Three mountain caribou moved to Revelstoke maternal pen

by Jan McMurray

Three caribou from the now virtually extirpated South Selkirk and South Purcells herds were moved to the Revelstoke maternal pen in mid-January. The single remaining animal from the South Selkirk herd (a female), and one female and one male from the South Purcells herd joined an orphaned caribou in the pen.

“The hope is that these animals will be able to join the Columbia-North herd, which has an estimated population of 147 animals,” says a government press release. “They will be closely monitored to determine the right time to release them back into the wild.”

The remaining two bulls and one yearling male in the South Purcells could not be captured safely to move them to the pen.

“This is the latest chapter in the heartbreaking story of a species on the brink. There are no known caribou remaining in the South Selkirks and only three males in the Purcells,” states a press release issued by the environmental group, Wildsight. “The decline of mountain caribou has mirrored the destruction of the inland temperate rainforest ecosystem.”

The Wildsight press release describes the translocation of the caribou as “extreme measures” that “speak to British Columbia’s failure to adequately protect and recover caribou and their habitat. While habitat loss due to logging, mining and intensive recreation continued to expand, we have watched the ongoing decline of caribou across the landscape for over 30 years. We have failed these herds and we have to do everything in our power to ensure that other caribou herds don’t follow the same trajectory,” says Eddie Petryshen, Wildsight’s conservation coordinator.

In October last year, environmental groups called on the provincial government to issue an immediate moratorium on new development in caribou critical habitat, after discovering that the BC government had approved 85 new logging cutblocks in critical habitat of eight most at-risk southern mountain caribou populations.

According to the BC government press release, the Province is investing $27 million over three years to develop and implement an extensive Provincial Caribou Recovery Program Plan. Actions include protecting remaining caribou in the province, increasing habitat protection in select locations, habitat restoration, supplemental feeding, primary prey management, predator management and enhanced research and monitoring.

Some communities and groups in the province, however, are feeling shut out of the planning process and anxious about the federal Minister of Environment’s announcement last May indicating that the federal government may intervene to protect the caribou in BC. There is a growing demand for public consultation on caribou recovery from communities and groups concerned about the impacts on industrial, commercial and recreational land use in BC.

Two meetings in Nakusp in December were held on the subject. Residents and businesses are being asked to send a form letter to the premier and various ministers requesting engagement with communities and local government. The form letter states: “The local communities in caribou recovery areas are being asked to assume a lot of risk and there isn’t a lot of upside for us, even if caribou recovery is successful. At the same time, recovery will be a lot tougher without community support (e.g., maintaining snowmobiling closures). Our concern is that there is a high probability of the worst possible outcome: a recovery strategy is economically damaging and still doesn’t lead to recovery. Everyone should be working towards avoiding that outcome.”

Aaron Mathias, representing Concerned Citizens for Caribou Recovery out of Dawson Creek, says the group is looking for three distinct things from the provincial government. “We want baseline data on the science behind management decisions, a report on how this will impact the economy in rural British Columbia, and we want a genuine public consultation.”

The government press release reports that the number of caribou in BC has been in decline over the past century, from approximately 40,000 animals, to about 15,000 today. In our area, the Nakusp herd had a population of 77 in 2010, according to the BC Ministry of Environment website. Nakusp Mayor Tom Zeleznik reports that there are now 31, and nine are collared.
Ymir watershed group lodges complaint with minister

by Art Joyce

The Ymir Community Watershed Society has lodged a formal complaint with BC Forests Minister Doug Donaldson, alleging “procedural unfairness” in the handling of proposed logging in its domestic watershed by BC Timber Sales. The complaint to the minister was drafted with assistance from the Environmental Law Centre at the University of Victoria.

YCWS spokesperson Jason Leus says the group has been in dialogue with BCTS for 21 months and feels the agency has not acted in good faith in its negotiations with the community. Leus says statements made by BCTS representatives in the Castlegar office include “not if but when” the watershed will be logged. The community group finds this unacceptable.

Ymir is just one of 45 Kootenay community watersheds slated for logging this year and Leus is hopeful that communities will form a coalition to ensure their watersheds are protected.

“You can’t have any kind of process if one party has already made up its mind as to what’s going to happen,” says Leus.

“What the community is calling for is just a level of due diligence that will help to ensure the security of our only potable water source. The object of that constant engagement with BCTS was to point out the many challenges that our community watershed faces.”

Among those challenges, Leus says, is that the watershed is a low elevation, surface collection only source in less than six square kilometres. There is no natural spring, aquifer or reservoir of any kind and the watershed – even in its undisturbed state – faces extended periods of extremely low flow. Estimation of major and minor timber shows that there is no other economically viable source of potable water for the community. It also serves as their only supply for community firefighting. There are about 420 residents for whom it is the only source of potable water.

“It’s only the visible source so if we lose one we have nothing. It’s the only watershed we have and it’s struggling.”

Another challenge the Ymir water supply faces is large deposits of acid rock. There have been two accidental discoveries of acid rock in the watershed – one in the 1990s and one more recently during the construction of a new holding tank for the water system. Residents are concerned that the construction of logging roads will expose acid rock, which when exposed to air and water results in sulphuric acid that could leach into the watershed. Areas with a history of mining activity can be particularly prone to this phenomenon due to mine tailings that contain cyanide, arsenic and mercury. Ymir was historically active in mining.

“In the field of geophysics, this is what they refer to as a ‘chemical bomb,’” Leus explains.

Leus hastens to add that the community supports responsible logging. Over 30% of Ymir’s adult population is employed in the forest industry. However, they are concerned that, rather than collecting data from this watershed as a basis for their logging plans, BCTS is using comparative studies from other, dissimilar watersheds.

“Most importantly, we’re trying to illustrate that the case in Ymir does not fit into the established decision-making template when it comes to assessing risk in forestry, that we’re an extreme case. From the beginning, we’ve been asking for data that is site specific to our watershed.”

Other issues in the complaint are that BCTS failed to adequately consider the fact that there is no treatable or economically viable alternative to Ymir’s water supply, and has failed to commit to a long-term water supply plan if logging renders it unusable. Instead residents were provided with a standard short-term emergency plan that would shut off the water supply and temporarily replace it with bottled water.

Provincial grants boost rural communities

In this area, grants went to the Kootenay Sufferfest Society (Nakusp): $10,000; The Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce: $10,000; Slocan District Chamber of Commerce: $9,892; Community Futures Central Kootenay (Nelson): $10,000; Castlegar and District Chamber of Commerce: $10,000; Greater Trail Community Skills Centre: $10,000; Nelson’s Social Action Planning Network: $10,000.

In this fifth intake of the BC Rural Dividend program, 68 local governments, first Nations and not-for-profit organizations will receive funding to reinvest and diversify their local economies.

In Budget 2018, the Government of British Columbia committed to extending the $25 million per year Rural Dividend program to 2020/21. Final decisions on project applications for single applicants (up to $100,000) and partnerships (up to $500,000) will be announced in February 2019. For more information go to gov.bc.ca/ruraldividend

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Like people & technology? We are looking for volunteers.

Email LCM/Manager@wgsca.org

SLOCAN VALLEY BEAR SMART COORDINATOR NEEDED

Vaillance Society is looking for an experienced bear processor for this part time position for Rural Area H. Would include:

- Manage a BEAR HOTLINE for local residents to advise on advisory decisions and other issues. Also provide brochures, etc.
- Work closely with COs, Villages Wildsafe BC coordinator Bree Lillies, and Gillian Sanders who handles electric fencing.
- With $50% cost sharing on equipment paid by VWS.
- Preferably to be living in lower Slocan Valley, Area H.
- Some training may be available if necessary.

Please contact Wayne McCrory, WVS bear biologist, waynem@wvs.org 250-358-7796.
January 31, 2019  The Valley Voice

**Rosebery to Summit Lake Trail Network update**

by Jan McMurray

Construction work on the Rosebery to Summit Lake Trail Network might begin this spring, after three years of planning in this latest planning process. The new plan, which includes the rail trail (now proposed to be entirely non-motorized), a motorized bypass trail, and the Girl Guide Recreation Site.

Over the last year, the planning group has had four professional assessments done and has consulted with many stakeholders. All of this has led to some significant changes to the rail trail network since the Valley Voice last published an article on this in December 2017.

Planning Group Facilitator John Cathro reports that the planning group will meet with key stakeholders to further discuss the proposed changes over the coming weeks, and hopes to have the final layout confirmed and approved by m February.

“The people on the planning group have done a remarkable job of keeping focused on the big picture – the best use of the trail network. There's been a lot of back and forth, and it's been a longer process than they would have liked,” Cathro said.

The rail trail is now proposed to be entirely non-motorized. In the original plan, the section between the Girl Guide Camp and the gravel pit in Hills was going to be open to motorized use to accommodate access to the Moto Bypass Trail. The new proposal, however, includes several changes to the Moto Bypass Trail that negate the need for the motorized section on the rail trail.

The new proposal for the Moto Bypass Trail sees the trail using mainly existing forest service roads, with some new trail required, and short sections of two public roads.

Starting from the north, where the multi-use Nakusp to Rosebery Summit Lake Trail ends, the Moto Bypass Trail is proposed to use Ruby Range Road to cross Hwy 6 and connect to Ruby Range Forest Service Road. It follows Ruby Range FSR to the ski hill. Then two kilometres of new trail would be constructed to join up with the extension BCTS proposes to build onto Bonanza Creek Forest Service Road this spring.

The Moto Bypass Trail then follows Bonanza Creek FSR, crosses the existing Bonanza Creek FSR Bridge, uses Bonanza Rd to cross Hwy 6, and then uses Pete’s Road and Herman’s Road to connect with West Wilson Creek Forest Service Road to Rosebery.

This new proposed route for the Moto Bypass Trail addresses the problem areas of the Snk’mip Marsh Sanctuary, the crossing of Bonanza Creek, and the Summit Lake Ski Area.

In the original plan, the multi-use designation along the section of the rail trail from the Girl Guide Camp to the gravel pit in Hills would have meant motorized use along about half a kilometre of trail adjacent to the Snk’mp Marsh. This was not acceptable to the BCTS Foundation.

“The way to avoid motorized use there took a lot of discussion and walking back and forth and identifying other options,” said Cathro. “It led to Pete’s Road and Herman’s Road and up to Wilson Creek Road where Butter Trail starts. We found out that the big piece of property on the other side of the highway, across from the marsh, recently reverted to the Crown, so would allow a further motorized loop.”

The Bonanza Creek crossing on the Moto Bypass Trail was also a problem area. The original plan involved building a bridge, but the biologist's assessment found that this could have negative impacts to sensitive riparian ecosystems, water quality, and fish habitat, as well as disturbance to wildlife, loss of wildlife, and impacts to species at risk. An alternate location for constructing a bridge over the creek was considered, but using the existing bridge has risen to the top as the preferred option.

The new proposed bypass route also addresses concerns at the ski hill. The original plan was to use the cross-country ski trails at the ski hill as part of the Moto Bypass Trail. However, the biologists’ assessment identified the cross-country ski area as a western toad migration area and important grizzly bear and black bear habitat, and recommended seasonal closures of the trail in spring for grizzly bear and from July 15 to September 15 for toad migrations. The ski club also prefers the Moto Bypass Trail to be disconnected from the ski hill infrastructure for security reasons.

“We wanted to get the trail higher up the mountain than the cross-country ski trails, so we're proposing two kilometres of new trail from where Ruby Range Road enters the ski hill to go up higher and connect to where BCTS intends to build its logging road,” said Cathro.

In the original plan, one kilometre of new road was proposed between the cross-country ski trails at Summit Lake and the BCTS proposed new road.

Another problem area is the rail trail at Tim and Faye Fox’s property at Summit Lake. There is a dispute between the Foxes and the Province over ownership of that section of the rail trail.

Cathro reports that the planning group hasn’t had any input or involvement in this, “except to hope it’s resolved.”

The planning group includes two representatives from local ATV clubs (Bill Beavin and Ernie Knecht), and two people who have been involved in past planning processes and who favour removing motorized use from the rail trail and onto the proposed Moto Bypass Trail (Richard Allin and Mike Koolen).

Planning group members have found the process very difficult, as they have had to tackle the motorized vs. non-motorized issue head on.

Beavin commented that he feels the process was “biased,” while Koolen called it “difficult” and Allin called it “messy and difficult.”

“While trails are a huge asset to a community, the motorized/ non-motorized issue is highly charged.” Allin said. “It’s a flash point between people living different lifestyles and having different priorities. Dealing with it is messy and difficult. We need to seriously evaluate this process as it unwinds. There would be things we would change, but protecting special places while respecting diversity within a community is a worthy goal.”

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**Now SLOWING**

Mountain weights which occur only in western NA. Local stream spawning peaks in Jan. at water temps below 0°C it can be broken or clogged, Skidded eggs lodge in crevices on the bottom and incubate over winter. Fry emerge in spring and drift into shallow, slow-moving side channels and back waters to feed on insects. Normal life span in BC is 12 y.
Russian brilliance
A few weeks ago I mailed a letter to the Colville-State Steamboat Examiner in Colville, Washington. Here’s the substance of the letter: If it can be proved that Vladimir Putin and his Nomenklatura – original name for the Soviet ruling class – was responsible for the election of Donald Trump, you have to give them credit for devising a way to destroy your country without using nuclear weapons. Absolutely brilliant!

Christian Torbik
Whitehorse

No more clearcuts
BC Timber Sales, Interior, and Vaagen Fibre are busy as beavers in the Bouras, with failing results. Nothing seems to change their habits. When are they going to teach about ecology in Timber Merchant School? The industrial forestry complex is mired in antiquity and dominates with impunity. According to them, two years of major flooding have nothing to do with clearcuts and malpractice in the forests. On top of that, the already lame effort at revamping the Forest and Range Practices Act will drag on for years, leaving them to destroy what is left. What good does public input do when the receivers have their hearing aids turned off? Many people can testify to years of work and petitioning to find that they go ahead and do what they planned in the first place.

What is needed is legal recourse. Immediately. If you can see a doctor for malpractice, then you should be able to sue the guy that decided to ruin your watershed. They would pay attention really fast.

Also, it is time to stop using the mastery of linguistic deception. A clearcut is not Forest Stewardship. A clearcut is devastation, waste, and sin. No more clearcuts.

Angelica Herity
Grand Forks

Save ourselves first
99% of all life on earth is gone forever, condemned to the House of Extinction. Humans are a part of the last 1% of life still kicking alive on earth. If you want to be concerned about species, be vitally concerned for Homo sapiens, modern humans. These war apes are now fighting for the last scraps on planet earth. Russia, USA, France, North Korea, China, India, England, Israel, and Pakistan all belong to the Nuclear Weapons Club. While I applaud the saving of any species, be it caribou, frogs, birds, pandas or tigers, we are the most at risk from self nuclear devastation. It’s still two minutes to midnight nuclear doom, according to the atomic scientists. Our governments and people always gloss over the real possibility of nuclear Armageddon. There were some baby steps in the last decade to nuclear peace but now the nuclear arms race is in full swing again with Russia bragging they have superior nuclear weapons. Loose cannons like North Korea, Putin’s Russia and Trump’s USA only add to the anxiety and fear.

Let’s save ourselves first, with a total nuclear dismantling. With a foundation of real peace, we can properly offer some stewardship on planet earth. Until we rid the world of these atrocious weapons, we’re just dancing around waiting for ashes, ashes, all fall down.

Nick Chatten
Crescent Valley

Free speech
Some views from another valley west of you. Over the last few weeks, this insidious creep has become a frenzied gallop. Some glaring examples:

Our juvenile prime minister has announced that $600 million will be advanced to certain media outlets, the sole purpose being to influence more editorial boards and journalists to promote or at least soften this government’s destructive globalist policies. Liberal sophistry aside, this is more than bureaucratic extortion of what is supposed to be a ‘free’ press.

It has also been announced that the powers that be in the US have decided that social media platforms Facebook, Twitter, and Google need to be censored lest that Russian dictator Vladimir Putin sic his cyber hackers on us to destroy our democratic freedoms, moulding us into Kremlin-loving zombies. What is truly frightening is that this agency that will function as the arbiter of what we the unwashed will be allowed to view is infested with a bunch of psychopathic warmongers from the Atlantic Council and will be chaired by Colin Powell. Readers may remember that Powell as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in swallowing the lies from British PM Tony Blair and Dick Cheney, played an instrumental role in promoting Saddam Hussein’s WMD hoax leading to the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis and death and destruction of the Iraqi war. The Atlantic Council established in 1961 functions as the think tank and PR branch of NATO... in more succinct terms... the sewer pipe of propaganda for the bankrupt and desperate Anglo-American Empire’s army. Canada is fully represented and plays a dutiful role in the Atlantic Council. For what it’s worth, Powell did apologize for his role in the murder of millions.

Even more concerning, Anonymous, one of those supposedly nefarious alt-net sites, has recently dropped a bombshell in exposing the British government’s sponsored agency, the ‘Integrity Initiative.’ This body is an offshoot of the UK taxpayer-funded Institute for Statecraft and, posing as a charity, actually functions as a military intelligence operation to promulgate throughout Europe and North America via print and other media hacks, the lie that Russia is a threat to our very existence. Some of those loveable warmingongers in the Atlantic Council interface with this British psysops operation. On their letterhead the Initiative makes the Orwellian claim to ‘Defend Democracy Against Disinformation.’ Joseph Goebbels would be blushing with pride.

Simply stated, Russia and China are not our enemies. You’ve been lied to. All information related to this topic is available in the public domain, at least as of now. The former British Ambassador Craig Murray provides useful information and internet blogger Paul Craig Roberts provides a useful thought...

“A population that does not respect the freedom of speech, debate and truth will not long survive. Freedom of speech that results from free speech, debate and truth.”
Climate change strategies

In my letter about a trillion tons of carbon dioxide, I made a mathematical error. In calculating the amount of carbon dioxide in a trillion tons of CO2, the correct amount is by taking the atomic weight of carbon from the periodic table of the elements, which is 12.0112, and dividing this by the addition of the weight of this carbon atom plus the weight of two oxygen atoms which is 15.9994 each. So, (12/12.0112 + 15.9994 / 15.9994) = 0.2729197.

Multiply this factor times 1,000 billion tons of CO2 comes to 2,729,197 billion tons of carbon. This is one of the methods chemists use in industry to get the right proportions calculated to do chemical processes.

I want to go on to say that the Scientific American article on climate change suggested seven strategies to reduce the carbon dioxide in our planet’s atmosphere. None of them were going to be easy.

One of them is to plant more trees – this at a time of greater forest fires. Another is to capture the CO2 and pump it down to certain rock formations such as basalt, where the pressure and temperature under pressure combines chemically to become carbonates. Pulverizing rocks to dust. When spread on fields, it draws CO2 from the air and helps prevent carbon from entering the atmosphere.

When sprinkled on the ocean, it reacts with seawater, converting CO2 into carbonates that fall to the seafloor. More CO2 is drawn from the atmosphere.

On this last strategy, I want to mention that there are two places in the world where nature has done this without our help for thousands of years. This is on the Siberian Steppes and the North American mid-west, ‘the corn belt.’

This is a dark, carbon-rich soil, many feet thick, that had developed because of the right mineral composition of the soil and weather conditions of temperature and rainfall. With present-day farming practice, this soil has been mined until the level of the soil is only about a few feet. This is our current farming that is another cause of global warming.

I want to finish by mentioning Brazil’s method of growing sugar cane to make ethanol for fuel. This is a fine step forward.

Frank Nixon
Winlaw

Sweet grasslands

I have written several letters in the past on the subject of converting corn plants to be vegetables – they be yellow or they be green... none of them are straight. And frankly if they are left on the table too long, well, I just don’t like the looks of ’em.

A year or so ago while wandering through the hallowed halls of the Vancouver airport waiting for a reluctant flight to leave, I realized that I was feeling a bit peckish and set out to find some suitable sustenance with which to relieve my small hunger. I happened on a snack bar, and, not wanting to eat any of the wide array of junk food available therein, I decided on a banana. I purchased one, and it was immediately astounded. This banana was dead straight. Even the stem poked straight out of it. I swear if you put it in a box you could have hit the target’s bull’s-eye at 50 yards. It made me realize that it is generally never a good idea to generalize.

Today I am being reminded of this folly again by Darryl Peck. He footed them all. No one could have imagined that one could ascend to the speaker’s chair, and still remain so relentlessly honest.

In my younger days, his revelations might have given me hope that our elected governors would get busy and end this to an taxpayer abusive. Since when, these public servants deserve of a $50,000 a year salary? Our collective house needs a serious spring cleaning.

The problem is, being such a rare breed, it is likely the other politicians will extirpate him in short order. They’ll play politics with it. A few politicians might slip on the straight banana peel left in the hall, and the rest will make all kinds of promises, extirpate him and wait it out until the short-lived memorial public forgets, and then they will rebuild that party infrastructure, and party on.

But for now... thank you, thank you Darryl Peck. The squirming is a joy to behold.

Rod Retzel
Glade

MLA/BC Legislature expenditure inexplicable

While the focus is on the extrasavvy and alleged illegal spending by two top minor officials at the BC legislature, everyone is overlooking the fact that according to the BC Comptroller General, the cost of running the legislature and paying our MLAs has jumped from $6.4 million per MLA in 2004/05 to $17.7 million per MLA in 2018/19. This outrageous 276% increase in costs per MLA over 14 years should be cause for concern for those fined incomes over the same period.

In 2019, my spouse and I will receive an approximate $100 per month increase in our pensions, as compared to each MLA (and the BC legislature) receiving a $67,000 per month funding increase for 14 years. Where, one might ask has the Auditor General been while the addition of the costs being made, and could pull any account to ask questions and seek verification of what the spending was for?

There is absolutely no excuse for any of our MLAs and their ‘committee of oversight’ to have allowed this situation at the BC legislature to have gotten to the point it has. Clearly our BC government needs a radical overhaul in financial management, and in the next provincial election we need to send people to Victoria who are willing to cut the fat and spend and extravagance largesse.

Perhaps we could start by asking our MLAs to make people pay back what they were never legally entitled to.

Andy Shadrack
Kaslo

Shame on Pacific Insight

There is no question Pacific Insight has been a remarkable success story, growing from humble beginnings back in 1979, financed through Community Futures, to operations in Nelson, Vancouver and Mexico. For the year ending June 30, 2017, reported revenues were $126,000,000 with earnings of $15,688,000, per company report.

In October 2017, they were sold to Methodist Corporation for reportedly $144,000,000 with a promise not to move operations. Of course, we know what happened – they moved the majority of operations to Mexico within a year. Can Filters, in business on the North Shore since 1989, was purchased by Methode Corporation for reportedly $144,000,000 with a promise not to move operations. Eight months later, all 27 employees were let go with one day’s notice. Immoral, yes. Do they care? Of course not.

The promise is not a promise, it’s an acquisition tool. It’s obvious – if this to cost to this change it is nothing to the environmental damage and false recycling costs we are incurring now. I know that solutions are always a matter of processing and evolving to best practices. To start we can begin by raising awareness and making a move to use plastic use in Kaslo. A move in transition could be part of the plan, giving retailers and people a time frame to make the change.

Citizens of Kaslo, would you support this motion? Are you willing to take a progressive step that Kaslo and the world would benefit from? Please talk to your municipal government about your support of this affirmative action.

Please give this possibility your consideration and act to make this action a positive difference. In the meantime, we can start the change now across the board.

C. Anne Heard
Kaslo

Water is life

It’s a sad day when we observe the police doing their duty to serve and protect corporations over the public desire to save anything of the natural diversity of the land that sustains them. God help us, these are dark times for life on earth. God help us, all the legacy of devastation and toxic garbage that we are leaving the next generation. Workers are screaming for jobs but actually jobs are being replaced by machines. Here in the Kootenays, beller-bunchers have replaced loggers and they can cut a tree every 10 seconds. A market demand is now cut in three months. Jobs depend on our environment but we don’t have to liquidate everything in order for local workers to survive while most of the money is leaving the area. We have given presentations on sustainable forestry, cable logging and discussed value-added transformative industry, all to no avail.

During our recent election campaigns, everybody talked about global warming but nobody mentioned global warming as a strategy. Nobody. We have had clearcut logging in our watersheds as a contributing factor, causing heavy spring stream runoff, baking the soil in summer and drying up the earth dramatically, dropping the volume of water in our creeks. Our fires are proof and yet we still continue with these practices, creating more global warming. Money can buy the first generation of Rainforest on earth and we are turning it into a desert.

Ten thousand logging trucks will haul 12,000,000 board feet per year as Balfour in the next few years on top of previous logging that avalanchined into their water. Twelve hundred truckloads of garbage are dumped in the Fraser River in Silverton/ New Denver, adding to past clearcuts. There are 43 known watersheds doomed in the Kootenays. Professional Rainforest or professionals hired by forest companies and the Ministry tell us it will have no impact on the quality of water but nobody can guarantee that. We have no say and we live here. When we lose our water, we’re ignored. We have to bottle water, adding more plastic to the environment; pay for costly filtration systems when the trees filtered naturally; or desalinate. Yes, the pressure of our times as we stare at films of almost indescribable desolation of ancient rainforests, farmlands and yet we still continue with these practices, creating more global warming. We have to use our last generations to save them.

People around the world are fed up with this type of corporate governance in which business rules over life. On Perry Ridge when the Sinixt people were guarding their watershed, we addressed the guard at Perry Ridge when the Sinixt people were guarding their watershed, we addressed the guard with this motion? Are you willing to take a progressive step that Kaslo and the world would benefit from? Please talk to your municipal government about your support of this affirmative action.

Please give this possibility your consideration and act to make this action a positive difference. In the meantime, we can start the change now across the board.

C. Anne Heard
Kaslo

Hello friends and neighbours

Here is my motion to go before Kaslo council. “Single use plastic made from petroleum based are being banned in Kaslo.” I may not have the privilege to put forward the motion myself but hope that someone in our Village of Kaslo government would see fit to sponsor to go forward. This motion is an opportunity to begin to talk about this possibility and research what it would take to make it happen. The City of Victoria has done it, setting a good example for us all to move forward.

So much information is now available on the reality that plastic is causing havoc with waste management and causing environmental damage. Recycling efforts have failed and resulting stockpiles have led to transporting and burning in unregulated local and export situations. When I am walking in Kaslo, my nose tells me that people really burn plastic garbage with disregard to the release of noxious material into the air. This systematic disregard of consequences causes degradation to our air, land, and water. We need to forget empty promises were to be signed and forgotten, and then they will rebuild that party infrastructure, and party on.

Perhaps we could start by asking our MLAs to make people pay back what they were never legally entitled to.

Andy Shadrack
Kaslo

Water is life

It’s a sad day when we observe the police doing their duty to serve and protect corporations over the public desire to save anything of the natural diversity of the land that sustains them. God help us, these are dark times for life on earth. God help us, all the legacy of devastation and toxic garbage that we are leaving the next generation. Workers are screaming for jobs...
Mountain Caribou: Death by Planning Process

This is a reply to concerns expressed in a meeting in Nakusp on Dec. 13, 2018, with speaker Dennis (“Milt”) Hamilton, a biologist and former government herds expert. Letters have also been circulated claiming logging is losing all its tourism and recreation jobs, and even its social organizations and programs could suffer from protecting the mountain caribou. These claims have two sides and both deserve to be heard. We believe the threats enumerated have no basis in fact.

In 2018 the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECC) announced that the mountain caribou face “imminent threats to recovery”. The Southern Mountain Caribou include the Nakusp/Duncan herd, also known as the Central Selkirk herd. It was listed by the Minister as being one of ten herds that are of “particular concern.”

These are the caribou seen every year around the Nakusp hotsprings. They are part of the rare “Deep-snow Caribou” found nowhere else in the world but in the Interior Westbelt of BC. No other kind of caribou is adapted to live in our steep mountains. When they are gone, they are gone forever.

The ECC’s determination has crucial legal significance because, under Canada’s Species at Risk Act, the Minister is now legally required to recommend that Cabinet issue emergency orders to protect the animals and their habitat.

The ECC acknowledged what’s wipping out the mountain caribou is habitat change (i.e., industrial development and other human activities) which have caused a significant decrease in their population. It was that habitat change is required to allow for eventual recovery. It has already been almost eight months since the announcement.

Neither the provincial nor federal governments have meant to spring the changes on the public without consultation. Teleconferences with provincial caribou recovery “stakeholders” are going on right now, but they are discussing the whole provincial mountain caribou issue. The provincial and federal governments appointed advisory groups, extended consultations and “partnership” agreements stacked up — enough to drag their feet on increased protection for a long time.

Talk-and-Log: A Moratorium Is Desperately Needed

The problem is that only 31 Central Selkirk caribou remain alive. And while humans talk, the logging of their last remaining habitat goes on. The Central Selkirk herd will not survive more talk-and-log.

Environmentalists have a solution that would allow communities to have reasonable consultation and still protect the caribou. Elected representatives and environmental groups, including the Valhalla Wilderness Society, have sent a letter to the relevant federal and provincial officials asking for a moratorium on activities that destroy caribou habitat, or displace the animals from their last credible habitat protection plan is in place.

A flyer advertising Hamilton’s talk in Nakusp told a different story: “Previous attempts by the provincial government to recover caribou in this area were done with town community involvement and no discussion of habitat. There was a disproportionate impact on the Nakusp area compared to other areas of the Province.”

But public consultation for the previous plan wasn’t town-by-town; “stakeholder” interests were engaged, and logging permits issued for logging and heli-skijoring and heli-skijoring were well represented. The public process went on for most of three years, 2004-2007, before a negotiated settlement was announced, and another two years to determine how the plan would be implemented.

Because of the lack of a moratorium on logging the habitat, much forest critical to the survival of all our herds was destroyed while the participants were endlessly talking about how to protect it.

Minutes of the early multi-sector public meetings in 2004 show that Cam Letch, of Pope & Talbot, Katlow for Slocan Forest Products, two members of the Nakusp Snowmobile Club and representatives for the Central Selkirk herd were at the planning meetings side-by-side with the Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) and other groups.

Later there were many private meetings with sector representatives. For instance, government report (Dec. 2007) by the Kootenay Local Habitat Team refers to ongoing discussion with Cam Letch for Pope & Talbot, and Jesper Nelson for the Nakusp Community Forest, Springer Creek Forest Products, Meadow Creek Cedar and BC Timber Sales.

Nakusp logging, snowmobiling was holding private negotiations with snowmobiling interests to designate riding areas and closures for Silver Cup Ridge and Hat Creek areas. It is completely untrue that the socioeconomic impacts of the previous plan were not discussed. The government’s rationale document for the Kootenay planning units refers to extensive analysis and discussion of viability and the government describes how the timber industry was allowed to log high quality forest elsewhere for securing Snowmobile forest for the caribou in some cases the caribou received burned or heavily logged areas that were unusable as habitat.

In the end the government Rationale document for the 2007 plan stated that the forest set aside for caribou “does not represent a significant impact to the timber supply of the Central Kootenay planning unit.”

Maps show that valleys where forest was protected for the Central Selkirk herd had already had all their most accessible low-elevation forest heavily clearcut. It was little left that could be logged economically, and that is why Pope & Talbot went bankrupt in 2007, before the caribou plan could even be completed.

Loggers Kill Caribou by Increasing Preation

According to the Valley Voice article, Mr. Hamilton acknowledged that cutblocks and roads increase deer activity that bring wolves, and provide easy hunting for the wolves. He is correct that there is a big issue about habitat change caused by the federal recovery plan as “matrix.” This is habitat that is needed for caribou travel, and for buffer zones between existing caribou populaion.

An Investment in a Healthy Environment

The public presentation by Mr. Hamilton, and various letters, emphasized that increasing habitat protection would protect “overinvesting in actions that won’t bring benefits.” The public should know that, during negotiations for the 2007 plan, industry and government agreed that the forest plan for the Central Selkirk herd would be revised if the caribou die.

But WVS is worried too. We are concerned that plans heavily based on killing predators to increase caribou numbers will squander our tax dollars, squander participants’ time with stalling tactics, kill our caribou, kill our snowmobilers, kill our wolves, kill other species that depend on old-growth forest, and leave the public without so much as one real plan to account for decades of expensive planning processes.

What about making a permanent investment in a healthy environment for British Columbians? What about investing in our children’s future? Some of the increased caribou protection under the new plan, we can be confident that, expanding the BC park system, as recommended by two BC Auditor General reports. Mounting pressure to preserve remaining forest, and permanent preservation of old-growth forest, and permanent preservation of forest, is necessary to help mitigate climate change.

“The world’s forests contain more carbon that exploitable oil, gas, and coal deposits, help regulate the climate, store carbon emissions is just as urgent as halting fossil fuel use... forests are currently the only proven means of reversing carbon sink and storing atmospheric CO2 at a scale that can meaningfully contribute to achieving carbon balance.”

http://www.climateandr

According to BC’s Conservation Data Centre there are 40 species at risk in the forests where our mountain caribou live. Our grizzly bears need protection from growing forest habitat needs protection. Our fish streams need protection.

There has been a Valhalla Wilderness Society political advocacy at the provincial level for years. It would preserve key re

It would preserve key remaining stands of old-growth forest for all their species. The Central Selkirk Mountain Caribou Project. WPS presented it to the Nakusp Village Council. Many Nakusp loggers have signed the petition to protect it.

By expanding the Ugulate Winter Range and incorporating caribou habitat found in three separate mountain regions, including the Central Selkirk and the Nakusp area, the habitat could not survive, unless we can ensure protection for the remaining stands of old growth.

Please join us in supporting immediate federal intervention and asking for a moratorium on logging caribou habitat and displacing caribou while consultations are ongoing. You can go here:

Hon. Catherine McKenna, MP

Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Sean Fraser, MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca

Hon. John Horgan, MLA

Premier of British Columbia

Premier@gov.bc.ca

Hon. George Heyman, MLA

Min. of Environment and Climate Change

ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Valhalla Wilderness Society

Box 329, New Denver, British Columbia, Canada V0G 1S0

Phone (250) 358-2233, Fax 358-2748, Email wvswv@wvs.org, www.wvs.org
Kaslo council, January 22: Change to lab services at Victorian Health Centre

Kaslo & Area D RDCK draft budget presented

by Jan McMurray

Area Director Aimie Watson and RDCK CAO Stuart Horn presented the draft RDCK budget and its taxation implications in Meadow Creek on January 22 and in Kaslo on January 23.

Horn stressed that the budget presented at the meetings is a draft document, subject to changes before the final budget is approved in March.

Kaslo’s overall property assessment increased by about 15% over last year, and Area D property assessments went up overall by just over 7%. Horn explained that a 15% increase in assessment value does not necessarily mean increased taxation; however, tax rates are based on property assessments.

Director Watson encouraged people to appeal their assessments if they disagree with them. She said several people appealed last year and were successful.

There are 16 RDCK services that all Kaslo and Area D residents pay taxes for. There are a further seven RDCK services that not all Kaslo and Area D residents pay in rent for; a portion of these services are paid into by residents of Kaslo and a portion of Area D, while others are paid into by residents of a portion of Area D-only. Area D and Area E residents combined will pay about $637,319 in taxes for the 15 RDCK services, compared to $546,940 last year. The tax rate to cover the cost of these services this year has been estimated to be $1.56 per $1,000, compared to $1.43 per $1,000 last year.

There are significant increases expected in six of the 16 services. Of the seven other services, there are significant expected increases in the Meadow Creek area mosquito control (Meadow Creek area), the library service, and Kaslo fire protection.

The budget for the Meadow Creek area mosquito control service is going up $6,000, from $54,000 ($1.14 per $1,000) last year to $50,000 ($1.26 per $1,000) this year. Other funding for this service will come from the Area D Community Development Fund ($20,000) and BC Hydro. Director Watson said that the $50,000 BC Hydro contributed $50,000 to this service for a five-year period. The community has been requesting a contribution from BC Hydro for several years, as the operation of the Duncan Dam sometimes affects the number of nuisance mosquitoes in the area. Watson said that when the Duncan Water Use Plan is reviewed in five years, a long-term BC Hydro contribution to the mosquito service is likely.

Watson asked residents if they’d like the mosquito service to continue to be funded with a $20,000 Community Development grant which means increased taxation, or if they’d like it to be funded with a larger grant – which means keeping taxation down but not having money from Community Development Funds available for other projects. There is about $100,000 per year in the Area D Community Development Fund. Contact her with your input.

The tax requision for the library service is going up to $64,887 from $59,747. The increase will help cover the cost of rent and utilities, which the Village of Kaslo has been subsidizing. In 2019, the Village will charge the library $6,000 in rent for use of the facility, which is $9,000 higher. The tax rate for the library service remains the same as last year – $1.9 per $1,000 – because of the increase in property assessment values.

Kaslo fire protection service will cost taxpayers $144,773 (78.1% of 2019) this year, compared to $138,766 (78.3%) last year. This increase can be attributed to the new District Chief model (see article, p. 3). Taxation for the District Chief model will come not only from the regional fire protection services throughout the RDCK, but also from the emergency planning services and the Emergency Management Service.

Emergency Planning is increasing significantly for Kaslo and Area D taxpayers, from $21,830 in 2018 to $36,899 in 2019. A good portion of this increase is due to the District Chief model (see article, p. 3). Emergencies are becoming more and more usual and are costing the RDCK. “We had the worst fire season on record followed by the worst fire season on record,” Director Watson said. She explained that in a recent emergency, the RDCK activated its Emergency Operations Centre, which must be staffed and equipped.

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The Village will continue its annual contribution of $2,500 to the WildSafeBC program.

The CAO and Councilor Leathwood were appointed as the municipality’s representatives to the Kootenay Lake Partnership.

Council will add two more special budget meetings to the schedule, on February 3 and March 5.

The finalized Kaslo Stormwater Management Plan was received.

Council received the Village’s 2019 insurance bill for $10,477 through the Municipal Insurance Association of BC.

The Central Resource Recovery (refuse disposal) budget is increasing but by how much is unknown at this time. Recruitment planning for the HB Mine property is ongoing. The Resource Recovery Plan will be updated this year, so there may be further updates in future sessions. The contract with Recycle BC has been approved. The RDCK currently operates 27 recycling depots. Recycle BC will provide funding for 12 core depots.

The RDCK board is now deciding which depots to keep as satellite depots. Director Watson said RDCK residents will have to contribute tax dollars to continue operating some of the satellite sites.

The Parks and Recreation requisition is increasing from $149,319 last year to $159,248 to meet the requests for operational and capital funding for the community halls and regional parks. Director Watson provides grants from the Community Development Fund to keep the tax down. The 2019 requests are as follows: Argenta Hall - $5,800 (operations) and $7,041 (electrical upgrades); Johnsborn Landing Hall - $5,500 operations. Kaslo Arena - $50,800 (operations) and a $10,000 contribution to the reserve fund; Caculli club - $10,000 (operations) and $7,000 toward the new dehumidifier; Lardeau Valley Hall - $28,000 (operations) and $10,000 for a washroom/ shower house at the campground; Ainsworth Landing Hall - $7,000 (operations); Lardeau Park - $7,000 (operations); Ainsworth Wharf Park - $8,000 (operations). The 16 services are: General Administration, Rural Administration, Discretionary Grants, GIS service, Building Inspection, Planning and Land Use, Community Sustainability, Feasibility Study Service, Economic Development, Advisory Planning, Search & Rescue, Emergency Communications 911, Emergency Planning, Resource Recovery (refuse disposal), Parks and Recreation, transit system.

The seven other services are: Mosquito Control Area D, Mosquito Control Pineridge, library, MacDonald Creek water, Woodbury water, Ainsworth/Woodbury fire protection and Kaslo fire protection.

Kaslo & New Denver Community Pharmacy

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309 6th Avenue, New Denver

Phone: 250-358-2500
403 First Street, Kaslo

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• Awesome Beef Jerky
• Custom Cutting
• Weekly Island Specials

 Eric's Meat Market & Deli

7
Slocan council, January 14: Presentations on REEP, local hiking trails project, youth program, community health

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

The Valley Voice January 31, 2019

The Valley Voice January 31, 2019

COMMUNITY

The Valley Voice January 31, 2019

Berlin, Community Energy Analysts. The Village will also not have an annual family membership. Day passes will now cost $5. All other rates at the centre will remain the same.

In addition, rental of office space at the Wellness Centre Health Clinic will be reduced from $700 to $480 to be competitive with rates in local municipalities. Councillor Madeleine Perriere, who does not change Interior Health for the nurse-practitioner’s space. Daily and weekly rates were not changed.

Council changed the fees and charges bylaw. The amended bylaw was introduced and given first, second, and third readings. Water rates were also amended (a separate article). Campground fees for full hook-up and partial hook-up sites are up by $2 to $30 and $37. Same-up fee of $25 for seniors was retained by $1. A sheafing of barrows will be up $4 to $10. Residential garbage fees will be up by $55 to $125 per year. Residential commercial, and industrial tags for extra bags of garbage will remain the same at $2.50 per tag. The last increase for garbage collection was in 2011.

The New Denver and Area Youth Network is brimming with gratitude this in New Year! Thank you to our Board of Directors, staff, parents and youth members, Lucerne School volunteers, individuals who have made donations, talented community members who have provided programming, community youth workers, local businesses, Recreation Commission 6 and to the CBT Basin Youth Network for their ongoing support! This year we will be helping out with and sharing in the proceeds of the Winter Blues Boogie. We hope to see you all there!

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New Denver council, January 22: Council commits to renewable energy by 2050
by Katrine Campbell

The council chambers were standing room only with more people than anyone can remember attending any meeting in the past. They were all there to support the West Kootenay Economic Development Act that the Village sign on to the “Transition to 100% Renewable Energy by 2050” movement.

The EcoSociety Executive Director Montana Burgess’ presentation, council decided to say ‘yes’, but to go slowly and carefully as the Village’s plan doesn’t have to be completed until December 1, 2020.

Mayor Leonard Casley said he agreed in principle “but we owe it to the taxpayers to do it right.” He added he wasn’t sure council had enough information, and still had to go through budget deliberations.

Councillor Colin Moss suggested a select committee including interested citizens be formed to work on the transition plan, and warned members would have to be prepared to work, not just on creating the plan but on the ongoing implementation until 2050. (Mutter from the greying crowd: “Most of us won’t be here by then …”) They agreed on steps to “basically find out where we all are in this process and make sure we’re all on the same page.” The issue has been on the table since at least 2009, but is still under consideration. The general board meeting was on January 17, and the board voted in principle “but we owe it to the taxpayers to do it right.”

The Community Charter (formerly the Municipal Act) bans providing assistance to a business; the mayor and councillors will need to explore the rules around public-private partnerships as well as what benefit Warren’s proposal would be to New Denver.

• Council received for information correspondence from Patrick Warren, owner of the old Eldorado Market Comp. They discussed the Denver Siding Water System acquisition and upgrade, and possible village boundary extension. They agreed on steps to “basically find out where all we are in this process and make sure we’re all on the same page.”

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CKCA arts grants applications now available

The Slocan Lakes Arts Council (SLAC) is pleased to announce that the CKCA arts grants program for 2019-2020 are now available, offering a variety of funding opportunities for artists, arts and heritage organizations, and cultural non-profits. Information and applications can be found at www.basinculture.com.

For residents of the SLAC catchment area, from Enterprise Creek to Hills, the Slocan Lakes Arts Council is charged with collecting and reviewing completed application forms for the CKCA ‘Arts Funding for Communities’ grant, (formerly called ‘Program 1’), with submission deadline March 15. This grant is available to local artistic or cultural projects “benefiting Basin artists and/ or communities.” Generally, projects receive between $500 and $2,500.

Hard copy brochures and application forms for this grant can be picked up at the Valley Voice office, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The office is located on New Denver’s main street, kitty corner to KSCU.

Please deliver completed application forms to the Valley Voice Office before the deadline, 5 p.m. Friday March 1.

CORRECTION

In the January 17, 2019 issue, the notes from the December 11 New Denver council meeting incorrectly states that the old rail trail bridge over Wilson Creek in Rosbery needs replacing. In fact, it is the wooden bridge/footbridge in the upper section of ‘Arctic Trail’ near the western edge of the Galena Trail near the Denver bridge/boardwalk in the upper section that needs replacing. In fact, it is the wooden bridge/footbridge in the upper section of ‘Arctic Trail’ near the western edge of the Galena Trail near the Denver bridge/boardwalk in the upper section that needs replacing.

In the December 11 New Denver council meeting notes, the incorrect the date of the December 11 New Denver council meeting was reported that the largest fossil fuel companies, demanding they pay a share of climate change costs, sent letters to the mayor and councillors to support a transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Mayor Leonard Casley said he agreed in principle “but we owe it to the taxpayers to do it right.” He added he wasn’t sure council had enough information, and still had to go through budget deliberations.

In his absence, Councillor Gerald Wagner was appointed as council’s rep for the newly-established Health Advisory Committee, which has a mandate to take action to ensure the availability of high quality health care in New Denver.

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BC Species at Risk legislation and Fish/Bear Lake toads

by Jan McMurray

The award-winning film, Toad People, featuring the western toads and their local defenders at Summit Lake, was shown in Nakusp and Silverton January 18 and 19.

The film was produced by the Wilderness Committee, as part of its advocacy work for Species at Risk legislation in BC.

Charlotte Dawe of the Wilderness Committee spoke at the screenings, reporting that BC Species at Risk legislation is being drafted now. She urged people to watch for the public provision has never been used.

“Provinces are not doing a good job, this federal government to step in when the time comes.

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Advocacy work for Species at Risk Wilderness Committee, as part of its January 18 and 19.

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by Jan McMurray

screening BC Species at Risk legislation and Fish/Bear Lake toads discussed at Toad People screening

“Provinces are not doing a good job, this federal government to step in when the time comes. Another thing people can do is volunteer as a Toad Ambassador through the Valhalla Wilderness Society. Toad Ambassadors help move adult and baby toads off the road to safety during the summer months at Fish and Bear Lakes. For more information, email marcy@vws.org or marcy@netidea.com.

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Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Power purchase Waneta Expansion

by Jan McMurray

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and Columbia Power Corporation (CPC) announced January 28, 2019, that they have entered into an agreement with Fortis Inc. to purchase the Waneta Expansion, a 110-megawatt hydroelectric facility located near Trail for $991 million. The deal is expected to close in April 2019.

The Trust and Columbia Power, which together currently own 49% of Waneta Expansion, worked closely with the BC government to make this purchase possible.

“This facility is an extraordinary asset that wouldn’t have been possible without Fortis coming on board as a partner in 2010 to help with its development,” said Johnny Strilaeff, President and CEO of CPC. “I want to thank Fortis for our strong and collaborative relationship and we look forward to continuing to work with FortisBC as the operator of the facility and the purchaser of the surplus.”

SD 8’s Dawn Lang elected as regional director on BCPSEA board

School District 8 trustee Dawn Lang believes in public education and is committed to providing quality education for every student in the Kootenay Lake school district, says the district’s board. Now serving her fourth term, Lang’s experience is “vast, having chaired various committees and working groups over the years.”

Her portfolio now extends to the provincial level, as a newly elected regional director for the BC Public School Employers’ Association (BCPSEA). The BCPSEA is a full service employers’ association and accredited bargaining agent for 60 public school boards across the province, providing unionized teaching and support staff with a full range of human resource services in BC’s K-12 public education system.

It was Lang’s interest in human resources and relationship building that prompted her to run in the recent BCPSEA election.

“Knowing the importance of the role our staff plays in helping our students succeed,” she said. “Therefore we need to work together with our district employees to create positive and supportive working environments.”

Her valuable experience serving as a partner in 2010 to help with its development – which was more than both of their previous projects combined (Arrow Lakes Generating Station and Brilliant Expansion); and the risk involved in such a large construction project.

“If we had gone over budget by even 10%, it could have wiped out the Trust’s Delivery of Benefits program for a couple of years,” Strilaeff said.

Strilaeff explained that Waneta Expansion not only generates energy but also has a lot of extra capacity. The additional capacity, which helps with meeting electricity demand at peak times, was attractive to Fortis. So Fortis came on board to invest in the project and to purchase the additional capacity, which made moving forward with the project palatable to the Trust and CPC.

Today, the project is built and has been in operation for almost four years. So, Strilaeff said, the risk factors from the Waneta Expansion project were manageable. It was Lang’s interest in human resources and her experience in relationship building that prompted her to run in the recent BCPSEA election.

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Nakusp council, January 14: Zoning for cannabis retail store approved

by Claire Paradis

• Three members of the public attended the public hearing about a proposed cannabis retail sales store at 312 Broadway. The application was made by Colin Hunet; the property is owned by Terry-Lynn Geche. Notice was given to surrounding properties on December 31, and only one response was received by the Village. The letter from the Nakusp Masonic Holding Society said that when its members were polled on the subject, there was no consensus for or against the establishment of a cannabis retail store. At the hearing, Kelly Roberts, owner of 306 Broadway, told council she was neither for nor against a cannabis retail establishment, as long as it can be policed properly. Her only concern was that it would become a hang-out and that as such could affect the value of her property. “I don’t want to walk down main street and smell pot,” she added.

The zoning bylaw amendment allowing a cannabis retail store at 312 Broadway passed third reading and was adopted.

• The CAO reported that overall, there was a 12.91% increase in residential property assessments in Nakusp. She said the rate is due to the property market. The assessments, done by the BC Assessment, may be appealed by owners, but the amount of taxes they pay cannot. The revised assessment roll, which is released in March, is used in tandem with the tax rate set by municipalities. The tax rate is defined as an amount per $1,000 of assessed value and is calculated by dividing the amount needed to balance the municipal budget by the total taxable assessment, then multiplying by 1,000.

CAO Taylor reminded council that taxes collected by the Village are comprised not only of municipal taxes, but also taxes for schools, policing, hospitals, and the RDCK. Tax notices are sent out in May and are due July 2. Any unpaid taxes are in arrears if not paid by December 31. Delinquent taxes are taxes that have not been paid by the third year after they were levied, and properties with delinquent taxes are subject to tax sale on the last Monday in September. The owner then has one year to pay the upset price, costs, and any current taxes paid by the purchaser plus interest if they want to retain their property. At the meeting, there were 26 properties that would be put up for tax sale on Sept. 39, 2019 if delinquent taxes aren’t paid. Seventy-five properties are in arrears, and this means that 11% of tax accounts are delinquent.

• Corporal Jaime Moffat laid out the Nakusp Slocan Lake RCMP detachment’s priorities for 2019. Moffat brought the latest quarterly report of statistics from NCBCS, noting that assaults are up "quite a bit," from zero last quarter to 12 this one. Property-related offenses were up significantly due particularly to a number of thefts including ATVs, but that the number of thefts has decreased dramatically since arrests have been made. Priorities for the RCMP in the coming year will be property crime, road safety, and domestic violence. Road safety checks will be more frequent in the Nakusp area, said the corporal. Road checks on last Saturday had drug-interdiction dogs with them, making it easier for seizures on the road, said Moffat.

Property crime has been the impetus for the formation of a citizens’ committee. Moffat said the committee can contribute watchful eyes in the community, and can help educate people about how and when to communicate with police.

Councillor Joseph Hughes asked if the detachment has sufficient staff. The corporal said staffing levels are where they should be, as dictated by their number of population and calls.

Councillor Janis Neufeld said she likes how local law enforcement are doing when it comes to keeping up with things people are doing. It’s a huge learning curve everybody.

Councillor McKenzie-Caux asked why there was a jump from zero to 12 assaults. The officer responded that it depends on the economy, the people in town, unemployment, alcohol, drugs, and other factors.

• Mayor Tom Zeleznik presented the letter that he and Regional District Board (NADB) expects the study to be completed spring 2019.

• The new council and Nakusp staff toured the water treatment plant, microhydro plant, and the sewer works department had had no concerns with it.

• Councillor Susan DeSandoli was appointed as the Village representative to the Arrow Lakes Historical Society and Centennial Building Committee.

Fixed link on Upper Arrow Lake still not a priority for ministry

by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp-based Beaver Arm Crossing Association (BACA) recently met with MLA Katrine Conroy and Hugh Eberle of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to brainstorm how to reach the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to present their proposal for a fixed link crossing to replace the Guelma-Shelter Bay ferry.

“The main reason to replace the ferry at this time is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the ferry, which range from 2153.5 tonnes to 3822.2 tonnes per year,” said Ken Williams of BACA. “This will no doubt test the government’s commitment to greenhouse gas reductions.”

A follow-up inquiry to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure was not very hopeful. “While green transportation initiatives are a priority for this ministry, the estimated cost of $340 million for a fixed link alternative is too prohibitive,” said Zeleznik.

A report by Urban Systems in 2014 estimated the cost of constructing a fixed link at $340 million.

The spokesperson said ministry staff appreciates the time BACA has put into investigating a potential fixed link crossing on the Upper Arrow, but a fixed link is not a priority for the ministry at this time.

The new ferry, MV Columbia, and the road improvements at the ferry approaches “have provided efficient service for travellers and significantly reduced (ferry crossing) wait time according to the ministry. “Since the launch of the MV Columbia in 2014, the number of crossings with overflow traffic has decreased from 29% down to 3%,” said Zeleznik.

BACA proposes that the MV Columbia replace the aging MV Balfour, which is slated for replacement by 2025.

The crossing not far north of the new fixed link connection is from 5.61 kilometres north of Shelter Bay to the northwest side of Storm Point and connecting with Hwy 31. The crossing uses an intersection on Hwy 23 surveyed by the ministry in 2012.

BACA representatives from Nakusp met with MLA Katrine Conroy and Hugh Eberle of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to brainstorm how to reach the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to present their proposal for a fixed link crossing to replace the Guelma-Shelter Bay ferry.
Message from Kaslo Minor Hockey Association President

by Tracy Remple

The Kaslo Association wants to thank the Nakusp and Nelson Associations for always offering a place for our players when we are unable to make teams in Kaslo.

This season, nine Kaslo players are with the Nakusp Bantam Falcons and four Kaslo players are with the Nakusp Midget Falcons. Our six Atom aged players from Kaslo are playing for the Nelson Atom team. New this season, we put forward a request for two novice players to be placed in Nelson. The impact on our Kaslo and District Arena Association has been devastating as a large portion of their operating funds has come from minor hockey user groups.

There are several contributing factors to the decline in registrants. With the economy what it is and more households requiring two incomes just to make ends meet, it means less time and money for extracurricular activities. Another thing we are seeing in Kaslo is the increase of youth-based organizations and a greater variety of sports and events in a town that once only seemed to have hockey. I see an increase in the arts such as dance, musical performances, singing, and all the amazing theatre programs in Kaslo. While Kaslo diversifies and grows, we continue to keep hockey going at any capacity we can for our children. Kaslo and Nakusp have been like cousin teams for decades. Being two small associations in the West Kootenay means we need to stick together in lean times and low registration in order to give every child who wants to play hockey a place to play.

Nakusp Minor Hockey has had a busy season so far! There is a Novice team and Atom team. The Bantam and Midget team have players from Nakusp and Kaslo. The Association was busy with the Legion Meat Draws in January and February.

Local Players join regional teams

Addyson Robins from Nakusp plays on the West Kootenay Wildcats Female Peewee team based in Trail. In November, they won the Peewee division at the Kamloops Female Tournament. March 21-24, the Wildcats are hosting the BC Female Peewee Championship. March 21-24, the Female Peewee team based in Trail plays on the West Kootenay Wildcats.

Addyson Robins

Devon Coates from Nakusp, 16 years old, attends Princess Margaret Secondary in Penticton and is a member of the BC South Zone Secondary in Penticton and is a member of the BC South Zone. Devon Coates

Isaac Flamand and Aidan Hascarl

Maddex Sanders of Nakusp plays on the Revelstoke Peewee Rep team. They play in the Okanagan hockey league and are currently in second place in their division.

Isaak Flamand and Aidan Hascarl

Maddex Sanders

Addyson Robins

Devon Coates

Play hard, play fair, teamwork and character! Minor Hockey Week Celebrates our young players! Almee Watson RDCK director, Area “D”

Play for the love of the game.

To play the game is great. To win is greater. But to love the game is the greatest of all. The Treehouse 250-353-2955 419 Front St. Kaslo

The Treehouse

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The Valley VOICE

wishes to acknowledge all the hard work of players, parents, coaches and volunteers to keep the game of hockey alive in our communities!

More than just a Health Food Store

Addyson Robins from Nakusp has brought home the first place trophies in both the Kamloops and Boundary. The Midgets have been playing in their West Kootenay divisions with final games by the end of February. The Atoms are going to the Castlegar tournament January 25-27 and have playoffs in Castlegar. The Bantams have a few league games left, are going to the Castlegar Tournament February 8-10 and have playoffs in Boundary. The Midgets have their home tournament in Nakusp February 1-3, so come down to watch the Falcons take on teams from the Okanagan and Calgary. There are great items on the raffle table, so make sure to come to the arena and check it out! Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the tournament – greatly appreciated. Then the Midgets will be hosting playoffs in Nakusp February 22-24, come cheer on the team as they play for the West Kootenay banner! A big Thank You to Box Lake Lumber, Hilltop Convenience Store and Arrow Lakes Ready Mix for helping support the teams to get new track suits this year. The players and coaches look great in their new suits.

Thank you for all the support from businesses, Falcon fans, friends, family, the KMHA Executive, Managers, On Ice Helpers, Val Scott (for timekeeping every game) and most importantly the coaches! We couldn’t do it without you!

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Proudly Supporting Minor Hockey! Building Memories and Dreams for a Lifetime

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The Village of Kaslo celebrates our young hockey players during Minor Hockey Week.

To play the game is great. To win is greater. But to love the game is the greatest of all. The Treehouse 250-353-2955 419 Front St. Kaslo

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Cornucopia

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The Valley Voice
January 31, 2019

BC Hockey is proudly celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2019

On February 9, 1919 the British Columbia Amateur Hockey Association (now BC Hockey) was established at a meeting in the basement of the old Daily Province Newspaper building located at 142 East Hastings Street in old Gastown, Vancouver, BC.

BC Hockey is a not-for-profit organization and member of Hockey Canada in charge of governing amateur hockey at all levels in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. Approximately 130 Minor Hockey Associations plus Junior and Senior teams, 60,000 players, 4,500 referees, 10,000 coaches, 20,000 official volunteers and countless others make our great game possible here in Pacific Canada. Hockey has been an integral part of the fabric for many people along Canada’s west coast and so many key people, events and moments have taken place in BC and the Yukon. BC Hockey plans to recognize and celebrate our past over the next year all while looking forward to growing the game at the grassroots level.

The lessons of sportsmanship and teamwork last a lifetime.
Celebrating Minor Hockey Week 2019
Katrine Conroy, MLA, Kootenay West

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Practice good sportsmanship in both hockey and life!

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The door to success is often locked.
One of the keys to that lock is teamwork, on the ice and off.
Best wishes to all our great local teams for Minor Hockey Week.

Hockey helps kids learn teamwork!

Kids and hockey have always been a winning combination!
We support Minor Hockey Week - players, coaches and parents!

Welcome to HOCKEY WEEK 2019!
Keep up the hard work and remember to have fun!

Mike & Tracy and the staff at Hilltop Convenience and Valley Foods are pleased to recognize our minor hockey players, coaches, officials and fans.

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January 31, 2019

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**Nakusp Atom Falcons**

**Nakusp Novice Falcons**

**Nakusp Midget Falcons**

**Nakusp Bantam Falcons**

**Nakusp Valley Voice**

Minor Hockey builds character!

Thanks to all the players, coaches, officials and fans for supporting hockey in our community!
CLASSIFIED ADS
THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business? If so, 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 Nakapos@futures.bc.ca.

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS for community projects? The Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley is hosting a Creative Thinking Session! Very casual. Everyone welcome. Thursday, February 7, Lumune School Library, 7 pm.

YOUR STUDENT ART SHOW IN the Langham Galleries. Opens February Fri 5, 7-7 pm. Join the K-12 students of JV Humphries School for the opening night of their group art show, plus student poetry reading in the Langham theatre at 5:30 pm.

THE LANGHAM PRESENTS Richard Wood & Gordon Belsher Friday February 15, 7 pm. PJID puffing sensation Richard Wood pairs with Lifetime Achievement Award winner guitarist/vocalist Gordon Belsher for an evening of World-class Celtic Folk! $20 Sunnydale/Willow. www.thelangham.ca

THE SLOCAN LAKE GARDEN SOCIETY’S 2019 AGM will be held at 1 pm on February 24 at the Silverton Gallery. Besides election of officers there will be a slide show featuring the history of the installation and development of the Kohan Garden. Memberships and refreshments will be available.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
THE VALLEY VOICE owners are thinking about succession planning. We invite community members interested in the newspaper business (or learning about the newspaper business) to contact us by email: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca. Serious inquiries only, please.

WORK YOUR DREAM JOB and be your own boss with help from the Self-Employment program at Community Futures! Through this program you will receive business plan instruction and ongoing business training and coaching while you start your business. And if you’re eligible you will usually also receive financial support for the first year. To learn more call 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakapos@futures.bc.ca.

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January 31, 2019

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28-32 hrs per week as a Park Attendant to fill a job vacancy for a part-time position.

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Monday and Thursday

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OBITUARY

MELVIN JAMES CARROLL of Winlaw passed away peacefully at his home on December 24, 2018, at the age of 69. Mel is preceded by father Laurence, Mother Thelma, and sister Valerie. He is survived by sister Violet, brothers Perry and Neil, and brother-in-law Keith. At Mel’s request, a formal service will not be held. Donations in memoriam may be made to the Canadian Red Cross.

The family wishes to extend our appreciation to the community who kept an eye out for Mel, emergency services, and other members of the Red Cross. The family wishes to extend our appreciation to the community who kept an eye out for Mel, emergency services, and other members of the Red Cross.

Candice Carroll, Memorial Director

COMMUNITY

Rothley lodge offers low cost accommodation for cancer patients

by Art Joyce

It’s hard enough dealing with cancer in your life without the extra inconvenience of having to travel several hours to another city for treatment. It can be both expensive and deeply stressful to patients and family members. Thankfully for cancer patients having to travel to Kelowna for treatment, there’s help. The Southern Interior Rotary Lodge, co-sponsored by the Canadian Cancer Society and the Rotary Club, provides low cost accommodation complete with meals and local transportation.

“We offer basically a home away from home when people are not able to go back and forth in one day for their treatment here at the cancer clinic in Kelowna,” says lodge manager Philip Jansen. “It’s not only for cancer patients, it’s for family or if you want to come with your spouse.”

The lodge has 19 rooms and 35 beds, with a full cafeteria offering three meals per day plus coffee, tea and snacks – all included in the single fee of $52 per night per person plus taxes. The lodge is conveniently located next to the cancer clinic and the fee also covers parking. For those needing to get to other medical appointments around the city, the Freemasons offer a free ride service. For those flying into Kelowna, the lodge has an arrangement with a local shuttle service for free transportation from the airport. Rooms are based on shared occupancy either with a spouse or other patients. Residents must be independent in their personal care or bring a companion with them to help with their care needs.

“It’s quite convenient so people don’t have to worry about, oh, I have to go grocery shopping or I have to cook,” says Jansen. “It’s also quite nice because it brings people together in the cafeteria so they can meet each other and talk. We know that going to treatment and being away from home is emotional so we provide support and connect people with each other.”

The lodge is supported by 50 volunteers who also provide activities and entertainment, such as workshops, movie nights and visiting musical groups. Among the facilities are a recreation room and prosthethics.

The lodge is staffed on a 24/7 basis. Although not a medically licensed facility, staff members are happy to answer questions.

The Canadian Cancer Society office is adjacent to the lodge and offers a limited financial assistance program for those on low incomes. The lodge is open to anyone coming to Kelowna for cancer diagnosis or treatment, and is typically used by patients from across the BC Interior. Jansen says patients travelling to Kelowna for other types of treatment may also use the lodge provided space is available. However, priority is given to cancer patients.

“We’d rather use it than have it empty but we always have to be careful because cancer patients are our target group,” says Jansen. “We know it’s not home but we try to do our best to make it feel that way.”

Patients are advised to book early by contacting 1-888-939-3333, which is also the Canadian Cancer Society general information number. More information can be found at cancer.ca.

Student art show at the Langham

The Langham Gallery will host a show of art from JV Humphries students, with opening reception on Friday February 8 from 5 to 7 pm. Also, that same evening at 5:30 pm, there will be a poetry reading by(strtolower the primary students in the Langham Theatre.

Original and unique art creations will be on display until February 17. This is a group art show from students K through 12 and many of the pieces will be available for purchase. This event is part of a two-week-long celebration showcasing the Fine Arts as part of the district-wide Fine Arts Festival ‘For the Love of the Arts,’ February 1-17.

Come out and celebrate!

PAINTING

The Valley Voice January 31, 2019
New $4.4 million water system recommended for Slocan City

by Barbara Carr-McLachlan

The Village of Slocan Water System Study, made public January 14, recommends a new water system for Slocan City to replace the existing Gwillim Creek system in future.

Ward also investigated the possibility of using an existing well on Fitz Avenue near Slocan River or a new well on Slocan Street at the northeast corner of the former mill site. He reported that a well near the river or lake would “be subject to the influence of surface water” and extra treatment would be needed. He thought it unlikely a well would produce enough water. He said that wells near the mill site “may be subject to the influence of ground water.”

Ward’s report calls for a 250-metre-deep water intake line in Slocan Lake ($112,200); a well (submerged below ground) with a pump house on the road allowance at the north end of Slocan Street ($50,000); North of Spring Creek between Brandon and Highway 6 would be the site of a reservoir; an in-ground disposal system for backwash wastewater, and a new membrane water treatment plant with UV and chlorine disinfection ($1,300,000). An 800-foot water line from the new reservoir would snake up Spring Creek, go down Park Street, turn at Park Avenue to Slocan Street, where it would connect to the existing water distribution line ($400,000).

Other costs would include engineering ($499,575); a 1,200-metre raw water line ($540,000); two variable speed pumps and control ($200,000); installing power to the new pump station and the new water treatment building ($50,000); updating the Scadi system ($39,000); rock drilling and blasting ($18,000); de-commissioning the existing water system and returning Gwillim to its natural state ($50,000).

Public Works Supervisor Tim Hill suggested the Gwillim Creek reservoir remain as part of the system for redundancy.

The study was completed December 11, 2018, funded by a $1,000 infrastructure planning grant from the Province.

The village has had its problems with water system deficits over the years. A meeting was prepared for council by Hill provided details. During winter cold snaps, the water intakes ice up. Industrial heaters are now required to keep the ice from forming inside the intake structure. Flash floods increase turbidity, sometimes from 100 to 200 times the normal level. During freshet, the pre-screens have to be constantly flushed. Water flow can be reduced to one quarter of the system’s capacity. In addition, the wastewater has started to “leech ancient decomposed vegetation,” which colours the water. The existing membrane running means more chlorine must be added.

Climate change is making Gwillim Creek’s water flow more variable. Chief Donnie Fisher said “last two summers of extreme drought” have made providing water in the middle of summer “challenging.” Maintenance and operating costs have risen and all maintenance has meant Public Works has had to delay other projects.

Also looming are what McClure calls “end of life issues” for the Gwillim Creek plant. Increased wear means parts will need to be replaced soon. The membrane filter costs $80,000. This does not include the cost of fittings and connections and 400 labour hours. Not only, but the plant is now outdated and replacement parts will become increasingly difficult to find. After a request from the ratepayer price tag, McClure thought the Village could manage it, though he said the “Village doesn’t have enough left in reserve to replace it.” The recommendations would be “the best way to go.” He said it wouldn’t “seem unreasonable” to borrow up to $700,000 over 20 years. The rest of the money would have to come from grants, which he thought the Village was “in a good position to get.” He wasn’t sure if the Village would or could get funding support (83-85%) as it has for the microhydro project. He noted also the 25% contingency figures added into the cost estimate, so it would be a “challenge finding how much (the project) will cost.” However, “if ever there was a time” to look, this would be it.

Council asked staff to arrange a meeting with Peter Ward to discuss his report in greater detail. Mayor Lunn emphasized that council was “gathering info” and that “nothing had been decided.” CAC Michelle Gordon called the study “preliminary” and said the Village would need guidance before making an educated decision.

Ward’s study recommended eight next steps: confirm the location and depth of the proposed deep water intake; sample the lake water; meet with the B.C. Seafood task force; confirm land at the south end of Brandon Street is owned by the Crown; apply for a license to draw water from the lake; meet with the Public Health Engineer; meet with MOTT staff; execute test pits near the proposed reservoir and water treatment plant; and complete a geotechnical review of the wet and reservoir area. Council then discussed whether and how much Village water rates should be increased for 2019. CFO McClure called the $80,000 membrane “a big-ticket item” and said Hill’s expertise was needed. He thought the Village might apply for funding support “(83-85%)” or it could finance the new membrane “but when it goes...you gotta get it done.” He suggested a 6.75% increase in 2019 or a 4% increase for the future.

Councillor Joel Pelletier missed this part of the meeting but had left word that he would “like to push ahead full steam” on the water plant but that he thought “6.75% was a little extreme.” With Pelletier gone, the decision was in the hands of the two councillors who live in the RDCR, Jean Van Hyen and Ezra Butler. The mayor only votes to break a tie.

Councillor Perriere spoke up quickly, saying that she would like the water rate to “stay at 3%... when we have a plan, we can just go” for a higher rate. When Butler asked how the Village taxpayers felt about tax increases, Mayor Lunn said when there’s a strong rationale, people will understand.” She said the “current source is unreliable, costly to maintain, and it limits growth,” but was not keen to extend the life of the current system. Butler said, “Come on Brandon people, support me!” and with that the resolution for a 3% increase in water rates passed. Council agreed to consider using gas tax funds to supplement the budget if there were unexpected costs this year.

School District 10 superintendent’s report

• Additional childcare at Lucerne School.

• Increasing retention and graduation rates with a group of parents and childcare professionals who are forming a non-profit society, the superintendent, manager of operations and school principal. The team considered several ministry grants to provide capital funding. The tentative plan is to provide childcare service in the mornings Monday to Friday, including Pro-D days and school holiday periods. The district would consider pursuing this in Nakusp if a non-profit group were interested.

• Lucerne School has successfully received approval for the consultation process at Lucerne with input on their ideas to replace the two playground structures identified in a 2017 audit. Equipment should arrive early spring for installation, as soon as the weather cooperates.

• Lucerne School has successfully received approval from Ministry of Education for a new student learning with professional actors, dancers and musicians working alongside students, Katrina Sumran’s Arts in Education initiative to produce the musical Once Upon a Mattress in the spring was approved.

• Climbing and bouldering walls at Brandon Mountain will never be completed and will never be used. The school has completed the consultation process at Lucerne with input on their ideas to replace the two playground structures identified in a 2017 audit. Equipment should arrive early spring for installation, as soon as the weather cooperates.

• Mt. Sentinel logging plans advertised by Jan Murray

Principal Nick Graves is spearheading the project in collaboration with LESS Society and the school. BCTS has a non-profit society Sustainability Education, has initiated such projects previously. Indigenous Elders Eloise Charlet and Al Richardson are key partners in the project.

• Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality innovations are the topic of the 2018 Career Connections Education, has initiated such projects previously. Indigenous Elders Eloise Charlet and Al Richardson are key partners in the project in collaboration with LESS Society.

• This is the final year of receiving funding for updates to trades equipment. All three shops at NSS, the Lucerne shop and the small shops in both schools have benefited from the new capital equipment.

• SD 10’s latest film produced by Isaac Carter of Kindy Films, Community Career Connections, documents Nakusp and Lucerne secondary school students working with local timber frame builders from Dave McDonald Construction as they build the outdoor classroom at Nakusp Elementary School, and students working alongside a solar engineer, local electrician and school district carpenters to install solar grids on NSS and NSS roofs.

• Enrolment was up again in December with two more students registering at Edgewood School. In January, one student left Lucerne.

• Additional operating grant funding has been provided as a result of increased student enrolment over projections. At NES, an additional 26 hour per week Education Assistant has been hired. With Pelletier’s resignation and replacement at Burton School, secretarial time has increased by 1.5 hours per week to 8 hours. Allocations to all school budgets have been increased as a result of enrolment increases.

Slocan Community Health Care Auxiliary Society would like to thank everyone for their generous support. This has allowed us to purchase these items in 2017-2018.

• iPads for the Pavilion

• A fireplace for the Pavilion Lounge

• VitalSign Monitor for the Pavilion

• Donation for Doctor Recruitment

• 2 covers for Gazebos

• Donation to the New Emergency Department in Trail

• 2 Vital Signs for the Emergency Department

• Monthly Birthday Cakes for the Pavilion
**Willa mine in new hands again**

**by Katrine Campbell**

The Willa gold mine at the south end of Red Mountain Road has been sold, for $1, to Cameo Cobalt Corp. Akash Patel, formerly VP and director of former mine owner MX Gold, is the principle of Cameo Cobalt.

Asked by The Valley Voice if he actually planned to start mining and when, Patel replied, “The asset acquisition is not yet approved by the regulators. Once it is approved and we hear back from the ministry as to the compliance status, the board of directors will make a decision on the budget allocation on the asset.”

Pressed for more information, and reminded that according to the Red Mountain Residents’ Association the site (abandoned for several years) is in a dangerous condition and seems to have no significant gold deposits, Patel did not respond.

The RMRA said in a letter published in The Valley Voice November 29, 2018 that “in 125 years no ore of any economic significance has been processed from the site. Recent exploration and reports have confirmed the paucity of the deposit.”

In MINEFILE Record 2004 it states: ‘the drilling in the peripheral areas of the Willa deposit was not successful in locating significant new zones of potentially economic mineralization.” Similarly, in the Amended Preliminary Economic Assessment Technical Report (Wayne M Ash PEng et al. 2015/16) it states that: “There are no Mineral Reserve estimates for the Property.” (p.77)

Both MX Gold and Cameo are junior companies selling penny stocks. Last February, MX Gold’s share price was .09, or 9¢ today it is .0334. Cameo’s was at .43, or 43¢ last February; today, it is .08, or 8¢.

Some history: in 2003, Orphan Boy Resources held an open house in Silverton to tout its plans for Willa but gave up the following year. In 2012, International Bethlehem Ventures took over, planning to start work soon on rehabbing roads and opening portals. In December 2015 it said it planned to start work soon on rehabilitation and opening portals. In December 2015 it said it planned to start work soon, and in April 2016, it was approved and we were given jail sentences for all 16. Corrections will now decide how much time he will serve. The judge also ordered a DNA test and a two-year driving prohibition.

The series of events on May 1 were outlined in an RCMP press release at the time. It all began near Nakusp, when a Slocan Lake RCMP officer stopped Connell. Connell put the stolen car he was driving off the road and pulled it over. The dump truck was abandoned in Slocan Road. A Castlegar RCMP officer was able to attend the area and arrest the caribou with the help of the police vehicle several times before taking him off. Next, he ran over the Going to the Enterprise Creek. When she got out to talk to him, he hopped into her truck. She put her arm through the driver’s side window and grabbed the handle to try to stop him, but he drove away, dragging her along for a short distance. Her elbow was injured in the incident. Edge’s truck was abandoned in Slocan Lake. There was no application for final approval for MX Gold. Another year and a half passes, with more testing and studies to be done. January 9, 2018, MX Gold announces it’s out of the gold mining business and will be mining cryptocurrency (e.g. bitcoin). No reply to calls and emails asking about Willa’s future. BC Securities Commission issues Cease Trade order; VP Akash Patel and the Chief Financial Officer both resign.

April 2018, MX Gold sells all its mining assets. January 2019: the Willa property is sold to Cameo Cobalt.

**Connell sentenced for vehicle thefts in the area**

**by Jan McMurray**

The man involved in a series of vehicle thefts in the area on May 1 last year – and who injured New Denver resident Sue Edge as he was stealing her truck – was sentenced in Vernon on January 7.

Daniel Connell was found guilty of seven charges from the May 1 incident – theft of a motor vehicle (four counts), uttering thefts, operating a motor vehicle while being pursued by a peace officer. He has been in custody since he was apprehended May 1.

In court on Vernon on January 7, he was sentenced for the May 1 charges as well as charges of possession of stolen property and theft of a motor vehicle stemming from incidents in Kelowna and Vernon on March 17, 2018. In total, he was found guilty of 16 charges and was given jail sentences for all 16. Corrections will now decide how much time he will serve. The judge also ordered a DNA test and a two-year driving prohibition.

The series of events on May 1 were outlined in an RCMP press release at the time. It all began near Nakusp, when a Slocan Lake RCMP officer stopped Connell. Connell put the stolen car he was driving into reverse and rammed the police vehicle several times before taking him off. Next, he ran over the Going to the Enterprise Creek. When she got out to talk to him, he hopped into her truck. She put her arm through the driver’s side window and grabbed the handle to try to stop him, but he drove away, dragging her along for a short distance. Her elbow was injured in the incident. Edge’s truck was abandoned in Slocan Lake. There was no permit issued by the ministry for Willa’s future. BC Securities Commission issues Cease Trade order; VP Akash Patel and the Chief Financial Officer both resign. April 2018, MX Gold sells all its mining assets. January 2019: the Willa property is sold to Cameo Cobalt.

City, where a school district dump truck was stolen. A traffic officer was forced off the road by the dump truck when another officer attempted to pull it over. The dump truck was located abandoned on a private property in Krestova. A short time later, a brown GMC pick-up was stolen in Krestova and was heading towards Castlegar on Pass Creek Road. A Castlegar RCMP officer was able to attend the area and deploy a spike belt, causing the GMC to come to a stop. After a brief foot chase, Connell was taken into custody.

**CORRECTION**

In the article, ‘Potential for Caribou Emergency Order causes alarm in Nakusp,’ we incorrectly stated that Cameron Leitch is manager of True North Forestry. Leitch is a concerned citizen who lives in Nakusp. He was intimately involved in managing caribou habitat on TFL 23 when he worked for Pope and Talbot 1995-2008.

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