 to 3 pm

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Call 358-7218 for details
valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca

**7th Annual FALCONS’ CUP**

December 22nd & 23rd

Proceeds go to Nakusp Minor Hockey

Raffle Table; 50/50
Beer Gardens; Concession

Come out, watch some ‘fast pace’ old-time hockey and support your local hockey club!

This ad is sponsored by Marvin’s Small Motors as a public service
Ainsworth Hot Springs gets its community mailboxes back

Eight months after they were moved up the road to Woodbury, the community mailboxes are back in Ainsworth – now at the Ainsworth Motel.

“I was happy to help out the community by providing a spot for the mailboxes,” says Glen Konowalchuk, Ainsworth Motel owner. “It’s been a challenge to find a suitable location in the community, so when we were approached, we really looked at it and we found a spot on our property.” Ainsworth residents have been looking for a location that meets the requirements of Canada Post since the mailboxes were moved on April 27, from Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort to five kilometres north in Woodbury, near the entrance of Jones Boys Boats. They were moved because the resort decided not to renew the contract with Canada Post.

“It’s been quite an orchestration – lots of emails and conversations with Canada Post,” says Tammy White, one of the Ainsworth residents who took the lead on getting the mailboxes back. “Canada Post was amenable to them coming back, but what we struggled with was having an appropriate piece of real estate in Ainsworth.”

White says the mailboxes are in a good spot for now, and if need be, will be relocated at some time in the future. The location on private land, with potential changes in ownership, is not as desirable as public land.

Canada Post spokesperson Phil Legault says the motel location was proposed about a month ago, and a review of the site deemed it “safe and secure.”

“Once we were able to confirm the move, we sent a letter to customers advising them of service to their new temporary mailbox site,” Legault said. “The units are being installed today [Thursday, December 6], and mail will be delivered there starting tomorrow [Friday, December 7]. We will continue our search for a permanent location, and will communicate with residents when that time comes. We appreciate their patience and understanding.”

Residents were very upset in April, when the mailboxes were moved without any warning. “On April 26, the residents of Ainsworth picked up their mail at the hot springs site as usual, but the next day, the mailboxes had disappeared. There was a note posted on the site saying that the mailboxes were on Hwy 31, about four kilometres away – no longer secure.”

Donna Jean and Gary Wright provided some live music at the Apple Tree in New Denver in celebration of Giving Tuesday, an event organized by the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society.

Slocan Valley Legacy Fund raises over $12,000

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund more than met its target of raising $12,000 for the fund with its Giving Tuesday campaign. Dubbed ‘the start of the giving season,’ Giving Tuesday is a world wide outreach effort to promote generosity and community-building in all its forms, including charitable giving.

The board of the society hosted Coffee & Conversations events on Giving Tuesday (November 27) at two Slocan Valley coffee shops, and an appeal letter was sent to previous donors and supporters. This outreach hands raised $6,000, which was doubled by several board members and loyal donors who had committed to matching the first $6,000 raised. Gifts continue to come in both by mail and online. A final grand total will be announced in the next issue of the Valley Voice.

Learn more about the Legacy Fund at www.slocanvalleylegacy.com or Facebook page Slocan Valley Legacy Fund.
December 6 march reminds us that violence against women is a men’s issue too

by Claire Paradis

Women and men marched down Broadway in Nakusp in solidarity against gender-based violence on December 6, the anniversary of the 1989 École Polytechnique massacre where women were targeted. Fourteen women lost their lives on that day almost 30 years ago simply because they were women.

“Typically in our culture, women are abused more by men,” said Stopping the Violence Outreach Worker Carlee Hughes. Hughes said it’s important that women who may be experiencing abuse in their relationships see that people around them are refusing to accept violence. And it’s important to remember that the vast majority of men are not violent.

Domestic abuse takes other forms than just physical violence, added Hughes. Name-calling, threats, stalking, blaming, threatening children, non-consensual sex, and withholding money are all forms of abuse that can take place in relationships.

“It’s impactful for people who may be living with abuse in their lives to see elected representatives, business owners, and neighbours show solidarity. That people are saying ‘I know this happens and I don’t want this to happen in my community.’” Creating awareness shines a light on the problem and can encourage both victims and perpetrators to seek help, said Hughes.

The outreach worker acknowledged that although there are cases of violence against men perpetrated by women, most violence experienced by women is perpetrated by men.

But women aren’t the only ones to suffer violence from men; men have an additional stake in ending male violence. According to gender violence expert Dr. Jackson Katz, males are responsible for 90% of violent crimes, and while male perpetrators often target women, man-on-man violence is more prevalent, accounting for 77% of all incidents. Dr. Katz is clear that the system that produces men who abuse men is helping to produce men who abuse women.

Intervention can be enough to stop a violent act, said Hughes. The anti-violence outreach worker is hoping the march will prompt other men to ask questions and conversations about domestic abuse and gender violence. Her employer, Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS), is currently seeking to hire a male counsellor and outreach worker for men who have been abused or who use violence or abuse to gain a sense of power and control in their relationships.

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The Valley Voice  December 13, 2018

COMMUNITY

Kaslo Community Garden reports on busy season

submitted

The Kaslo Community Garden experienced another busy year.

Things got rolling with the AGM in March when it was decided to incorporate as a society. Thanks to Margaret Fry’s background work, the group officially became the Kaslo Community Garden Society.

Early projects included a fruit pruning workshop with Charlie Zincan from Harrop and the usual day of assignment of the food plots.

The society was happy to welcome back the Kaslo Food Hub at the garden. Both new and old plot renters participated in the garden and no space was laid to waste. The society was able to grow a small amount of potatoes and a squash plot for the local Food Hub in addition to the food that they produced themselves.

Once again, the school was busy in the garden, with participation from two classes at JVH. They all helped to move the society’s ‘hot pile’ and make it into the ‘squash pile,’ picked rocks, spread manure, dug plots, and planted a school garden. The biggest day of excitement was when the hay bales were moved inside the new fence and they began to ‘unroll.’ This caused joyous excitement of an old-fashioned kind – children jumping in fresh hay!

The biggest project of the year was to replace the Washington Avenue fence and incorporate a new gate for pedestrians, as well as a gate for vehicle deliveries. We owe big debts of gratitude to CNFKLS for funding, Charles dePape for the work with digging the postholes and to Stu Heard and Ken Butt for lots of grunt work with this project. Tom Duschatel and Rod Arnold also lent a helping hand. We are delighted with its appearance and workability.

The garden looked its very best throughout the season and we thank the plot owners who really worked at keeping weeds to a minimum and who helped at our weekly work parties. Two trees, donated by Honora Cooper to commemorate members of her family, were planted on the Washington Street Blvd. The plan for the future is to create small perennial beds with the Japanese tree lilacs as the anchor.

Once again, the garden participated in the Edible Garden Tour in July. We began the day with a workshop on perennials and had the water-wise garden expert on site for part of the day.

The season finished with a work party in the garden followed by a potluck lunch. The spring bulbs were planted and the hoses have been put away for another season. We thank the Village for the generous use of our space and providing the water at such a reasonable rate, the VHAKAS who sponsor our Society, and everyone who contributes to our garden by helping themselves at the designated plots, brings us good compost, and simply enjoys the beautiful space of Kaslo Community Garden.

The Kaslo Community Garden experienced another busy year.

The Langham sponsors Polar Bear Plunge 2019 submitted

Start the New Year bright-eyed and clear-headed with a refreshing dip in Kootenay Lake. On January 1, 2019 at high noon, the Langham presents the popular Polar Bear Plunge in Kaslo Bay Park. For over 10 years, the Plunge has put the FUN back in fundraiser and become a popular family-friendly signature Kaslo event.

Get your friends, family, co-workers, and far-flung relatives to pledge your plunge and support year-round community arts and culture at the Langham. Or just come for the spectacle, make a donation and enjoy hot dogs, hot chocolate, hot fire, and good cheer.

Pledge sheets available at Willow Home Gallery, Sunnydays Naturals, and the Langham office. Take a plunge for the Langham, and celebrate the New Year with us!

For more information on Langham events visit www.thelangham.ca

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our Customers & Community! Thank you for your business.

Holiday Hours:  • Closed Sun Dec. 23 – Wed Dec. 26 • Dec. 27-30 8 am – 5 pm • Dec. 31 8 am – 2 pm • Closed Jan. 1 • Jan. 28 am – 5 pm 250-265-4155 • See kaltire.com for our NEW WINTER HOURS!
Thank You!

Wishing everyone a Wonderful Holiday Season.
Thank you for your friendly patronage.

For an appointment please call Brian at 778-206-0077.
Royal LePage Selkirk Realty
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Thank You!
to all my customers for another great season.

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Your local support keeps me here!

Rob, Rhonda, Charlotte & Drew

HOLIDAY HOURS
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY
All regular days and hours of operation apply with the following exceptions:

RDCK NELSON, CRESTON AND NAKUSP OFFICES
December 25—January 1 CLOSED
Office will reopen on January 2

COMMUNITY RECREATION COMPLEXES
CASTLEGAR
December 24 & 31 CLOSED at 5:00pm
December 25 CLOSED
December 26 & January 1 CLOSED
December 26 & January 1 at 3:30pm - 4:30pm

CRESTON
Please refer to the Leisure Guide for holiday hours for specific features.
December 24 CLOSED at 4:00pm
December 25 & January 1 CLOSED
December 26 CLOSED
December 27 CLOSED
December 28 OPEN 8:00am - 7:00pm
December 29 OPEN 7:30am - 7:00pm
December 30 OPEN 9:00am - 6:30pm
December 31 CLOSED at 6:30pm
December 31 at 7:30am - 6:00pm
( Arena open for Jr. Hockey Game at 7:30pm)

NELSON
December 24 & 31 CLOSED at 5:00pm
December 25, 26 & January 1 CLOSED

SALMO
December 24, 25, 26, 31 & January 1 CLOSED

SLOCAN VALLEY
December 21 to January 2 CLOSED

LANDFILLS, TRANSFER STATIONS & GATED RECYCLING DEPOTS
December 25, 26 & January 1 CLOSED
December 24 & 31 CLOSED at 2:00pm

‘TIS THE SEASON TO COMPOST & RECYCLE.....
During December and January, any RDCK Landfill or Transfer Station will accept residential Christmas trees for composting for $2.50 each.
For more information about how to recycle or responsibly dispose of holiday decorations and materials, including holiday lights and light bulbs, visit the RDCK website: www.rdck.ca/resourcerecovery

Nakusp Rotary Club hosts 32nd Annual Christmas Carol Sing

The Arrow Lakes Community Choir, under the direction of Marilyn Kassel, performed at the Annual Rotary Christmas Carol Sing.

The mother-daughter duo of Hannah Holden and Tessa Wiseman performed at the Carol Sing.
Happy Holidays from all of your friends at Kootenay Savings.

Kootenay Savings
www.kscu.com

Season's Greetings from the NACFOR
Board of Directors and Management Team

SEASON’S GREETINGS FROM ALL OF US AT SAVE-ON FOODS

This Holiday season, shop Save-On Foods for all your Holiday entertaining needs.

Serving the community in Nakusp
Open 7 days a week 8 am–7 pm

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 8 am to 6 pm
Christmas Day, Dec. 25 CLOSED
Boxing Day, Dec. 26 8 am to 6 pm
New Year’s Eve, Dec. 31 8 am to 6 pm
New Year’s Day, Jan. 1 8 am to 6 pm

inspirations by Sanderella

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND MERRY CHRISTMAS
WISHING EVERYONE A WONDERFUL AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

We would like to thank everyone for all their continued support again this year. It makes us love what we do each time we see you.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.
Store hours are posted online and at the store.

Local musicians entertained at Kaslo’s Light Up Celebrations, December 1.

Front Street in Kaslo was all lit up on December 1.
COMMUNITY

It is that time of year again for holiday gift giving....

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE FOR ORTHO-BIONOMY & REFLEXOLOGY SESSIONS

To pick up...call Dawn at 250 265 1796 anytime

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Thank you for your support throughout the year.
Season’s Greetings from the staff at Gaia Tree Whole Foods

Closed Christmas and New Year’s Day
Open 9 – 5
Christmas Eve, Boxing Day & New Year’s Eve
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With beautiful Christmas décor of every description, Georama truly is your hometown, one stop Christmas Shop.

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They are long lasting and fresh – right from our greenhouses to your home!
Come for a visit today – and see Christmas in the making at Georama.

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Remember Georama delivers around the corner or around the world!

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New Denver Carollers to crash Open House
by Moe Lyons
"All we want for Christmas / Is a doctor hired!" On Monday December 17, a cheery group of New Denver and area residents will go to a party in Castlegar. This ad hoc group of concerned citizens will be there to remind the powers-that-be how much we love our hospital and once again ask them to help us. The occasion is Katrine Conroy’s and Dick Canning’s annual Holiday Open House. Folks from here will attend with a donation for the food bank in hand and love in our hearts. We will sing a little ditty about how much we love our hospital, then join the rest of the voters in the room to shake hands and celebrate and let them know we’re here and we’re just not going away. Everyone will meet at the doors of the Castlegar Community Complex at 1:45 sharp. Check on the Facebook Bulletin Board to connect for rides.

Lori Mackenzie of Nakusp won ‘Wolf Talk’ at the PALS Creative Hands Craft Fair on November 24.

Santa was in attendance at Nakusp’s Celebration of Light.

Wishing Everyone A Happy & Healthy Holiday Season!

Your local PharmaChoice team is committed to helping people live better lives through trusted and caring health services. We wish everyone good health and much happiness in the new year.

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PharmaChoice
88 Broadway St., Nakusp 250-265-2228
Empowering local government gets results for Canadians

submitted

Silverton Councillor Leah Main joined a delegation of more than 70 municipal leaders from across the country in Ottawa last month to deliver a unified message: empowering local governments gets results for Canadians.

“Through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, we had over 150 meetings with parliamentarians from all parties to discuss the best ways to unlock our municipal potential,” she said. “Our priorities in Ottawa were clear – achieve universal high-speed internet access, continue to build world-class public transit, and support local adaptations to new weather extremes.”

Titled ‘Advocacy Days,’ last week’s meetings included conversations with all parties and cabinet ministers and focused on how the upcoming federal budget 2019 can make life better for all Canadians. These conversations built on what is already working in the federal-municipal partnership and highlighted how municipalities, as the order of government closest to people’s lives, are best positioned to tackle some of Canada’s national challenges.

Rising out of these discussions ahead of the next federal budget was an agreement that municipalities must be empowered to deliver more – and that requires a modernized partnership.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) delegates issued a call for a new forum that would bring all orders of government together to tackle national challenges – from economic growth to climate change to the opioid crisis. Municipal leaders also made clear that they’re ready to kick-start conversations about new fiscal tools, like the federal gas tax, that empower local governments to deliver more for Canadians.

“People expect all orders of governments to work together to make their lives better. Municipal leaders know that modernizing our partnership will do just that,” said Councillor Main. “Along with my colleagues from cities, towns and villages across this country, we let Ottawa know that we’re ready to move the conversation forward.”

Across Canada, in communities large and small, urban and rural, municipalities are the order of government closest to people’s lives. Their local solutions are helping tackle national challenges – from growth and productivity to climate change – and are building a more livable, competitive Canada for all.

Providing Solutions... Making Repairs Easy!
Tel: 877 359 6990 • Fax: 250 359 6980 • 1007 Playmor, South Slocan, BC V0G 2G1

Columbia Basin water quality monitoring website launched

submitted

The Columbia Basin Water Quality Monitoring Project website is complete and available to all Basin residents. From 2007 to 2018, Columbia Basin Trust provided approximately $650,000 in funding for the CBWQ. This unique project supported 12 community watershed groups to monitor their water.

All groups received Environment Canada training in the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network protocol, which is used across Canada by government agencies and consultants. “The project data includes water chemistry, velocity, flow, temperature, as well as interpretive reports created by water professionals and Environment Canada analytical reports,” said Laura Duncan, project coordinator.

Laura continued, “Analytical reports are created by Environment Canada by comparing quality and quantity of benthic macro-invertebrate communities in the local stream with populations in similar streams in pristine condition. This is called reference condition. The amount the sample stream differs from the reference condition is a measure of water quality.”

“Generally it is the large river systems that get all the monitoring attention,” said Jim Duncan, project administrator. “Data from small streams complements the river data and is extremely valuable because water quality indicators show up much earlier in small streams. This is extremely important given pending impacts of climate change.”

For more information, visit the project website at cbwq.ca.


Wishing our friends, neighbours and customers the Best of the Holiday Season from all of us at

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COMMUNITY

Silverton Councillor Leah Main (centre) with Councillor Yolaine Kirlew (Sioux Lookout, Ont.), Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, Columbia-Shuswap Regional District Chair Rhona Martin (Malakwa) and UBCM President Arjun Singh (Kamloops) meeting in the historic Parliamentary Library.
NDP MP Wayne Stetski was officially nominated by Kootenay-Columbia NDP members to be their candidate for the 2019 federal election during a nomination meeting that took place in Nelson recently.

“I am honoured to have the opportunity to represent the NDP for another election and to keep fighting alongside NDP leader Jagmeet Singh for people who keep getting squeezed, while the richest people and richest corporations come out ahead,” said Stetski. “I hope to earn the trust of the people of Kootenay-Columbia once again so I can keep working hard for them and make sure they get what they need from their government.”

Singh said he is excited to be able to count on Stetski to help him improve the lives of everyday people in Kootenay-Columbia and in communities across the country.

“Wayne is a tireless worker with an unparalleled dedication and determination to stand up for the common good, protect our environment, and make life easier and more affordable for those who have been left behind by decades of Liberal and Conservative governments,” said Singh. The decision to run again was an easy one for Stetski.

“Working for the people of Kootenay-Columbia is an enormous privilege and one I take very seriously,” he said. “I hope that the work I have done in Ottawa on their behalf to date has shown that the concerns of my constituents are my first priority. I am excited to work with Jagmeet, with my colleagues in the NDP caucus, and with other Members of Parliament from across the country to make life better for people in Kootenay-Columbia, in Canada, and around the world.”

The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS) has announced its current campaign to monitor and create public awareness of invasive mussel species.

According to CKISS, the potential introduction of Zebra and Quagga mussels is the most pressing issue facing the Kootenay region. Zebra and Quagga mussels have infiltrated lakes and rivers in North America and caused an estimated $43 million in damage per year to hydropower stations, and municipal water supplies.

During the 2018 field season, CKISS staff collected over 350 samples at 34 sites within seven different high priority water bodies. All of the samples sent to a provincial lab to be analyzed came back negative for free-swimming microscopic mussel larvae called veligers.

Although at present there are no mussels showing up in West Kootenay waters, vigilance is needed to ensure it stays that way. Boats and other watercraft brought into the region can unwittingly carry the invasive mussels. The BC government requires anyone transporting watercraft to stop and report to all invasive mussel watercraft inspection stations along your travel route. Watercraft includes all sailboats, motorboats, car toppers, kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards being transported in BC.

The BC government program of ‘clean, drain and dry’ encourages watercraft owners to inspect, clean drain and dry all gear and boats following use. When leaving a waterbody, remove any visible plants and animals from your gear and boat.
by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo and Meadow Creek Family Centre programs will lose a significant portion of their government funding on March 31, 2019, and will have to cut some of the services they are currently providing.

“The family centres in Kaslo and Meadow Creek are ‘the place to go’ for early years programming, so these funding cuts and program losses will have a big impact on our local families,” says Sarah Evans, Early Years Coordinator at North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (NKLCSS). “We’ve really seen how those funds have supported families living in our rural and remote communities.”

NKLCSS Acting Executive Director Jane Ballantyne explains that the former BC Liberal government introduced the BC Early Years Centres, and Kaslo/Meadow Creek was chosen as one of 40 test sites for the centres. NKLCSS started with a one-year contract, then signed a four-year contract at $54,000 per year to operate the centres in Kaslo and Meadow Creek. The four-year contract has been cancelled one year early.

Ballantyne says the organization will receive funding for early years programming in 2019-20, but she expects that it will be significantly less than $54,000.

Evans’ call-out to parents and community members to write letters with their concerns garnered 43 letters within a week. She will be sending those letters in a package this week to Minister of Children and Family Development Katrine Conroy, MLA Michelle Mungall, Premier John Horgan, and MCFD Director of Operations Rob Wicharuk.

“Some of the services that will be discontinued in Kaslo include monthly visits from service providers such as the public health nurse and speech and language pathologist; gas vouchers and emergency food vouchers for families who need them; the annual Kaslo Children’s Fair; and the second facilitator at the Strong Start and Child Time programs. The Mothercare Pregnancy Program will be offered biweekly instead of weekly, and no lunch will be provided. There will no longer be dinner at the Tuesday evening Strong Start session, either.”

Early Years Centres were being piloted in about 40 communities in BC, and Ballantyne said she had hoped to see them spread across the province. However, the BC NDP government has replaced the Early Years Strategy with ‘Childcare BC,’ which will give parents access to affordable childcare. Evans applauds this initiative, but is sorry to see the disservice to the families in the Kaslo area.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) says that 2019-20 funding for the early years would total about $9.9 million, up from $9.7 million last year. However, those funds will be distributed throughout the province, rather than to the 40 communities pilotting the former program. “The ministry is moving towards a more equitable distribution of programming across the province. This means that there are communities who will receive funding through this reallocation that have never before received funding for early years services from the ministry,” said an MCFD spokesperson.

Community members are encouraged to write letters to MCFD Minister Katrine Conroy (MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca) and MLA Mungall (Michelle.Mungall.MLA@leg.bc.ca) to express their concerns.
COMMUNITY

Nakusp council, November 26: Cannabis shop application to go to public hearing
by Claire Paradis

• An application for a zoning amendment to allow for a cannabis retail sales facility at 312 Broadway was received by Nakusp council. The property is owned by Terry-Lynn Geche, and the applicant for the business is Colin Hanet. The zoning amendment will be brought to a public hearing on January 14 before the regular council meeting. If the zoning is approved, the applicant must then go through the process of applying to the Province for a retail licence.

• Mayor Tom Zeleznik asked about lighting. Williams said there is electricity to the site, and the society has been discussing installing security cameras and lighting some time in the future.

• Mayor Tom Zeleznik asked if there would be bars on the windows and doors. Williams replied that the shed has only one door, and that it would be closed to protect historical pictures from the elements. He said they’re hoping the shed would be open to the public for various events throughout the year, as volunteers are available.

• Mayor Zeleznik told Williams that council would consider the request at an upcoming council meeting, with a staff report.

• Kate Tupper’s ‘Moments Later’ was recommended by the Public Art Committee to be one of Nakusp’s public art purchases. The sculpture costs $12,000, so there are still funds available in the project budget of $25,000 – $20,000 supplied by a CBT grant and $5,000 from a private donor. A call will be put out to the community for proposals for a second sculpture in February 2019.

• The Village has submitted a grant application under the Community Resilience Investment Program, formerly called Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI), for $42,928.50 to expand the FireSmart program. The FireSmart program, conducted by the RDCK and NACFOR, helps property owners reduce their risk in the event of a fire. The goal is to get the private sector involved and see how it’s done,” said Fire Chief Terry Warren.

The grant would also allow the Village to develop 12 fuel management prescriptions for high priority areas within Village limits, including the hot springs.

• Council voted in favour of providing the Nakusp and Area Bike Society (NABS) with a letter of support for a Job Creation Partnership (JCP) grant to build a covered viewing platform at the Mt. Abriel recreation site on Adams Road. Up to eight local labourers, including a supervisor and lead hand, may be hired for the project.

• The Village’s CAO has developed a Social Media Policy to ensure there’s no confusion about who is authorized to post and what types of information can be posted. Councillor Hughes made a motion to table this until councillor-elect Janis Neufeld is back in town; she is returning December 2. The motion was defeated, and a motion to approve the Social Media Policy as presented was passed.

• Nakusp Fire Chief Terry Warren told council there have been 95 incidents as of November 20. In one of those incidents, the fire chief played courier, delivering blood to New Denver because there were no BC Ambulance or RCMP members available to do the transfer. He updated council that there are now 23 firefighters, including four new recruits. Warren said the firefighters are making use of the ‘Who’s Responding’ app, which gives them advanced notice of an incident, and a map of its location.

• Director of Operations Bart Chenuz’s report to council included news that driveways along Alexander Road which were torn up during work this summer will be repaired next spring.

The Village has been partnering with YRB on several projects, Chenuz told council, and they frequently trade work back and forth. Chenuz has arranged for the Village to take its sand and salt to the YRB yard, where there are the proper facilities for dealing with the winter road maintenance staples. In preparation for the season, Village will also be putting flags on hydrants so they’re visible to plough trucks.

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250-358-2500
309 6th Avenue, New Denver
Downtown Revitalization Project phase one to be completed in the spring

by Claire Paradis

Downtown Revitalization Project Manager Terry Welsh gave an update on the project at the November 26 council meeting.

Completion of phase one is planned for April 15-May 31, 2019. This work will include the south side of Broadway from 4th to 2nd (sidewalk, lighting, street furniture, landscaping and corner bulbs); the four corner bulbs at Nakusp Glass, Valley Foods, Chumley’s, and the courthouse; irrigation system installation and connections/blowouts to existing fire hydrant feeds; planting of street trees and shrub beds.

Welsh said that having the Village take on a construction management model for the project has clearly had cost benefits. Using local contractors and suppliers, in addition to Village labour, has resulted in savings, he said. The project will be under budget by an estimated $27,940, and accounting has been very conservative, said Welsh. The surplus will be carried over to phase two.

Councillor Hughes asked exactly how much Village employee labour has been used in the project. One Parks staff member worked on the project steadily for three weeks; the other in-kind labour was for Site Supervisor Terry Flammond. Their other in-kind labour was for Site project steadily for three weeks; the Parks staff member worked on the project including the courthouse; irrigation glass, Valley Foods, Chumley’s, and the four corner bulbs at Nakusp East Road. Director of Operations Bart Chemenz said they had to bring people in on a casual basis for the Nakusp East Road project, but CAO Taylor added that the Village could not have done Nakusp East without hiring casual labour and machinery even if all Village staff had been available.

Councillor DeSandoli asked if the light standards being replaced along Broadway as part of the Downtown Revitalization Project (DRP) will be repurposed and installed elsewhere where there are lighting inadequacies. Chemenz said it would cost approximately $3,000 to install each streetlight, and added that they need to be mindful of aesthetics and not to mix lights made of different materials (i.e. metal and wood). He said it would be possible to look at where they could go. CAO Taylor said she had also looked into selling them; a report with her findings will come to council.

• The DRP will include memorial benches, available for $2,500 to people who would like to honour a loved one. Recreation and Parks Director and DRP Project Manager Terry Welsh said there are seven requests for benches already, and that three more benches will recognize major project sponsors Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR), Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), and Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). Funds raised from memorial benches will go into a maintenance fund for the benches. Welsh added that of the Broadway Street business owners surveyed about the storefront-facing ornamentation of the benches, 21 were either in favour or neutral, three were opposed, and four owners were unreachable at the time of the survey.

• Once the Village has sequestered enough pavers for future repairs along sections of the main street sidewalk which still use them, excess pavers will be available to Nakusp residents at no charge. The pavers, which were removed from where the new sidewalks have gone in, are no longer being manufactured, but are also taking up valuable space at the public works yard.

Season’s Greetings from the Mayor, Council & Staff

Wishing everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season
Mayor Len Casley commented that the committee will be officially established at the next meeting, and appointments to the committee will be made. Mayor Len Casley commented that the committee will be made official at the next meeting, and appointments to the committee will be made. Mayor Casley added, “Most of the fuel treatment that’s been done here up to now is on Crown land. We would no longer be going after funding for this. Our current emergency plan could use improvement, and this is 100% funding for that.”

A letter from four property owners said that the RDCK is working on transitioning the recycling system to Recycle BC. In the meantime, to ensure uninterrupted service, the RDCK has had to extend an agreement with Waste Management to April 30 at a higher cost than in the past.

• Appointments were made to Recreation Commission #: John Fyke (Village of New Denver’s RDCK representative), Colin Moss (alternate); Gerald Wagner (Village of New Denver rep), John Fyke (alternate); Tamara Barkowsky (New Denver’s community rep).

• Appointments were made to the Rosebery Parklands & Trails Commission: John Fyke (Village of New Denver’s RDCK rep), Colin Moss (alternate); Richard Allin (community rep), Gerald Wagner (alternate).

• Nadine Raynolds was appointed as the Village of New Denver’s rep on the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission.

• John Fyke was appointed to the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Advisory Committee.

The Valley Voice
December 13, 2018

COMMUNITY

• Council agreed to partner with the Villages of Silverton and Slocan on a funding application under the new Community Resiliency Investment Program (CRIP). The program will provide 100% of the cost of planning activities that reduce the risk of wildfire. The Slocan Integral Forestry Co-op (SIFCo) will complete the application. Corporate Office Catherine Allaway explained that fuel treatment on Crown land is now being done through the Ministry of Forests, not municipalities. Mayor Casley added, “Most of the fuel treatment that’s been done here up to now is on Crown land. We would no longer be going after funding for this. Our current emergency plan could use improvement, and this is 100% funding for that.”

• Staff will contact BC Hydro to ask about removing the streetlight in the Orchard at 3rd Street and the alley between Union and Kildare. A letter from four property owners living next to the streetlight asks that the light be turned off or removed, as it broadcasts into all of their homes and yards all night long, detracting from their quality of life. Staff will report back to council for discussion with BC Hydro on this.

• Council received the annual report for the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (NIMC). The report says the number of visitors to the area. There were 100 more visitors this year than last year. With 4,136 admissions this year, revenues from admissions was $27,584. A further $8,619 in sales was made at the gift shop. Two students and two adults were hired for the summer season. The lack of a professional archivist or collection manager is a concern, as is the deterioration of some of the buildings and exhibits.

Top priorities for 2019 include improving highway and in-town directional signage for NIMC, applying for an intern position to assist with the collection material, hiring or consulting a professional archivist or collection manager for contract work, replacing and repairing the exhibit photos, replacing the paper on the walls and ceilings in the kitchen of 1957 building, cooperating with larger institutions to be included in bus tour packages, sourcing cedar shakes for replacement of deteriorating siding on 1942 and 1957 shakes, replacing cedar benches as per inventory data.

Corporate Officer Catherine Allaway said it would be valuable for council to meet with Amanda Murphy, Recreation and Cultural Services Coordinator, who has been putting together a plan for the Village’s heritage buildings.

• Mayor Len Casley reported that he will be meeting with the new Ministry of Transportation area manager, Kristen Spearman, to discuss sight lines on Hwy 31A.

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Revelstoke BC Hydro project granted environmental assessment certificate

Submitted

An environmental assessment certificate has been issued to BC Hydro and Power Authority for the Revelstoke Generating Station Unit 6 project (Revelstoke 6 project). The decision was made by George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

BC Hydro proposes the installation of a sixth generating unit into an existing empty turbine bay of the Revelstoke Dam and the construction of a capacitor station. The Revelstoke 6 project would add an additional 500 megawatts (MW) of power generation to the dam, bringing the station’s total peak output power to 2,980 MW.

The generating station is situated on the Columbia River, five kilometres upstream from the City of Revelstoke, and on the asserted traditional territories of the Syilx Okanagan Nation, Ktunaxa Nation, Lakes Tribe and Secwepemc Nation. The capacitor station is proposed near Summerland and overlaps the traditional territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation.

Having considered the Environmental Assessment Office’s (EAO) assessment report and the recommendation of the executive director of the EAO to issue a certificate, the ministers are confident that the project will be constructed and operated in a way that ensures no significant adverse effects are likely to occur.

In addition to the 20 conditions that are part of the Revelstoke 6 project’s environmental assessment certificate, 20 design requirements are specified in the certified project description. Each of the conditions and the certified project description are legally binding requirements that BC Hydro must meet to maintain compliance with the certificate.

The EAO also consulted with the US-based Lakes Tribe through the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT). Consultation with the CCT started in early 2018 following a BC Supreme Court decision that found the Lakes Tribe to hold Aboriginal rights within Canada. According to BC Hydro, construction of the generating station and capacitor station is expected to create 472 person-years of direct employment for BC residents, with 403 person-years of employment expected to come directly from the Revelstoke area over the 40-month construction period.

For more information visit: www.gov.bc.ca/ea0

Community

Revelstoke BC Hydro project granted environmental assessment certificate

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Brian Major

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Please contact: Gormans Pole Division

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Wishing everyone a Joy Filled Holiday Season

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Season’s Greetings

from your Holiday Party-Pooper Prevention Specialists

Clayton Roy & Craig Sapienko

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Office: 250-359-8282

email: allsepticvac@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AllSepticVac

The Nakusp Childcare Society would like to thank the Regional District of Central Kootenays for their support.

The NCS applied for, and was given a grant in which they purchased 9 sleds, 4 snow shovels and rented the auditorium multiple times thru the winter season.

– Thank You –

- The Nakusp Childcare Society & its Board members
Business Plan workshop open to anyone! Community Futures to learn about the free starting your own business? If so, call Kaslo EDC. for this position thanks to CBT and RDCK/

Thursday 9-12 or by appointment. #23 The Office hours: Tuesday 1-3, Wednesday &

and Area D with affordable housing. Housing

250-353-8306. Funding for this position thanks to CIT and ROCK Kaslo EDC.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

THINKING OF STARTING your own business? If so, call Community Futures to learn about the free starting your own business? If so, call Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training; and delivers the Self Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

¿SOMEBODY ELSE’S STORY¿ is up, with many thanks to the Castlegar Film Society. This project presents stories of people from across the region who have been involved in community development.

A GOOD GIFT: Not Extinct. Keeping the Slocan Valley alive. with openings for piano students, age 5 and older, at all levels in modern, classical and jazz styles. Adults and special needs students welcome. Contact Carmen (250) 226-6951.

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Dr. Zaleski is a member of the BC Chiropactors Association and is highly trained in all facets of foot care.

Counsellor: Sue Mistretta, M.A

Over 30 years experience of Spinal Health Care

Counselling & training; and delivers the Self Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

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A GOOD GIFT: Not Extinct. Keeping the Slocan Valley alive. with openings for piano students, age 5 and older, at all levels in modern, classical and jazz styles. Adults and special needs students welcome. Contact Carmen (250) 226-6951.

FINANCIAL AID

The Self-Employment Program, where you will receive ongoing business training and coaching and usually financial support while you start your business. To learn more call 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

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Business Plan workshop open to anyone! Community Futures to learn about the free starting your own business? If so, call Kaslo EDC.

for this position thanks to CBT and RDCK/

Thursday 9-12 or by appointment. #23 The Office hours: Tuesday 1-3, Wednesday &

and Area D with affordable housing. Housing

250-353-8306. Funding for this position thanks to CIT and ROCK Kaslo EDC.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

THINKING OF STARTING your own business? If so, call Community Futures to learn about the free starting your own business? If so, call Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training; and delivers the Self Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

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Hand & Soul Wellness Centre

202 Lake Avenue, Silverton

Chiropactor: Dr. Larry Zaleski

Over 20 years experience of Eagle Care Chiropact

Dr. Zaleski is a member of the BC Chiropactors Association and is highly trained in all facets of foot care.

Counsellor: Sue Mistretta, M.A

Over 30 years experience of Spinal Health Care

Counselling & training; and delivers the Self Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

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IN LOVING MEMORY -
December 13, 2018
The Valley Voice
SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION and advice for alternative funeral CARPENTER CREEK LAST
But in our hearts you’re always there where he was known as “Old John.”
John relocated to Winlaw to be closer to he worked at Cominco. He retired in 1990 to in the 1950s, landing in Trail in 1965 where John immigrated to Canada from Scotland away peacefully one year ago on his 84th IN MEMORIAM: Mr. John (Jack) Keyser, who passed away peacefully on December 12th, 2018 at the age of 84. He was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Next Valley Voice Deadline: January 11, 2019

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

GROTESQUE

ADVERTISING

Your ad could be here for only $19.50 + GST
Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

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

SLOW DOWN IN SCHOOL ZONES, SAYS SCHOOL DISTRICT SUBMITTED

A near incident recently has the Kootenay Lake School District administration alarming drivers to slow down and STOP, especially with winter driving conditions now in effect.

A student crossing the road was nearly hit by a vehicle that sped past a school bus, despite it having its stop sign and flashing red lights activated. BC drivers are required by law to come to a complete stop when approaching a school bus with its red lights flashing; however, this rule is often ignored, putting students at extreme risk.

“I am sure that each one of our bus drivers has their own story of witnessing motorists ignore the rules,” says Janet Wall, Manager of Operations with School District 8 Kootenay Lake. “Sadly, we are aware of the near misses and it is scary to think how quickly a tragedy could result.”

With winter driving conditions, it is even more imperative that drivers take extreme caution and abide by the rules. Poor visibility and slippery conditions create further driving challenges for everyone on the road, and school bus drivers are having to take extra precautions to ensure the safety of students on their way to and from school.

“The safety of our students is paramount,” emphasizes Superintendent Dr. Christine Perkins. “We need everyone to use extreme caution in our school zones and everywhere for that matter; a child’s life may depend on it.”

SDS school buses are equipped with video cameras and bus drivers are advised to record and report dangerous driving incidents and vehicle license plates to the police and/or RCMP.
Local students awarded Ike Barber scholarships

Submitted

Two dozen students who embarked on their post-secondary journey at Selkirk College and are continuing towards completion of a degree have received $120,000 from the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society.

A total of 24 Selkirk College alumni were awarded a $5,000 Ike Barber Transfer Scholarship that is available to undergraduate students who have completed at least one year at a public post-secondary in BC and transfer to another institution to complete their studies.

“This scholarship opportunity is a great example of how beneficial starting at a smaller institution to complete their post-secondary in BC and transfer to undergraduate students who have received $120,000 from the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society provided a total of $855,000 in transfer awards to 171 students across the province. The large majority of this year’s Selkirk College recipients graduated from high schools in the West Kootenay and Boundary region. They come from a variety of Selkirk College programs and are now enrolled in university programs from across the province including the University of Victoria, University ofBritish Columbia, Simon Fraser University, University of Northern British Columbia, Vancouver Island University, and the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

“Through the scholarships and bursaries that are available within Selkirk College, students have a chance to significantly cut down on the costs of a post-secondary education,” says Dolan. “Once they move on to further studies, they are able to take advantage of external scholarships like the Ike Barber to help get them to that next level.”

The society is named after entrepreneur and philanthropist Irving K. Barber who had a long history of supporting public post-secondary in BC before his death in 2012. To qualify for a transfer scholarship, students must demonstrate strong academic achievement and significant volunteer service to their school or community.

Applications for the 2019 Ike Barber Transfer Scholarship will open in December and will be accepted until February 28, 2019. To find out more about the society’s programs call 1-844-478-4665 or visit www.ikbbc.ca. To find out more about how to make a Selkirk College education more affordable, head to selkirk.ca/financial-aid.
COMMUNITY

Argentine Tango weekend to be held in Nelson, January 4-6

An Argentine Tango Beginner Boot Camp is being offered in conjunction with a full weekend workshop in Nelson from January 4 to 6, 2019. This is the first time that instructors Patrick Marsolek and partner Lori Mitchell, from Missoula, Montana, will offer classes specifically for beginners, in addition to experienced tangueros.

On Friday evening January 4 the weekend kicks off with a welcoming potluck and a Tango Basics class. This class will address the tango walk, the embrace and connection. Everyone is welcome to attend the potluck, the basics class, and the following informal Argentine Tango weekend to be held in Nelson, January 4-6 practica (tango practice dance) and social. Dancers will enjoy Marsolek’s accomplished DJ skills.

On Saturday and Sunday mornings the Beginner Boot Camp 75-minute class commences at 10:30. This is a great opportunity to learn from these talented instructors in an intimate class situation with others who are also just starting or restarting their tango journey. Marsolek and Mitchell are knowledgeable, accessible and engaging instructors.

Two additional classes are offered each afternoon for the more advanced dancers, and a chance to work on some of the fancy footwork identified with Argentine Tango.

On Friday evening Milonga (a social tango dance) commences at 8 pm. A highlight of the evening will be a short set of live music by Marsolek playing the signature tango instrument, the bandoneon, joined by Kaslo dancer Aiko Jackson on keyboards and Nelsonite David Feldman on violin. This will be a special treat – a chance to dance to live music!

The Beginner Boot Camp weekend pass is $70, which includes the three classes plus practica and milonga. A regular full weekend pass is $135 or $120 if registered by December 21.

For further information please contact host Fran Wallis at 250-358-2448 or email franwallis77@gmail.com To register please send an etransfer.

submitted

December 13, 2018

Kootenay Co-op Radio has once again taken on the task of organizing the New Year’s Day Polar Bear Swim happening at noon at Lakeside Park in Nelson on January 1, 2019. With a near-record turn-out last year, volunteer organizers at the station are hoping to see the event bring out even more swimmers this year. With a goal of raising $5,000, the event is being held as a fundraiser for the station and Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society (FOKLSS).

“We were super lucky with the weather in 2018, and hoping we have a nice day again this year,” says event organizer Stephanie Meyers. “But we’ll be serving up hot chocolate and chili again to take the bite out of whatever winter throws at us.”

KCR is a mostly volunteer-run station that runs very efficiently given its shoestring budget, but there are still bills to pay. “We have a small, part-time staff, a mortgage on our building, and our gear is in dire need of upgrades,” Meyers explains. “Still, building community is one of our primary goals, so we like to share the love with other local non-profits. Friends of Kootenay Lake is the perfect fit for an event like this.”

Formed in 2012, FOKLSS is dedicated to sustaining a healthy Kootenay Lake for future generations. Along with hot chocolate, chili, and propane heaters, organizers will have Search and Rescue on hand should any swimmers get into trouble. “One thing we’ve noticed about Nelson is the people love to dress up. So if you have a costume that won’t drown you, by all means, wear it,” says Meyers.

Participants are encouraged to seek pledges from friends, neighbours, and family. Pledge forms may be picked up at Kootenay Co-op Radio, or emailed. For more information on how to volunteer, or to request a pledge form, contact admin@kootenaycoopradio.

Kootenay Co-op Radio polar bear swim 2019 announced

submitted
Kaslo trails society reports on summer work

Submitted

In 2018 the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation and Trails Society (KORTS) and the Kaslo Trail Alliance teamed up to apply for two grants that helped fund a North Kootenay Lake trail coordinator and a summer trail crew.

The trail coordinator grant for $10,000 came from the BC Rural Dividend Program delivered through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Marie-Ange Fournier-Beck, principal consultant of Kaslo-based VIVID Consulting, was contracted through this grant to be the trail coordinator.

The Kaslo Trail Alliance teamed up to apply for two grants that helped fund a North Kootenay Lake trail coordinator and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and the North Kootenay Lake Trail Coordinator Program delivered through $10,000 came from the BC Rural Dividend Program.

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Happy Holidays from all of us at Royal LePage Selkirk Realty, Nakusp

Wayne Stetski
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
KOOTENAY—COLUMBIA

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// Wayne.Stetski@parl.gc.ca

**COMMUNITY**

**Youth philanthropy celebration held in Kaslo**

Submitted

On November 15, seven local youth from Kaslo and Area D celebrated youth philanthropy over pizza in a local restaurant for Philanthropy Day.

The youth, aged 11 to grade 12, were nominated for their involvement and volunteerism. A short list of their activities include: fundraising, helping home construction in Mexico, working with seniors, volunteering at the library and food hub, mentoring younger youth, helping at community functions, participating as board members, student trustees or youth liaison, and working involving mental health.

The evening started by reflecting on the value of philanthropy. Participating youth shared reflections of their best moments while volunteering, and continued with discussions as to what they found inspiring, meaningful and important. They then related those discussions to what they believed are unmet needs in this area.

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These young people discussed topics that were meaningful and passionate to them – arts and culture, mentoring initiatives, continuing education, generational bridges, youth involvement, empowerment and self confidence, reduction of poverty and fair distribution of resources, animal welfare, sports and mental health.

Practical discussion involved the decision by the youth as to how to distribute $500 to charities in the area. The money will be distributed between KAAPs (animal welfare), the Langham for youth mentorship in the arts, music or video, and the Kaslo Food Hub.

This event was sponsored by the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake Society (CFNKLS) and facilitated by Shannon Isaac, youth worker with Kaslo and Up the Kootenay Youth Network and enjoyed by all. There were suggestions for a few improvements and a hearty recommendation to make this an annual event.

CFNKLS would like to thank Shannon, donors who provided the money to donate to local charities and money for the pizza, and those who thoughtfully nominated the youth. And most importantly, Angus, Ember, Jace, Keefer, Kelly, Paige, Zoe and youth everywhere who volunteer to make their community a better place.

**Happy Holidays**

Happy Holidays from all of us at Royal LePage Selkirk Realty, Nakusp

Wayne Stetski
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
KOOTENAY—COLUMBIA

// WayneStetski.ndp.ca
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**Dive into the Magic of Christmas**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our customers

Closed Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Dec 24 - 26
Closed Monday and Tuesday Dec 31 & Jan 1
Mountain Sky Soaps celebrates 25th anniversary

by Art Joyce

By now anyone from the Slocan Valley – and beyond – knows the name Mountain Sky Soaps, another part of our vibrant DIY culture in the valley. This year Nina and Raynald George celebrate their 25th anniversary since establishing the business as a tiny start-up in 1993. The Valley Voice interviewed Nina George to get her impressions of their first quarter century.

What made you decide to start up a business hand-crafting soap? A major life change of some sort, or a move to the Kootenays?

We moved to Winlaw at the time because we wanted to live in the country but we didn’t have a job. We were too far away from a city centre and we didn’t really want to commute every day. Raynald did work at Silverking Tofu for two years before we started the business. Working there, he saw that it was possible to start your own business.

How has running a business affected your family life? Were the kids a part of it? Do you think it made things easier, or harder to raise kids, than having a regular 9 to 5 job?

Running our own business allowed us to have a great family life. I think our girls thought we didn’t work because we were around all the time. We could go swimming later in the afternoon, go on school trips, and be there when they were home. We named the business after their middle names, Malaya Mountain – who is now 28 – and Rahel Sky, now 26. Our kids now realize how special their childhood was, and they seek a similar family lifestyle.

Do you see yourself as having been ahead of the curve in the Kootenay DIY tradition, with so many small businesses here that produce pottery, weaving, metalwork, herbal remedies, etc.? Do you feel proud to have been part of this tradition?

I think there have always been artisans in rural areas that make a go of it. We created a certain DIY lifestyle by bootstrapping a business.

How has the business changed over 25 years? What has required you to make these changes?

It was easier to get into the market when we started; people were not so brand- and packaging-orientated then. There was less stuff to compete against. Larger global companies sell into the health food stores with less quality but better branding. People want and desire more choices from the marketplace and online shopping makes it easier to get products from around the world. It is a challenge that we see, but we are small and nimble.

Where do you see Mountain Sky going in future?

Mountain Sky’s future is dependent on our great staff and local support. We hope that Mountain Sky will keep going for another 25 years or more. It has been a good 25 years so far.

This Christmas, Mountain Sky will be offering bargains on its ‘seconds,’ soaps that perhaps don’t quite have the ‘perfect’ shape but are just as good. Next year they will introduce biodegradable packaging for their line of body butters. To shop at Mountain Sky online, visit www.mountainskysoap.com.

Mountain Sky Soaps, a Slocan Valley family business, celebrates 25 years this year. This picture of owners Nina and Raynald George and their two daughters was taken sometime in the past quarter century!
Christmas hours:
Dec. 24 – 8 am - 8 pm
Dec. 25 – Valley Foods closed & Hilltop Convenience open 12-4
Dec. 26 – 8 am - 10 pm
Dec. 31 – 8 am - 9 pm
Jan. 1 – 9 am - 9 pm
Wishing all our customers a safe and happy holiday season
and all the best in the New Year from the Smiths and Staff.

Jessica Ogden and Mick Grabowsky, who have been protesting logging operations throughout the West Kootenay over the past few months, are pictured here with some visitors near Greyhorse Ridge north of Kaslo. They set up camp here about two weeks ago, and have been blocking the road. Cooper Creek Cedar has a cutting permit for seven cutblocks in the Greyhorse Ridge area, and has hired Sunshine Logging to do the harvesting work. Representatives of Cooper Creek Cedar and Sunshine Logging, and RCMP officers have been to the blockade to speak to the protesters. The RCMP have served Ogden and Grabowsky with documents and told them they will likely be arrested if they continue blocking the road. Videos of the encounters are posted on YouTube – search ‘Kootenay watersheds.’ Donations can be made through the ‘Kootenay Water is Life’ GoFundMe page.

Village of Silverton
Holiday Schedule
December 2018

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Please Note: Garbage pick up will be moved to Wed. Jan 2, 2019.
Please Note: There will be NO garbage pick up on Dec. 25, 2018.
The Village Office will be CLOSED December 25 – Jan. 1, 2019.
Otherwise, business as usual! Season’s Greetings!
Please Cut Me Out and Post Me in Your Home!