Fibre-optic high-speed internet coming up the Slocan Valley to Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Improved high-speed internet infrastructure – a fibre-optic backbone – is coming to the Slocan Valley.

The new fibre-optic cable, running approximately 125 kilometres from Playmor Junction to just north of Nakusp at Shoreholme, is expected to be installed by March 2020. This is a $7.2 million project.

The Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Columbia Basin Trust, is receiving a $3.5 million grant from the provincial Connecting BC program, and will manage the project. The Villages of Nakusp, New Denver, Silverton and Slocan, and RDCK Areas H and K will together contribute funding of $525,000, using mostly gas tax funds. The remainder of the funds will come from the Columbia Basin Trust.

“We’re super-duper excited about this!” said Dave Lampron, Chief Operating Officer of CBBC, in an interview. “I think this project is going to have benefit for the region for many years to come.”

Lampron says they have a conceptual design for the project, and will now start the work to come up with the detailed design. “Starting this week, we’ll engage with societies and groups like the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society and the Streamkeepers to ensure we know what their needs are and that we are respecting community needs – so the conceptual design will change,” he said.

At this point, the general concept is to bury the cable along the Slocan Valley rail trail to Slocan, lay it in Slocan Lake to Hills, string it on hydro poles to Nakusp, and lay it in the Arrow Reservoir to Shoreholme. However, as Lampron stressed, this concept will undoubtedly change as the detailed design is developed.

Once the fibre-optic backbone is in, the next step will be to get the improved high-speed internet service to customers. Local internet service providers will provide ‘last mile’ connections from the backbone to homes and businesses, using either wireless or fibre-optic technology. CBBC is planning to support this process.

“We should be able to work with existing local service providers to use their existing infrastructure, but there will be steps down the line where we’ll be working with them to improve their infrastructure.” Lampron said.

Opportunities to access provincial funding for last mile connections and to expand access to high-speed internet have been included in BC’s 2019 budget, with $50 million in additional new funds. Lampron said CBBC will partner with local internet service providers to apply for last mile funding. “We intend to compete for funds where we’re eligible,” Lampron said. “If it’s a good fit, we’ll do our best to coordinate an application.” Communities benefiting from this project include Appledale, Brouse, Crescent Valley, Hills, Lebahdo, Lemon Creek, Nakusp, New Denver, Passmore, Perrys, Playmor Junction, Rosebery, Shoreholme, Silverton, Slocan, Slocan Park, South Slocan, Summit Lake, Vallican and Winlaw.

The project is funded through the Connecting British Columbia initiative announced in 2018 and is administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust.
New Kootenay United Cannabis Association to host symposium in Nelson

KUCA (Kootenay United Cannabis Association) has been formed to advocate, educate and promote on behalf of the cannabis industry.

“Currently, our primary advocacy concern is for a fair and equitable transition for those who historically participated in building the cannabis industry,” says Jim Lesley, founding member of the association.

On April 11, KUCA will be hosting the Kootenay Cannabis Symposium at the Prestige Inn, Nelson. The goal of the symposium is to capture the voices of stakeholders, to identify the barriers moving forward as a united entity.

The symposium is to capture the voices of stakeholders, to identify the barriers moving forward as a united entity.

KUCA’s recommendations to the federal government include:

- To establish a more financially manageable and flexible transition period so that craft, micro and medical producers can develop sustainably and equitably.
- To streamline an accessible consultancy process that is federally or provincially supported and regulated in order to eliminate fraud and create more assurances for individuals and businesses moving towards compliance.
- To create a ‘cannabis board’ that is comprised of and represents the diversity and myriad voices that are impacted by cannabis legalization. Such a body would set pricing systems that are financially engineered to protect producers and investors and to oversee and suggest policy adjustments within the industry.
- To broaden proposed regulatory parameters i.e. canopy size, for craft, medical and micro grows that reflect their dynamic agricultural conditions, such as the need for in-house nurseries. This is necessary to make certain business models viable.
- To level the playing field for micro, craft and medical cultivators, we recommend the redistribution of a percentage of the excise tax to support a grant system for small producers and infrastructure upgrades.
- All stakeholders invested in the development of the ‘micro industry’ provincially require Health Canada to give a viable projection of the number of activated licensed facilities. KUCA recommends a projection of 300 per region by 2020.
- Health Canada has issued stringent parameters for product lab testing. This has eliminated most organic cultivators, and many other farmers, due to the black listing of beneficial microbials. It is KUCA’s position for a federal review and change to microbial lab test standards.

Lucerne students join Fridays for a Future

Students worldwide have been walking out of class to join the Fridays for a Future movement, calling attention to the serious problems of climate change.

In New Denver, 15-year-old Grade 10 student Charlotte (Charlie) Farrell led her classmates in a protest from Lucerne School on March 15.

“I was prompted by the global event,” she says. “I got a few friends involved and it kind of blew up from there.” About a dozen people took part.

“Why we did it and what prompted me was the current state of climate change and the current state of our planet. I don’t see a lot of steps being taken to reverse the effects of climate change. When we heard other kids were getting involved, we decided we were going to take steps to get it done, even if we were not old enough to vote.”

The group left school about 10:15 and carried their protest signs down Main Street (Sixth Avenue) to the Village office, back up Main, down Hwy 6 to The Pavilion, then back up the highway where they stood at the intersection with Hwy 3 for about 45 minutes.

“We stood there so people could see us. About three of us stayed out until about 2 or 3.”

Farrell says they had some hand-shaking and eye-rolling reactions, but only one person said anything negative. A senior told them they can’t do anything about climate change because it was part of the natural cycle and was inevitable.

Her other frustration was being made to sign out from school: “I felt it defeated the purpose of a walkout.”

Another national school strike is being called for May 3, and the Lucerne students hope to be part of it.

“We thank the community for their support of youth and ideals, letting us share our opinions like we did.”

**NEWS**

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*PHOTO CREDIT: MOE LYONS*

Lucerne students walked out of school on March 15 and marched through the village in solidarity with the global ‘Fridays for a Future’ movement to bring attention to climate change.
Cannabis co-op to help small growers access legal market

by Claire Paradis

Small cannabis growers and processors in BC are going to have to work together in order to be part of the legal market. And if they don’t get their act together now, Hurford said, it could have dire consequences for rural communities across the province. That was the message that David Hurford delivered to roughly 30 people at the BC Small Cannabis Producers and Processors Co-op meeting in Nakusp on March 16. The co-op is working closely with growers in Nelson on March 18.

The co-op consultations he is conducting around the province are sponsored by Vancouver’s Grow Tech Labs (GTL), a group concerned about the effects on the BC economy if small growers here are not included in the legal market. Hurford said Grow Tech Labs wants to keep small provincial growers at the front of the market and re-establish and expand BC’s influence as a global cannabis capital. Hurford is partnering with GTL to develop the co-op that they hope will “accelerate the participation” of small growers in the legal market. In response to a question about what GTL was getting out of helping set up a co-op, Hurford replied that the group was primarily concerned with the economic effects of getting small producers in on legalization, and that GTL would consider investing in the cooperative.

Hurford himself has been on the inside track of legalization. During his 20-plus years working with government, Hurford worked with Health Canada to develop medical marijuana guidelines and led the Liberal policy committee in developing a legalization framework in 2013. As part of that work, he consulted with patients, small growers, and compassion clubs. Since then, he has begun to worry about what he calls the “impact of policies done to small growers who were getting squeezed out of the legalization process. In April of last year, he left his position as policy chair for the Liberal party so he could take part in building a business model that would help small producers in BC.

Although there are 5,000-6,000 designated small producers in BC that have Health Canada approval, they are not being approached or encouraged to participate in the new market, said Hurford. Lim it on the number of plants that small producers can grow, along with vague security regulations and the large costs associated with getting licensed, are also deeply problematic. Faced with these issues, BC, which is comprised of mostly small producers, won’t be able to enter the marketplace and consumers will have less choice.

The best model for getting growers and processors who have decades of experience and knowledge together, is a co-operative, said Hurford. Why? Because a cooperative is a legally incorporated business that is owned and operated by and for its members based on established international values and principles. These values — self-sufficiency, responsibility, democracy, and equity and solidarity — are a natural fit for cannabis growers and producers, he believes. The benefits of pooling resources and decision-making, as well as sharing risks and rewards make it ideal for small producers and processors who can’t afford to individually own pricey equipment or to shell out for costs associated with licensing and operating.

Hurford laid out what the structure and goals could be for the BC Small Cannabis Producers and Processors Co-op and asked for input on everything. This included the types of memberships the co-op would have, and the kinds of advocacy and financing the co-op would pursue. There were calls from the audience for research into organic certification, testing and shared insurance costs. Hurford took note and added that granting programs for agriculture and agribusiness could be something the co-op could also be working on.

CBT Trail Enhancement grants benefit trails in Kaslo, Nakusp and New Denver areas

by Jan McMurray

The Columbia Basin Trust has announced 29 projects that will receive a total of $484,000 in Trail Enhancement grants. Of the 29 projects, there is one in the Kaslo area, three in the Nakusp area and two in the New Denver area.

The Kaslo Outdoor Recreation and Trails Society will receive $25,000 to upgrade and improve the Kaslo River Trails, improve the connectivity of Kaslo River Trails to the True Blue network and complete several local trails in the Mt. Buchanan recreation area. The society will also install trail signage and picnic tables, in its trail network.

The Nakusp and Area Community Trail Society will receive $11,431 to enhance the Butter/Spine Trail by installing an accessible outhouse, interpretive signage and picnic tables and to improve trail drainage.

The Nakusp and Area Community Trail Society will receive $20,000 to replace Gardner Creek Bridge on the Peter Roulston Trail.

The Slocan Lake ATV Club will receive $7,000 to develop trailside infrastructure, including picnic tables, in its trail network.

The Slocan Lake ATV Club will receive $21,000 to build approximately four kilometres of trail between Hills and Cramer’s Berm (south of Hills) as part of the proposed ‘motor bypass trail’ in the Rosebery to Summit Lake Trail Network. Rec. Sites and Trails BC will also be contributing funding to this project.

These 29 projects mark the first intake of CBT’s three-year, $1.5 million program. The next intake will open on April 4, 2019. Learn more at ourtrust.org/trailgrants.
Slocan cell tower power and range

Scientific studies have shown that cell tower electromagnetic radiation can harm human health. Here are a couple of examples from www.healthy-cell-towers.com.

“A report in Germany found that cancer rates more than tripled among people living within 350 metres of a microwave tower from 1990-97,” said the report. “A report in California found that children living within 300 metres of a cell tower had a 2.5 times increased risk of cancer.”

“Yet, despite the fact that cancer rates more than tripled among people living within 350 metres of a cell tower, the government did nothing. They simply turned up the power on the cell towers in order to serve Slocan. Does this mean that cell tower radiation is not a concern? Not at all. In fact, it means that the government is simply turning up the power on cell towers in order to serve Slocan.”

From Ricole Cabodyna’s letter in the March 14 Valley Voice, the electromagnetic radiation from the Telus cell tower is being pushed out with more power than is necessary simply to serve Slocan. Does this extra, unnecessary power of transmission negatively affect the health of Slocan residents? Is the Village of Slocan council going to tell Telus to reduce the range of the cell phone signal so it will only reach as far as Gravel Pit Road, as per the original statement?

I think many Slocan residents are concerned about this issue, but do not know what to do. We need to do something, but what?

The Valley Voice

Opinion

The 5G controversy

Numbers of scientists expressing concern over 5G is really not the issue. Scientists are taught to be disciplined in refraining from expressing opinions over matters they haven’t personally studied, unlike lay people who are so inclined to “know” something. We haven’t learned to say, “I don’t know.”

My concern is with Health Canada. HC is supposed to study things like 5G and protect us. I learned that they follow what they call “weight of evidence” as a basis for their decisions. This means that they make piles of pro and con papers, put them on a scale, figuratively or literally, and then go for coffee.

Natural law is not as wishy-washy as stacks of conflicting research papers. If we watch a bunch of people jumping and suddenly one of them soars into the air instead of coming down in accordance with the law of gravity, we don’t shrug our shoulders and go for coffee. When there is inconsistency in research, that is when the work begins.

So, if one is ignorant and doesn’t trust HC, what does one do? We can find scientists who at least claim to have gone over a large number of papers. I listen to what they have to say. They believe that we must do this extra work. I also take an interest in retired military scientists who have worked in what is called “microwave warfare” or “stealth warfare.” I know that the military is far ahead of the commercial sector in research pertaining to military defense, and a military scientist has nothing to gain by being a whistle blower.

Norbert Durriechen
New Denver

Why is Canada still dithering?

New Zealand is a peace-loving country. As such they thought it was good enough to have gun laws that were somewhat better than those in America. Surely, in a peace loving country like New Zealand, no one would have good reason to launch a military-style assault on their fellow citizens. They got complacent.

As it turns out, no New Zealanders did. New Zealand, they had already had such an attack, and in response they tightened their gun laws, making it hard for Brenton Tarrant to get the weapons he needed to carry out his atrocity. So he went to New Zealand, where he was permitted to buy several semi-automatic guns, and enough hi-capacity clips to load up the gun. They didn’t get much of it, but they’re starving.

Food, all food, needs healthy soil – and water! We can do something, you, me, all of us: protect our soil and our water. Protect our trees, protect our ecosystems. Seems Forestry is cutting down trees as fast as they can, before they are all gone. Makes sense, doesn’t it? (It doesn’t of course, you “n’ me know that, but...). We still have tracks of forest and unique ecosystems here in the Kootenays. If 4+2+50 makes a million... Elsje de Boer

KASLO HOTEL

The Kaslo Hotel is in a secluded area at the main street in Kaslo. The Kaslo Hotel does not necessarily share the political views of the artists.

The Ingrid Rice cartoon is a satirical look at current events in politics and is sponsored by the Kaslo Hotel. The Hotel does not necessarily share the political views of the artist.

KASLO HOTEL

When global temperatures change, the humidity in the atmosphere changes. Warner air can hold more water vapour. The speed at which the humid air travels also changes. A bit like diarrhea, when food intake travels from entry to exit without being digested, humidity racing by high up in the atmosphere doesn’t do the earth much good, either.

Water gets into the atmosphere when it evaporates. Warm air is lighter than cold air. Boil some water: the steam rises in the atmosphere, the colder it gets, until it condenses and falls down as rain, or snow, or hail.

Good healthy soil absorbs the water. Vegetation, especially trees, suck it up. Forests are cool because of the shade, but also because of the moisture evaporating through the foliage. The cool air above the forest causes the humidity in the air to condense and fall as down rain.

Elsje de Boer

Food, all food, needs healthy soil – and water! We can do something, you, me, all of us: protect our soil and our water. Protect our trees, protect our ecosystems. Seems Forestry is cutting down trees as fast as they can, before they are all gone. Makes sense, doesn’t it? (It doesn’t of course, you “n’ me know that, but...) We still have tracks of forest and unique ecosystems here in the Kootenays. If 4+2+50 makes a million...

Elisje de Boer

Kaslo Food

Maxine theROPAT

We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.

The Valley Voice

Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0
Phone: 250-358-7218 Fax: 250-358-7793 E-Mail: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca Website: www.valleyvoice.ca

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The Valley Voice is a community newspaper that is published every Thursday and distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lake valleys, as well as in the Arrow Lakes, Nakusp, Kaslo, and the Lower Slocan Valley.

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A Trumpum

After reading the letter by Rory Lindsay in the Mar. 11 issue, I had to go back and reread the article by Art Joyce in the February 28 issue to see what the fuss was all about. While Joyce’s article was well researched and well argued, not an opinion, Lindsay’s was more like a Trumpum, false news, and opinion. To dismiss yet another wake-up call from a bunch group from the scientific community and say there is little basis in fact reminds me of the efforts of the tobacco lobby. They spent millions to discredit the studies proving the harmful impacts of tobacco smoke. While there are thousands of studies on the negative health effects of EMF and microwave radiation, which includes 2-5G, there are NO studies that say 5G is safe. Insurance companies do major risk analyses on all types of things, from drivers and dogs to red lights. Lloyds of London, one of the world’s premier insurance groups, will not insure any healthcare claims made against wireless technologies, which includes 5G.

Then there are people who do not believe in the impact of climate change.

Bob Lerch
Winlaw
Go with the flow

Yes. Smoke that cigarette! Crank up the volume! Put another tablespoon of sugar on those Frosted Flakes… They’re great!

Well, why not? Species of all sorts – birds, insects, and fish – are going extinct at an alarming and frightening pace. Male fertility for all species, and definitely including our own, depending is down by about a third. Fish, whales and other sea creatures get terminally tangled in plastic or strangled or worse, and die off. Yes, why not: Go with the flow and smoke that cigarette! We are in a crisis and if you’re over 50 or so, you’ll know how we were made to believe it was just such a great thing, and good for our health too! Yup, and asbestos in the walls, and plastic in your breasts – go with the flow!

Flow is good. It is water turning from ice… Going against the current is hard work and takes energy (can’t the facetious nature of this letter thus far, because then we might encourage our kids not to smoke and avoid dying ugly deaths. And we will get stronger, like fish and avoid dying ugly deaths. And encourage our kids thus far, because then we might become convinced of the potential risk. I had no agenda but to inform myself and to use my skills on behalf of the health and safety of my community. Why else would I expose myself to such uninformed attacks on my credibility as a journalist?

Even 12 years ago, highly respected scientists around the world were raising red flags about this technology. Since that time the evidence has only grown stronger. There are now at least 10,000 scientific studies suggesting various mechanisms of harm from this radiation. And the time this was first studied in the 1960s. Perhaps this isn’t enough for Mr. Lindsay and he would prefer to do the PMO which was to continue his crooked affairs with a corrupt company. We are not in Poland or Turkey.

It’s not just the fact that the worldwide Liberal caucus is now coming down on Jody Wilson-Raybould and Jane Philpott. It’s the reverse of the old saying about the rats leaving a sinking ship. Here, the rats are trying to save their nest instead of our democracy – which Jody Wilson-Raybould is standing up for. That is clear since the Chief Executive Officer of SNC-Lavalin Neil Bruce stated in an interview on BNN Bloomberg on March 21 that the company never did anything wrong. Leaving Quebec along with 9,000 jobs if they didn’t get a DPA (Deferred Prosecution Agreement) from the Crown. Many are saying “by the way” reference to the election next October, as mentioned by Wilson-Raybould in her testimony, shows the actual reason for him to draw SNC into their dilemma. He was trying to save his own and his party’s future. What would 1,000 politicians 100 feet under the ocean be!

The conundrum now is that we want neither another ‘Harper boy’ nor a Yappy like Trudeau. Perhaps Joyce Murray could pull the cart out of the mud. She has proven her mettle in various ministries here in BC, and she has a green core – read her biography online. With her, we might get Jody Wilson-Raybould back.

Richard Eichenauer
Fauquier

With the current

For someone challenging me on my facts, Mr. Lindsay’s letter contains remarkably few of them. It has distinct echoes of the so-called ‘climate change debate’ of the 1990s, when in a false understanding of journalistic ‘balance,’ the media gave equal time to climate change deniers, many of whom were paid oil industry shills.

When I first began this research back in 2007, I had no opinion either way. It was only through hundreds of hours of my volunteer time, reading the abstracts of the studies, and engaging with the scientists that I became convinced of the potential risk. I had no agenda but to inform myself and to use my skills on behalf of the health and safety of my community. Why else would I expose myself to such uninformed attacks on my credibility as a journalist?

And surprise! When Dr. Henry Lai, a scientist at the University of Washington, did a meta-study of studies, comparing those that showed potential harm from wireless radiation with those that didn’t or were inconclusive, the latter were largely funded by the telecommunication industry. Exactly like the companies did with climate change science. In the 2017 US National Toxicology Program—a government-funded research body—was able to induce tumours in lab rats through high exposure to cell phone signals. The scientific consensus among the top authorities in this field, such as Dr. Devra Davis, Dr. Olef Johansson, Dr. Joel Moskowitz, Dr. Magda Havas, Dr. Martin Pall and many, many others, is that ten years of heavy usage of a cell phone doubles the risk of brain tumours. And that’s 4G, not 5G, which many scientists are warning could be even worse. Two former military intelligence officers, Capt. Jerry Flynn, retired Canadian Navy signals intelligence, and Harry Trower, retired British MI5 officer, have been testifying at their own expense that the 5G frequencies were originally developed as weapons and as the military is well aware of the impact on human health. Many of these same experts are now urgently testifying before Congress, various State legislators and the European parliament that the rollout of 5G must be stopped until we can better assess the potential health risks to human and animal populations, calling it “a medical experiment on humankind, and therefore, under the Nuremberg Code, a crime. But perhaps Mr. Lindsay would prefer to place his trust in Big Telecom, which after all has our health and safety at heart rather than its billions in profit.

If Mr. Lindsay would like, I can put him in touch with some of these scientists to help him understand how wrong they are based on his personal opinion. The only ones going ‘against the current’ now as regards electromagnetic science are those who stubbornly refuse to accept the mounting evidence that wireless devices are the 21st century version of the rats leaving a sinking ship. When cancer comes calling, don’t you wish you weren’t warned.

Art Joyce
New Denver

Why we were at Greyhorse

A number of reasons! I say “we” because this is bigger than just me. I am connected to something much greater and there are a number of people with the same concerns. (So I will say “I” or “we” while not taking credit for anything.) We tried reaching out to our local MLA Michelle Mungall (who locked her doors to the public a few times), licensee Cooper Creek Cedar Ltd., Porcupine Wood Products, Selkirk District forestry office, Area D Director Aimee Watson, Interior Health, and MF Wayne Stetski, and we submitted letters and petitions to various levels of government.

We felt that tried all other avenues reaching out to our local leaders. We felt like we kept getting directed to someone else or hearing, “There’s nothing we can do.”

We keep getting sent down some deep rabbit holes.

We are a number of people with the same concerns. There are a number of people with the same concerns. For each of our best methods to buffer climate change as demonstrated by countless scientists.

We are requesting a complete moratorium on clearcut logging in the Kootenays, or at the very least a moratorium on clearcut logging in the Kootenays, or at the very least a moratorium on clearcut logging in the Kootenays, or at the very least a moratorium on clearcut logging in the Kootenays, or at the very least a moratorium on clearcut logging in the Kootenays.

And we feel like we need to change the way our forests are managed. In fact I know it.

Brock Snyder
Local farmer, environmentalist, activist

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LETTERS
New Denver council, March 12: Village takes closer look at state of its heritage building

by Katrine Campbell

The Village will apply to the Columbia Basin Trust ‘Built Heritage’ grant program for up to $55,000 for the Silvery Slocan Museum emergency stabilization project. Managed by the Silvery Slocan Historical Society, the building houses the museum, archival space and the Visitor Centre. Concerns about the structural integrity arose in 2016 and in the next year a comprehensive assessment and repair plan was prepared. The grant and renovations were compiled. The work has a high priority because of advanced rot in part of the exterior work has a high priority because of and renovations were compiled. The integrity arose in 2016 and the next

Centre. Concerns about the structural 'Heritage' grant program for up to $55,000 for the Silvery Slocan Museum emergency stabilization project. Managed by the Silvery Slocan Historical Society, the building houses the museum, archival space and the Visitor Centre. Concerns about the structural integrity arose in 2016 and in the next year a comprehensive assessment and repair plan was prepared. The grant and renovations were compiled. The work has a high priority because of advanced rot in part of the exterior work has a high priority because of and renovations were compiled. The integrity arose in 2016 and the next

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8:00 am and 4:00 pm. Council thanks all residents for their

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SANDON'S SILENCE Power and Light Corporation, represented by owners Hal Wright and Vida Turok, showed a PowerPoint presentation about the benefits of keeping power generation local. They’re asking local municipalities to support local generation of truly ‘green’ electricity, and to phase out the money in the Kootenays, instead of sending $1,000,000 per year to Victoria. They are taking their detailed discussion of how to do it, and what is currently happening in BC, out to the communities. Wright and Turok said that only 2% of power generated in BC is truly green, defined as no fossil fuels, no dam on minimal impact; smaller scale; being actually replenishable, and locally produced if possible. BC Hydro community grant deadline is March 29

BC Hydro community grant deadline is March 29

Non-profits, registered charities and community organizations in the Thompson, Okanagan and Columbia regions have the opportunity to apply for a BC Hydro community grant until March 29.

Through its Community Grant program, BC Hydro works with local organizations to make a difference in their communities with projects focused on developing smart energy ideas that promote energy efficiency, energy management and environmental benefits; building the workforce of tomorrow by focusing on youth programs in trades, science, technology, engineering and math; and supporting local tourism. Grassroots Grants offer funding up to $2,000 for local community-based projects. There are two Impact Grants offering funding up to $10,000 for organizations who wish to expand an existing program or develop a new program in multiple communities.

To apply for or more information, please visit bchydro.com/grants.

Smokey and the Bandits Skins & Fros emerge from the out into the world, they

Smokey and the Bandits Skins & Fros emerge from the out into the world, they

NEW DENVER PUBLIC NOTICES

Please note that the Village of New Denver municipal office will now be open weekdays except statutory holidays from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Nkík’in Internment Memorial Centre is hiring for the 2019 season. There are grant dependent student positions available, as well as non-student positions to be filled. Interested individuals can contact the Village Office for more information. The deadline for non-student positions is April 1st, and applications for the grant dependent student positions is April 15, 2019.

OUTDOOR BURNING REMINDER

Residents of New Denver are reminded that outdoor burning is regulated within the Village of New Denver. Permits are required for all outdoor fire contained within a barbecue pit or fire pit having a surface area not greater than four (4) square feet; or within a manufactured gas, coal or electric barbecue.

Free burning permits are available from April 1st to May 15th and from September 30th to November 15th — for more information please contact the Village Office, weekdays between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. Council has approved the Village’s new Municipal Campground Policy. Reservations will be accepted for all types of sites, with 10% left open for first come, first serve visitors. Reservations will be made through a third-party system, with the booking fees paid by the campers.

• A complaint about the hazards to pedestrians at the Hwy 6/31A/6th Ave intersection resulted in council directing staff to work with the Casselton/Smith Creek Paper and Infrastructure to explore options for improving pedestrian safety.
Kaslo & New Denver
Community Pharmacy

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North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society
Counsellor - Child & Youth Mental Health and PEACE program

An exciting opening for a Counsellor to work with children and youth.
24 hours per week

As the Child and Youth Counsellor, you will provide comprehensive evidence-based services for children and youth under the age of 19, and their parents and caregivers, residing in Kaslo and the surrounding area. You will work closely with members of the counselling team, referring agencies and community partners. Clinical supervision will be provided.

Preferred qualifications:
• Master’s degree in a related social services field or a lesser degree with a combination of training and experience
• Ability to be registered or licensed with an appropriate provincial body
• Demonstrated knowledge and skills in assessment and treatment of children and youth who experience mental, emotional and behavioural problems
• Demonstrated experience providing individual, group, and family, psycho-educational and brief therapy
• Demonstrated consultation and liaison skills with external agencies

Please email the Administrator at North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society with your resume and cover letter: administrator@nkclcss.org. Please ensure your cover letter addresses how you meet the preferred qualifications.

Full job description at www.nkclcss.org

Starbelly Jam celebrates 20 years submitted

Starbelly Jam Music Festival, “the sweetest in BC,” is celebrating its 20th anniversary with another fabulous showcase of music, dance, art, and everything else you’ve loved for the last two decades.

Organizers are feeling nostalgic having come this far, and are combining some elements of times past with new trends and your feedback to keep Starbelly fun, safe, and sweet for 2019. For the last few years Sunday attendance has been dropping. People have to travel back for work and are missing out on a third of the fun including the fabulous Giant Parade.

So for Sunday 2019 organizers are working with partners for the Kootenay Lake Historical Society’s SS Moyie Plank and Captain Restoration Project. The project would see the replacement of rotting planks in the ship’s hull. Council decided to join the Partners for Climate Protection Program of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Municipalities that join the program show their commitment to reducing greenhouse gases. The CAO and Councillor Knoll will oversee Kaslo’s participation and will be the points of contact in the community.

The Village will send a letter to Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Michelle Mungall, asking that the provincial government decrease support for the fossil fuel sector and shift those supports to helping communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Paul and Donna Grace-Campbell, Kaslo residents and members of the Citizens’ Climate Lobby, asked council to send the letter.

A letter from residents of six households on Arena Avenue asks for a meeting with council to discuss the need for wildlife mitigation work in their neighbourhood. Staff will contact the residents to get further information.

Concerns about the Stormwater Management Plan raised by Bill Wells in a letter to council were “referred to staff for investigation in an effort to seek a reasonable solution,” according to the draft minutes of the council meeting. In his letter, Wells asks why previous plans to address Arena Avenue erosion are absent from the Stormwater Management Plan. Wells says he worked with the previous CAO, Works Foreman, and geotechnical engineer Norm Deverny on a plan to mitigate risk from drainage issues in the Arena Avenue area.

Local artist Yvonne Boyd wrote to council to ask about their support for a public art project. Called ‘Roosts,’ the project would involve public art displayed in easily accessible forested areas throughout the region. Council will let Boyd know that the necessary policies are not yet in place to allow for this project, but may be for next year. Council intends to reinstate the Arts Committee.

In response to a request for the Village to be a Gold sponsor of the iDudRide and Run event this year, staff will ask the organizers to apply for a municipal recreation grant.

A bylaw increasing council remuneration was given three readings. The motivation behind the increase is new federal legislation that has subjected a portion of council stipends to taxation. In the past, this portion (one-third) of council stipends was tax-free. To offset this, council remuneration was increased to $6,277.69 for councillors (formerly $5,813.76) and $12,613.78 (formerly $11,064.72) for the mayor.

In correspondence to council, Anne Malik suggests some wording for the Village’s policy on sewer charges for municipal properties.

Council received the correspondence, and noted that staff is currently working on this.

A draft Kambell Building Rental Policy was presented to council, stating that leases would be considered for office use only. Council asked staff to remove “for office use only” and to reflect that uses must meet current zoning requirements and not require physical building changes.

The Village will write a letter of support for the designation of February 1 as RCM Appreciation Day. A group of citizens in Vernon is leading this initiative. The RCM was created on February 1, 1920, and will be celebrating its 100th anniversary on February 1, 2020.

Kaslo & District
March 12: Baseball field upgrades proposed

by Jan McMurray

• Kaslo Baseball Association representatives Jordan Davie and Matt Brown asked council for permission to upgrade the Vimy Park baseball field. They’d like to install irrigation and renovate the infiel industry standard. The association plans to raise funds through grants and other fundraising activities, and hopes to complete the project in fall 2019/spring 2020.

• At a special meeting March 5, council awarded the engineering and administration contract for the sewer expansion project to TRUE Consulting. This was a direct award for up to $130,119, with a request that the firm look for ways to save money.

• Mayor Hewat will attend the Heritage BC conference May 9-11 in Nanaimo. The Heritage BC Awards for the Kaslo City Hall (Outstanding Heritage Conservation Award) and SS Moyie Fire Suppression Heritage Conservation Award) will be presented during the conference.

• The Village will provide a letter of support for the Kootenay Lake Historical Society’s SS Moyie Plank and Captain Restoration Project. The
by Claire Paradis

The 2019-22 Strategic Plan will be revamped in light of feedback received in response to the Village’s request for input into the plan. Letters were received from the Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce, Andi Gibb, and the Nakusp and Area Youth Network.

**Nakusp & The Arrow Lakes**

The Chamber suggested encouraging investment and small businesses through tax breaks, and marketing Nakusp as a destination for visitors, investors and new residents. The letter noted that tourism wasn’t mentioned in the strategic plan, and that there were several ways of supporting tourism. Better signage, as well as more support for the Visitor Centre, which is underfunded and underserved, were mentioned in the letter.

Chamber spokesperson Barb Chwaskha, director of the Nakusp and Arrow Community Trails Society (NACTS), headed a delegation to council with a proposal to install signage in town about the fire lookout on Saddle Mountain. Preferably, the signage would be placed in a location with a good view of the iconic mountain and lookout.

Chwaskha also mentioned that NACTS would like to be part of any discussions around the washout on the rail trail above the Village.

**Kady Hunter, Community Healthy Facilitator from the Interior Health Authority (IHA), proposed a partnership with the Village to promote health and wellness in the community. Hunter said the IHA can provide data and staff people to support healthy community planning and action.**

**The Downtown Revitalization Project is scheduled to start up again April 1 and run for six weeks to complete phase one. Terry Welsh has been hired as Site Supervisor.**

Mayor Tom Zeleznik reported that the date of BC Hydro’s planned outage this spring will likely be Sunday, May 5.

Councillor Aidan McLaren-Caux reported on his attendance at the Electric Utilities Seminar in Kimberley February 26-28. One of the takeaways for him was about the hot springs. Given that both Ainsworth and Halcyon have recently sold, and the fact that Nakusp Hot Springs has becoming increasingly profitable, “the Village is in a reasonably sound position to either: a) invest into the hot springs (including professional business management) as a long-term revenue stream for the village; or b) take another look at attempting to sell part or all of the operation.”

**Councillor Janis Neufeld also reported on her attendance at the seminar, and at the BC Economic Development Officer (EDO) with Helen Patterson of the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust (SIDIT). Neufeld reported that, according to Patterson, SIDIT could fund an EDO for up to three years if it is tied to a greater project that would increase revenue and create jobs.**

**The Village granted a request from grade 7 classes of the Nakusp and Edgewood Schools for the Village to donate 70 hot springs passes. The students are participating in an exchange program with students in Radon, Québec, and would like to take their visitors to the Nakusp Hot Springs. The Québec students will be here the first two weeks of May.**

**Ice plant upgrade and campground expansion planning added to Nakusp capital budget**

by Claire Paradis

A revised capital budget was presented at the March 11 Nakusp council meeting. These projects have been added: arena ice plant upgrade ($100,000), campground expansion planning ($20,000), and Jackie James Ball Diamond repairs ($30,000). Some projects that were in the $1,151,500 preliminary capital budget, presented to council in January, have been removed in order to reallocate funding to the arena ice plant upgrade. The revised budget totals $929,500.

The $20,000 for the campground expansion planning will come from the Community Works (gas tax) reserve fund, which means the reserve is taking a serious hit. Two projects have been scrapped for this year to put the funding towards the ice plant – backflow preventers ($10,000) and Japanese Garden roof repairs ($5,500). When asked what the backflow preventer was, CAO Laurie Taylor answered that it was the equipment that prevents sewer from backing into the arena water system. The CAO said because the facility is low-use, it is not considered an immediate issue.

Jackie James Ball Diamond repairs ($30,000) were also proposed to be scrapped this year, but Mayor Tom Zeleznik and Councillor Joseph Hughes said the repairs to the ball diamond have been a long time coming. The inclusion of the repairs increased the budget from the proposed $898,500 to $929,500. There was a recommendation that funds could be taken from NACFOR legacy funds to prioritize the project for this year.

Nakusp can also wait another year for a new dump truck, said staff, and the North Kuskwan well project is on hold to give the staff more time to look into feasibility and costs. The Downtown Revitalization Plan will continue, as will the replacement of the water treatment plant filters, the replacement of the Hot Springs stairs to the parking lot, and the purchase of turnout gear for the firefighters.

Councillor Aidan McLaren-Caux asked how much was put into the arena to run it each year, and CAO Taylor replied that the Village receives funding from the regional district to keep it running. McLaren-Caux also asked if there was any information about how many people use the arena. Taylor replied that staff is looking into options into increasing usage of the arena. The other option is to shut it down, she said, which “isn’t a good idea. I don’t think there is an arena in any municipality that makes money.”

The final capital budget and the stand along hot springs capital budget were to be presented at the March 25 council meeting for final approval.

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Oreo is a young adult, resident, male cat. He is long haired and a handsome with his striking black and white coloring. Oreo is very sociable; he loves other cats and people. He is loving to his nice, warm FAVORITE HOME where he will be safe and loved.

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**ARROW LAKES HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**FRIDAY APRIL 5TH @ 2 PM**

**ALHS ARCHIVES OFFICE**

(CEMENTENT BUILDING – 92 6TH AVE NW)

**FEATURING A SPECIAL SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION!**

**NEW MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS WELCOME!**

**Village of Nakusp**

**308 ADVERTISER**

**TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS**

The Village of Nakusp is currently seeking Construction Workers for the Downtown Revitalization Project. These are temporary positions with an employment period of approximately two months. Preference will be given to applicants with experience in construction work related to earthworks, concrete work, sewer installation, landscape construction, and equipment operation.

A Class 5 Drivers license is required.

Please forward your resume to the Village of Nakusp – Box 280, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0 or by email to claires@nakusp.com. These positions will remain open until filled. Further information is available through the Village Office.

The Village thanks all who apply, however only those chosen for interviews will be contacted.
Government announces public consultation on mountain caribou recovery

by Jan McMurray

Two draft agreements focusing on mountain caribou recovery were released by the BC government on March 21. Along with this announcement that public meetings will be happening in communities throughout the province in April. There is also an opportunity to comment online at engage.gov.bc.ca/caribou until the end of April.

“The whole purpose of the draft agreements is to ensure caribou conservation and recovery, and that we’re able to undertake natural resource activities on the land base,” said Minister Doug Donaldson (Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development) in a media briefing.

The draft agreements come in the wake of the federal government’s intervention under the Species at Risk Act. The final agreements will be considered by the federal cabinet in its decision whether or not to issue an Emergency Order.

Minister Donaldson explained that the federal government determined there were imminent threats to the southern mountain caribou in May 2018. “That started the clock ticking on a year-long timeline before proceeding with the clock ticking on a year-long caribou in May 2018. ‘That started there were imminent

issue an Emergency Order.

Residents in Nelson and the surrounding area demonstrated tremendous support to preserve this popular recreation area,” said Tim Hicks of Columbia Basin Trust. “We’re pleased to support this important land acquisition project that will enhance Cottonwood Lake Regional Park over the long term.”

The other draft agreement, the ‘Partnership Agreement,’ deals with the caribou populations in the Mackenzie and Tumbler Ridge areas, and brings the West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations on as partners with the provincial and federal governments.

One of the draft agreements, called the ‘Partnership Agreement,’ deals with the caribou populations in the Mackenzie and Tumbler Ridge areas, and brings the West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations on as partners with the provincial and federal governments.

Correction

The court date for the three Water Life Collective members who were arrested on Deception Creek Forest Service Road at Greyhorse Ridge north of Kaslo was incorrect in our last issue. The correct court date is May 7.
The Slocan Community Library invites you to attend an author reading featuring two local writers on Sunday, April 14 at 1 pm. This promises to be a memorable event with Becky Livingston from Nelson reading from her book, *The Suitcase and The Jar* and Roz Nay from South Slocan introducing her mystery novel, *Our Little Secret*.

*The Suitcase and The Jar* is a poignant memoir in which Becky Livingston relates an intensely moving story of a mother’s courage and resilience as she takes her 23-year-old daughter Rachel’s ashes on a 26-month journey through many European countries and from coast to coast in North America. Rachel was an avid traveller with only one wish, to keep on exploring the world. When a brain tumour cut her life short, her mother carried Rachel’s ashes, heavy but compact, and gradually merged her daughter’s remains with the elements. In doing so, Becky was able to find the strength to reconfigure her life through this transformative journey.

Roz Nay has also travelled the world, working in Africa, Vermont, the UK where she grew up, and Australia. Now she lives in South Slocan. Roz Nay from South Slocan introduces her mystery novel, *Our Little Secret*. This novel starts out by the Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Crime Novel, with rights sales in France, the Netherlands and Estonia. It is a compulsive and thrilling debut about a missing woman, a tangled love triangle, and the secrets we keep and secrets we share. Twisty and suspenseful, this mystery novel is an intense cat-and-mouse game and a riveting thriller.
submitted

An historic Japanese-Canadian fishing boat that is the last of its kind in Canada will now be preserved, thanks to the efforts of the Slocan Valley Historical Society (SVHS).

The Merriwake, a 31’ gill netter built in 1929 by master builder Isamu ‘Sam’ Matsumoto, has been purchased by the SVHS, which intends to restore the vessel for a dry-land display in the Village of Slocan.

The Merriwake had been submerged in Kootenay Lake near Kaslo before being salvaged several years ago. Despite being waterlogged, the ship is in good shape, a testament to the quality of her construction.

Local shipwright Eric Chevalier of The Copper Nail in Bonnington will begin the restoration of the Merriwake. Nelson engineer Ted Niem and Slocan Valley designer Eric Clough will assist with the structure which will house the boat. Slocan logger and SVHS member Gary Burns will donate timbers for the shelter.

Kaslo historian Ian Fraser will create the interpretive signage which will detail the boat’s journey and some of the Japanese Canadian history in the area. And former owner Ted Fitzgerald will create short film/picture montages to document her journey including her restoration.

“This is a local effort but it’s important on a national scale,” says Joyce Johnson, president of the SVHS.

“We are supported in this initiative by the Village of Slocan, Slocan Valley Historical Trail Society, and Recreation Sites and Trails BC.”

“Our hope is that the Merriwake will bring our community together in a shared project that will be a place of pride but also of reflection, meditation and learning,” says vice-president Anita Wijne. “The Merriwake is valuable for what she represents: the craftsmanship and social/economic/cultural contributions of Japanese Canadian boat buildings and fishermen. But she is also a poignant and essential reminder of the terrible injustice endured by Japanese Canadians. We must not forget this part of our past. The Merriwake will help ensure we don’t.”

Johnson paid tribute to the many people who have worked to save and display the boat: Joy Kogawa, Ian Fraser and Columbia Basin Trust for funding; Marty Lynch, Michael Steinman, Richard De Cuyerenarie, Hamish Shaw and Kit Ashenhurst for their efforts in saving her from Kootenay Lake; and Heather, Jennifer and Michelle Handley, Dave Scottie, Patrick Guy and Eric Chevalier for giving her safe harbour and transport.

“And finally, we are grateful to previous owner Ted Fitzgerald for entrusting the Society with this important artifact. Johnson said. “It truly has taken a village. The next step is to apply for grants and raise funds for the restoration of the boat and the creation of the display.”

For anyone interested in getting on board the Merriwake project or learning more about the SVHS, call 250-355-2230.

The house is on fire!

“Don’t want your hope, I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. I want you to act as you would in crisis. I want you to act as if your house is on fire, because it is!”

These are the words of 16-year-old Greta Thunberg, a climate activist from Sweden, who with her words and actions started a global movement.

The Slocan Waterfront Society invites all to a climate reality event April 12 at the Slocan Legion. Laura Sacks, the main speaker, will tell participants how they can be part of some exciting solutions for positive change. A local teen organizer of Fridays for the Future will be a guest speaker.

Our physical health is interdependent with the health of our home, Mother Earth. Rachel Carson warned us not to ignore this fact 55 years ago (Silent Spring/Rachel Carson doc, youtube/netflix). Yet the use of pesticides and herbicides still goes on. Watersheds, which secure some of our best drinking water, are still being clearcut and damaged forever. We need to act now, before we’ve cut all the trees and polluted all our water and realize money can’t be eaten.

“‘No matter how much money we have, how grand and impressive our homes may be, or what awards we have or how brilliantly our social and/or love lives are going, they all count for nothing if our physical or emotional health is in trouble.’” – Sylvia Browne.

Enjoy a super tasty light meal at 5 pm, presentations at 6 pm; admission by donation. For the river, the lake, the fish and us all!

The Merriwake project well under way

The Merriwake, a 31’ gill netter built in 1929 by master builder Isamu ‘Sam’ Matsumoto, has been purchased by the Slocan Valley Historical Society.

About 35 people attended MLA Michelle Mungall’s presentation about CleanBC plan at the Langham in Kaslo on March 21. The plan sets a clear pathway to meeting BC’s 2030 emission targets by moving to cleaner transportation, cleaner buildings, and cleaner industry. The 2019-20 BC budget commits $900 million to the plan, which includes an enhanced climate action credit. Representatives from FortisBC, BC Hydro, Accelerate Kootenays and the West Kootenay Eco Society were also present to answer people’s questions about their programs.
Nakusp Citizens of the Year honoured at banquet

by Jan McMurray

The 45th Rotary-sponsored Citizen of the Year awards banquet, held March 23 at the Nakusp Legion, honoured three deeply deserving citizens: Karen Hamling (Citizen of the Year Award), Barb Abbey (Lifetime Achievement Award), and Mikala Lewis-Morrison (Youth Achievement Award).

Dignitaries in attendance who congratulated the recipients and thanked them for their volunteer contributions were Mayor Tom Zeleznik, MLA K-Director Paul Peterson and MLA Katrine Conroy.

MLA Conroy said a few words about each recipient before presenting them with certificates. When she described Karen as “tenacious” in her efforts to get things done for Nakusp, the crowd was treated to a humorous comment from Corky Evans: “You could call it ‘stubborn’!”

Kathy Smith introduced Citizen of the Year Karen Hamling, armed with a list of Karen’s many achievements on a very long piece of paper that reached the floor. She said she, Ulli Mueller and Laurie Page got together and tried to remember all of Karen’s accomplishments, but probably forgot a few, “and she may have forgotten some, too.”

“She has a passion and vision for the community. She has been and is still a champion. She has shown dedication as a citizen, councillor and mayor.”

Kathy’s long list of Karen’s achievements included the Emergency Services Building, keeping the CBT office in Nakusp, fighting for money for contractors after the Pope & Talbot bankruptcy, the BC Hydro boat facility, NACFOR, the Kuskanaa footbridge, ER upgrades, 10 beds at Minto House, renovations at Halcyon House, physician recruitment, Downtown Revitalization, and Music in the Park. She also listed the many organizations Karen has been involved in: Arrow Lakes Arts Council, Halcyon Assisted Living Society, Nakusp and Area Community Foundation, NACFOR, Community Futures, CBT Community Initiatives/ Affected Area Funding Committee, Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee. She mentioned, too, that Karen was recognized for her significant contributions and achievements with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013.

“Karen gives from her heart and many local people and organizations have benefited. Congratulations and thank you to Karen for all she has done and no doubt will continue to do.”

Karen, clearly deeply moved, said a few words. “Thank you for the honour of being named Citizen of the Year. It’s overwhelming.”

Karen said she has been blessed with success only because of the support of the great councils, staff and wonderful people of the community – and most of all from her family. Her husband, son, daughter and son-in-law were all in attendance.

She made mention of Ulli Mueller, who was on Village council with Karen for 13 years, and who worked with Karen and Barb Chwacka to transform Halcyon Home to Halcyon House when Interior Health tried to shut it down. She thanked Kathy Smith for her role creating NACFOR, and Laurie Page and Corky Evans for their support. She said it was a pleasure to work with Area K Director Paul Peterson. She thanked her bridge partners, Book Club buddies and Friday night ladies for giving her breathing room away from politics.

“To the community, you have waved at me, smiled at me, hugged me and gave me a kind word, and because of your actions I could continue with the job,” she said. “This has been the wildest ride of my life so far and I feel truly blessed.”

During the open mike part of the evening, Kathy Smith read out a letter from Laurie Page. One line from the letter sums it all up: “Karen Hamling is one in a million.”

Jay Dell-Mah introduced Barb Abbey, Lifetime Achievement Award winner. He explained that he tried to nominate the Arrow Lakes Health Care Auxiliary last year, but was told he had to nominate an individual, not an organization. This year, he asked Barb if she would represent the auxiliary.

Barb thanked Jay and the Rotary Club for recognizing the auxiliary with the Lifetime Achievement Award. “It’s so special because the women have been volunteering for 111 years – more than a lifetime,” she said.

The auxiliary runs the Thrift Shop, and does so much more. It purchased the medical bus, partnered with the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation to provide a house for physicians, and organizes and staffs the mammogram van that comes twice a year from Vancouver.

Barb said the volunteers put in 800 hours a month and 10,000 hours a year at the Thrift Shop. She asked all Thrift Shop volunteers to stand up and said, “Congratulations to us and thank you for honouring me and the auxiliary in this way.”

During open mike, Colleen Matchett gave a very touching tribute to Barb. As an obstetrical nurse and founder of Planned Parenthood in Nakusp, Barb was so very “approachable and kind.”

Colleen said. When Barb started Planned Parenthood, Nakusp had the highest teen pregnancy rate per capita, and that decreased to below the provincial average. “You empowered the women you worked with and we love you for that,” she said.

Jaime Sing, Nakusp secondary teacher, introduced Youth Achievement Award recipient Mikala Lewis-Morrison. She described Mikala as “incredibly hard working and focused,” adding that she has been on the Gold Honour Roll and the Work Effort Roll every year since grade 8. Although Mikala spends many hours on her studies, she also gives lots of her time to the community.

She thanked Jaime Sing, Sandra Watt and Rouve Hemling for their support and encouragement. “I mostly thank our community,” she said. “I might not have had all these opportunities in another community. It’s wonderful to grow up in a place where volunteering is normal – it’s just what everybody does. Thank you to all the volunteers who have gotten me to where I am today.”
RDCK board, March 21: Biofuel business plan project to go ahead

**by Jan McMurray**

- The RDCK Community Sustainable Living Committee’s work on biofuels is being supported with up to $25,000 from the Columbia Basin Trust. The funding will be used towards the development of a business plan for timber deadstock biofuel. A further $25,000 will come from the RDCK’s Community Sustainable Living service.
- The RDCK will partner with the Rural Development Institute on its Regional Approach to Rural Climate Adaptation Project, and will allocate $12,500 of in-kind staff time from the Community Sustainable Living service. The partnership offers an opportunity to “amplify climate change initiatives, provide capacity building training for staff and elected officials, and help strengthen the RDCK climate adaptation strategies,” according to a report from RDCK Sustainability Coordinator Paris Marshall-Smith.

**Area D North Kootenay Lake**

- The Kaslo Area Trail Enhancement Project was awarded $29,550 from Area D’s Community Works Fund. The project, scheduled for this summer, has three components. The first is the installation of signage on the trails in the Village of Kaslo and along the Kaslo River. The second is the construction of the new three-kilometre Lower Songbird Trail Loop in the Mount Buchanan area, to connect to the existing upper loop. The third is the construction of the new 400-metre Songbird Drop-In Connection Trail off an existing logging road. This would allow mountain bikers to drive up to the top of the trail rather than having to cycle up, and enjoy the descent on their bikes. This is a project of the Kaslo Trail Alliance, an umbrella group working on behalf of all the trail groups in the Kaslo area.

**Area K Arrow Lakes**

- OCP and zoning amendments to facilitate the subdivision of the Fauquier school property were given two readings. A public hearing is the next step. The Fauquier school, closed about 20 years ago, is being used by the community as a library, Communication Centre, and Strong Start centre. School District 10 would like to subdivide the property and sell the portion with the school building (0.2 hectares) to the community. The remaining property (1.93 hectares) will be sold, allowing the school district to recover some costs and to divest itself of the liability and costs of maintaining the building. The school district applied to exclude 1.93-hectare piece of land from the Agricultural Land Reserve, but the application was denied, so the property will remain in the ALR. Interior Health has notified the RDCK and SD10 that the school building’s septic system will be reviewed at the time of subdivision.
- Area K is joining the heritage conservation service, so can be included in projects such as the creation of a Community Heritage Register. The maximum amount of tax money that will be collected annually for this service is $2 per $100,000 of assessed property value. The amendment bylaw that brings Area K into the service was read three times. Areas H (Slocan Valley) and D (Kootenay Lake) are already in the service.

Nakusp affordable housing project: architectural drawings displayed at open house

**by Jan McMurray**

Nakusp’s proposed affordable housing development on 1st Avenue is getting closer to reality. An open house to update the community on the 10-unit project was held March 12 at the arena auditorium. Working drawings were on display at the Open House. Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS), Richard Hunter Architect Inc., and BC Housing representatives were there to answer questions. ASLCS hopes to have shovels in the ground by August this year at the latest, and to complete the project by July 2020.

The working drawings by Richard Hunter Architect show two one-bedroom suites, five two-bedroom suites, and three three-bedroom suites. All units have their own separate entrances. “We chose to have a mixed bag of suites so we can accommodate various people, and those with diverse abilities, as opposed to limiting it to just seniors or just families,” Payne said.

The drawings show innovative features such as solar panels on the roof and a rooftop garden terrace, as well as an outdoor common space. Payne said they are currently fine tuning the design and welcome comments from the community. “The eligibility criteria for renters has not yet been established. Payne said a committee will be struck to come up with “solid” and “consistent” criteria. “Folks are already coming to the office to put their names in [to rent the apartments], but we don’t know the criteria yet – except we want to make sure folks in this community and surrounding areas get priority.”

ASLCS owns the property, having bought it from the Village for a “hot deal,” according to Payne. ASLCS will be responsible for managing the facility. Currently, the organization manages Brousse Lodge in New Denver (independent living for seniors), Halcyon Home in Nakusp (assisted living for seniors), and Moberly Manor in Revelstoke (assisted living and independent living for seniors).

“We hope renters will take pride in the brand new building,” Payne says. “The separate entrances makes it more homey than coming into an apartment building. ASLCS successfully applied for funding for this project under the Columbia Basin Investment in Affordable Housing initiative, a partnership between BC Housing and CBT. ASLCS has been working with City Spaces of Vancouver on the project planning, Richard Hunter Architecture Inc. of Kamloops on the working drawings, and Absolute Contracting out of Revelstoke will be the general contractor for the construction. Payne says Absolute will be looking to hire local contractors and to help them get the certifications they need to work on buildings like these. “These types of buildings require higher standards. Absolute is thinking about an open house for local contractors,” Payne said.

“The Village has been very supportive all along with everything. It’s great to have the Village and the people of Nakusp behind us.”

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND AFFECTED AREAS PROGRAMS

Learn more about the projects applying for funding throughout the RDCK.

Please visit the RDCK website at rdk.ca/cip-aap for more details regarding the public meetings.

COMMUNITY

The Valley Voice

March 28, 2019

The Valley Voice

COMMUNITY

by Jan McMurray

The RDCK Community Sustainable Living Committee’s work on biofuels is being supported with up to $25,000 from the Columbia Basin Trust. The funding will be used towards the development of a business plan for timber deadstock biofuel. A further $25,000 will come from the RDCK’s Community Sustainable Living service.

- The RDCK will partner with the Rural Development Institute on its Regional Approach to Rural Climate Adaptation Project, and will allocate $12,500 of in-kind staff time from the Community Sustainable Living service. The partnership offers an opportunity to “amplify climate change initiatives, provide capacity building training for staff and elected officials, and help strengthen the RDCK climate adaptation strategies,” according to a report from RDCK Sustainability Coordinator Paris Marshall-Smith.

**Area D North Kootenay Lake**

- The Kaslo Area Trail Enhancement Project was awarded $29,550 from Area D’s Community Works Fund. The project, scheduled for this summer, has three components. The first is the installation of signage on the trails in the Village of Kaslo and along the Kaslo River. The second is the construction of the new three-kilometre Lower Songbird Trail Loop in the Mount Buchanan area, to connect to the existing upper loop. The third is the construction of the new 400-metre Songbird Drop-In Connection Trail off an existing logging road. This would allow mountain bikers to drive up to the top of the trail rather than having to cycle up, and enjoy the descent on their bikes. This is a project of the Kaslo Trail Alliance, an umbrella group working on behalf of all the trail groups in the Kaslo area.

**Area K Arrow Lakes**

- OCP and zoning amendments to facilitate the subdivision of the Fauquier school property were given two readings. A public hearing is the next step. The Fauquier school, closed about 20 years ago, is being used by the community as a library, Communication Centre, and Strong Start centre. School District 10 would like to subdivide the property and sell the portion with the school building (0.2 hectares) to the community. The remaining property (1.93 hectares) will be sold, allowing the school district to recover some costs and to divest itself of the liability and costs of maintaining the building. The school district applied to exclude 1.93-hectare piece of land from the Agricultural Land Reserve, but the application was denied, so the property will remain in the ALR. Interior Health has notified the RDCK and SD10 that the school building’s septic system will be reviewed at the time of subdivision.

- Area K is joining the heritage conservation service, so can be included in projects such as the creation of a Community Heritage Register. The maximum amount of tax money that will be collected annually for this service is $2 per $100,000 of assessed property value. The amendment bylaw that brings Area K into the service was read three times. Areas H (Slocan Valley) and D (Kootenay Lake) are already in the service.

Nakusp affordable housing project: architectural drawings displayed at open house

**by Jan McMurray**

Nakusp’s proposed affordable housing development on 1st Avenue is getting closer to reality. An open house to update the community on the 10-unit project was held March 12 at the arena auditorium. Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS), Richard Hunter Architect Inc., and BC Housing representatives were there to answer questions. ASLCS hopes to have shovels in the ground by August this year at the latest, and to complete the project by July 2020.

The working drawings by Richard Hunter Architect show two one-bedroom suites, five two-bedroom suites, and three three-bedroom suites. All units have their own separate entrances. “We chose to have a mixed bag of suites so we can accommodate various people, and those with diverse abilities, as opposed to limiting it to just seniors or just families,” Payne said.

The drawings show innovative features such as solar panels on the roof and a rooftop garden terrace, as well as an outdoor common space. Payne said they are currently fine tuning the design and welcome comments from the community. “The eligibility criteria for renters has not yet been established. Payne said a committee will be struck to come up with “solid” and “consistent” criteria. “Folks are already coming to the office to put their names in [to rent the apartments], but we don’t know the criteria yet – except we want to make sure folks in this community and surrounding areas get priority.”

ASLCS owns the property, having bought it from the Village for a “hot deal,” according to Payne. ASLCS will be responsible for managing the facility. Currently, the organization manages Brousse Lodge in New Denver (independent living for seniors), Halcyon Home in Nakusp (assisted living for seniors), and Moberly Manor in Revelstoke (assisted living and independent living for seniors).

“We hope renters will take pride in the brand new building,” Payne says. “The separate entrances makes it more homey than coming into an apartment building. ASLCS successfully applied for funding for this project under the Columbia Basin Investment in Affordable Housing initiative, a partnership between BC Housing and CBT. ASLCS has been working with City Spaces of Vancouver on the project planning, Richard Hunter Architecture Inc. of Kamloops on the working drawings, and Absolute Contracting out of Revelstoke will be the general contractor for the construction. Payne says Absolute will be looking to hire local contractors and to help them get the certifications they need to work on buildings like these. “These types of buildings require higher standards. Absolute is thinking about an open house for local contractors,” Payne said.

“The Village has been very supportive all along with everything. It’s great to have the Village and the people of Nakusp behind us.”

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND AFFECTED AREAS PROGRAMS

Learn more about the projects applying for funding throughout the RDCK.

Please visit the RDCK website at rdk.ca/cip-aap for more details regarding the public meetings.

COMMUNITY

The Valley Voice

March 28, 2019
**COMMUNITY**

**Slocan council, March 11: Next step taken for Waterfront Development project**

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

• The Village will apply for a $100,000 CBT Community Revitalization grant to go towards a detailed design for the Waterfront Development phase one project. If the application is successful, CBT will contribute $48,824 to the project from the Rock Community Development Fund. The phase one project includes completing the breakwater (permanent railing and gangway ramp to be added), installing irrigation and sod at the former parking lot and extending the block wall to the beach lawn. Mayor Lunn said, “with a quick turnaround” the design could be completed in time for the Village to apply for a CBT grant by the application deadline of June 14. CBT capital grants are allocated in mid-August. If the Village’s application for the CBT grant is successful, phase one construction could be completed this fall.

• Hal Wright and Linda Tuitt, operators of Sunlight Power and Light Corporation in Sandon, presented information on hydroelectric power generation and green certification. They asked council to send a proclamation to the BC Utilities Commission and the Union of BC Municipalities saying that Slocan will procure and sell hydroelectric power generation to the BC Hydro power grid. If the Village’s application for the capital grant is successful, phase one construction could be completed this fall.

• Councillor Joel Pelletier, co-chair of the SAHC, said that those were the “number one spot we’re looking at.” At the request of Kady Hunter, Health Communities Team, Interior Health, council agreed to partner with Interior Health to promote health and wellness in the Slocan. Kady Hunter is a member of the SAHC.

• Council agreed to support the partnership between the Slocan Valley Outriders Association and Trails BC for their North End Trails Project (for the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail). The Village will send a letter of support to both organizations to be used in their application for a grant from the Horse Council of BC. The Village has partnered with the Outriders Association to create a parking lot for six horse trailers on land across the street from the fire hall. The Outriders also would like to create a picnic area nearer the rail trail with four concrete tables and benches for all trail users and Slocan.

• Council responded to two requests from the Slocan Climate Action Commission. Village staff will contact the SAHC about plans to upgrade the village’s streetlights to LED. Council thought the request to create a SAAC page on the Village website was such a good idea that it agreed to work on the page for all Village committees and commissions. The SAAC is also looking into a lawn-to-garden project, and asked council to send a proclamation to the website for all Village committees and commissions. The SAAC is also looking into a lawn-to-garden project, and asked council to send a proclamation to the website for all Village committees and commissions. The SAAC is also looking into a lawn-to-garden project, and asked council to send a proclamation to the Village website was such a good idea that it agreed to work on the page for all Village committees and commissions. The SAAC is also looking into a lawn-to-garden project, and asked council to send a proclamation to the website for all Village committees and commissions. The SAAC is also looking into a lawn-to-garden project, and asked council to send a proclamation to

• Councillor suggested that Slocan could partner with Nelson Hydro to “pay for their expertise” in operating the utility. After much discussion, council decided to delay the decision. “It would be nice to have Madeleine’s (Councillor Perriere) back for this,” Councilor Pelletier said. Perriere has been an ardent supporter of the waterfront project and she was expected to return the next day.

In the meantime, council directed staff to investigate grants to fund a utility business plan. The Village has received a $7,500 from the gas tax fund. As the Rural Dividend Fund. The grant would go towards an Independent Utility Business Plan (SOP).

• Council has been discussing the situation with Ahad and, at the March 11 council meeting, suggested that Slocan could partner with Renewgen Systems Inc to create an Independent Utility Business Plan. The Village will have the opportunity to become an independent utility, an extra advantage in what has been years of planning. That’s why the Village persisted in waiting for BC Hydro’s decision on its application to the Independent Utility Business Plan. The base-level plan would cost $45,000 whereas the more detailed mid-level plan would cost $72,000.

Lunn said a business plan is a necessary first step in getting approval from the government to be a utility. “Right now it wouldn’t make financial sense” to go ahead on the microhydro project but if the Village could become a utility, it would be able to sell power into the grid. “If we don’t have their support, if other power producers would need to sell it to us at a wholesale rate,” she said. She suggested that Slocan could partner with Nelson Hydro “to pay for their expertise” in operating the utility.

Conservation Service adds second detection dog

By Barbara Curry Mulcahy

• The BC Conservation Service will launch a new second dog for invasive mussel detection. The latest dog, who is named ‘Kilo’, is a German Shepherd and will be based in Kelowna. Kilo, based in Kelowna with Sgt. Josh Lockwood, Major will primarily be on the road from late March to October, searching for invasive mussels on boats travelling through and into BC. He can also assist officers with a variety of other investigations by finding shell casings, poisoned baits or illegal firearms. The Conservation Service will also assist the BC Wildfire Service in preventing zebra and quagga mussels from entering the province.

• To become a validated detection team, the pair spent five weeks going through intense daily training sessions. They continue to train a couple times a week, searching for hidden objects placed around the office, open spaces or the water. They search the debris for empty crates, sleds and trailers are stored. Mann watches Major’s every move, looking for an indication he’s found an odour. When he does find what he’s looking for, Major is rewarded with his toy, causing a frenzy of excitement.

• “He just goes nuts when he makes a find,” said Mann, who’s with Major 24/7, but keeps him in a crate at night. “He’s not my pet and that’s something he understands in his mind. We have a great time together and he gets a lot of affection, but he is a working dog.”

• The Conservation Service leads enforcement operations for the Invasive Mussel Defence Program, which aims to prevent zebra and quagga mussels from entering the province. Beginning in early April, officers will be at 12 watercraft inspection stations set up at key points throughout the province. In his first year, Kilo conducted more than 900 inspections across the province, finding and mussels on two vessels, proving a need for a second detection dog.

• Suspended invasive mussels should have their shells removed, said a conservation officer and polluters (RAPP) line at 1-877-952-7277.
Children’s choir to perform in Crawford Bay

submitted
The African Children’s Choir will perform at the Crawford Bay Community Hall on May 3 7 pm. The choir melts the hearts of audiences with their charming smiles, beautiful voices and lively African songs and dances. The program features well-loved children’s songs, traditional spirituals and gospel favourites.

Concerts are free and open to all. A free will offering is taken at the performance to support African Children’s Choir programs, such as education, care and relief development programs.

Music for Life (the choir’s parent organization) works in the African countries of Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and South Africa. MFL has educated more than 52,000 children and impacted the lives of more than 100,000 people through its relief and development programs. The purpose is to help create new leadership for tomorrow’s Africa, by focusing on education.

The African Children’s Choir has had the privilege of performing before the presidents, heads of state and Queen Elizabeth II. The choir has also had the honor of singing alongside artists such as Paul McCartney, Annie Lennox, Keith Urban, Mariëlle Carey, Michael W. Smith and other performers.

IH selects general contractor for Nakusp hospital

submitted
The $35 million mass timber building using state-of-the-art engineering and technology will create exceptionally high-quality cross-laminated timber and glulam beams. Our focus will be on full integration of the forest through cutting, drying, and manufacturing to the final finished and delivered products.

Kalesnikoff announced the investment one day after the province announced changes to the BC Building Code, allowing 12-storey mass timber structures, up from the previous six.

The Province has recently committed to invite eligible local governments to become early adopters of mass timber technology for construction of buildings up to 12 stories in advance of anticipated changes to Canada’s Building Code in 2020.

This new facility is scheduled to open in late 2019 with a full product line by the summer of 2020, creating 50 new technology-centred local jobs including mining engineers, geologists engaging a team of industry consultants, and mining engineers.

IH anticipates construction to begin the spring this year, with the opening expected to be in the fall of 2020.

Cameo Cobalt Corp. has undertaken a series of strategic corporate initiatives, including a comprehensive review of its recently acquired MAX mill and molybdenum project near Trout Lake.

The company is in the process of engaging a team of industry consultants, including mining engineers, geologists and financial advisors, to administer an extensive review and analysis. The MAX analysis will include an exhaustive inventory and asset review; 2019 replacement cost report; review of the mine and mill’s modern economics in relation to potential exploration and development initiatives; analysis of strategic funding sources. Cameo plans to formally announce these strategic consultants upon engagement, planned for mid-2019, to be a transformative year for Cameo,” says CEO and director Akash Patel. “With the addition of the Willa-Max, Cameo has redefined its corporate profile and has the company annually at the 55+ BC Games. This year’s games will be held in Kelowna, September 10-14 with 52 different sports including Track & Field.

Kalesnikoff announced the $35 million mass timber building using state-of-the-art engineering and technology will create exceptionally high-quality cross-laminated timber and glulam beams. Our focus will be on full integration of the forest through cutting, drying, and manufacturing to the final finished and delivered products.

The company has committed to supporting the project through funding of capital equipment and technology from leading equipment and technology from leading manufacturing to the final finished and delivered products.

Kalesnikoff will begin recruitment later this year.

Recognizing the importance of engaging all stakeholders, including the community, Cameo has set up an advisory committee to help shape the future of the Willa-Max MAX mill.

The new 110,000 sq. ft. building, and the investment will encompass construction of a new 110,000 sq. ft. building, and the technology-centred local jobs.”

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Buy-in. Tickets at Mountain Valley Station 502 Harold St. Slocan, 6:30pm sharp. $30 Saturday, April 13, Slocan Valley Legion, 710 Harold St, Slocan.

To be held at Slocan Community Library, Wednesday, April 24, 2019 from 7-8 pm. www.thelangham.ca

March 28, 2019
The Valley Voice

EDUCATION AND ACTION EVENT
at the Legion in Slocan. Friday April 12, 5-8. Includes supper, presentations and in-depth talk by Laura Sacks and local item about local action. Call Sandra for more info: 355-0025.

ARGENTINE TANGO IN NELSON:
Group open to girls ages 4 to 10 with world-class Rina & Carlos. Beginner & intermediate classes. Pratica & Milonga & performance danceinctions@gmail.com email at 250-354-8085 for info.

SLOCAN LAKE ARTS COUNCIL is calling for acts for our Coffee House on Saturday, May 4 at the Silverton Gallery. Contact Sue for details at 250-777-1704 or gallerysussantina@gmail.com.

EXPERIENCE BC REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHER new to Vallican area. Teaching blues, folk and jazz styles. Adults and special needs and older, at all levels in modern, classical and jazz styles. Adults and special needs students welcome. Contact Carmen (250) 226-6691.

ARROW AND SLOCAN LAKES Cancer Support Group for those experiencing cancer. Group will be held every first Saturday of the month at 10 am at Robertson United Church, 117 3rd Avenue, Nakusp. For more information contact Linda W 250-265-1397. Next meeting will be Saturday, April 6, 2019.


HELP WANTED
SILVERTON BUILDING SUPPLIES is seeking a FULL-TIME SEASONAL YARD WORKER/LOADER (May 1-October 31). We offer a safe and inclusive workplace and a competitive wage, commensurate with experience. Saturday hours will be required. This is a seasonal position, but a permanent, full-time position may be available. Bring your resume and meet the SBS crew, or send your resume in confidence to tfw@silvertonbuilding.ca.

NOTICES
EASTER FOOD HAMPERS - Anyone living from Hills to Enterprise Creek in need of a food hamper for Easter, call Sue 358-7787 by April 8. Please leave a contact number.

Next Valley Voice Deadline: April 6, 2019
The Perry Ridge Eco-Reserve petition was launched by Marilyn Burgoo of the Perry Ridge Water Users Association at Crescent Valley Hall on March 24.

The petition can be downloaded from the perryridge.org website, printed, signed, and sent to PRWUA, c/o Marilyn Burgoo, 4403 Slocan River Road, Winlaw, BC V0G 2P0. People can also phone 250-226-7324 to arrange for a pick-up of petitions.

The petition can be sent directly to MLA Katrine Conroy, but Burgoo prefers to collect them and send them on to the MLA herself.

Perry Ridge Eco-Reserve petition launched by Jan McMurray

The Perry Ridge Eco-Reserve petition was launched at the World Water Day event at Crescent Valley Hall on March 24.

The petition calls on the government to “remove the remaining intact forests on Perry Ridge from the working forest and declare it an Eco Reserve.”

“We’re launching the petition now because Perry Ridge fits the criteria,” said Marilyn Burgoo of the Perry Ridge Water Users Association. “The updated science has told us we are even more at risk than we already knew, so it’s time to protect homes, wildlife and cultural areas.”

The reasons stated in the petition for the ecological reserve designation are as follows. The remaining forests on Perry Ridge are some of the last intact areas in the southern portion of the West Kootenay region, a connectivity corridor between Kootenay Glacier and Valhalla Provincial Parks. The area is an important cultural wetland and has archaeological sites important to the Sinixt. It is a “unique geological fragile landform” and provides water to homes and farms. Residents of Perry Ridge have a right to enjoyment of their homes and protection of their properties without the increased risk of landslides resulting from forest removal. Perry Ridge is part of the tourist scenic visual corridor along Highway 6, Rails to Trails and the Slocan River. The remaining forests on Perry Ridge, in the Slocan Valley, BC need protection to absorb carbon dioxide as part of the solution to climate change.

NOTICES

SINGING HU EACH DAY can lead to a deeper understanding of yourself and why things happen the way they do in your life.

It opens your awareness to new viewpoints and attitudes. Anyone can work with the HU regardless of age, background, or religion.

http://eckankarblog.org/sound-of-soul

Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom.

ARE ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS a problem in your life? AA, NA and AL-ANON (family) meetings help. For information on AA in New Denver, 250-517-8797; Carpenter Creek, 250-399-6377; Nelson, 250-517-8797.

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NELSON & AREA ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION Resource Centre: 250-352-9617; Heart of the Slocan Valley, 551-4104; information on AA: in New Denver, 250-517-8797. SINGING HU EACH DAY can lead to a deeper understanding of yourself and why things happen the way they do in your life. It opens your awareness to new viewpoints and attitudes. Anyone can work with the HU regardless of age, background, or religion. http://eckankarblog.org/sound-of-soul Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom. ARE ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS a problem in your life? AA, NA and AL-ANON (family) meetings help. For information on AA in New Denver, 250-517-8797; Carpenter Creek, 250-399-6377; Nelson, 250-517-8797. PETS 90 DAYS TO A BETTER DOG! mixted walks, contact called. fun. Learn more at www.petsupportdog.ca REAL ESTATE SMALL IDEAS ON NAKUSI BC, 700 sq. ft. on 37 acre, quiet cul-de-sac. Shed and garden tools included. $178,500. By apppt. only. 250-517-8797. SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday April 14, 9am-Jpn, Passmore Hall. Ages 0-6. Free event but must pre-register. Call for info. PAINTING Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription Only $10-$30 Send Cheque or Money Order to: Valley Voice, Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0 COMMUNITY The Perry Ridge Eco-Reserve petition was launched by Marilyn Burgoo of the Perry Ridge Water Users Association at Crescent Valley Hall on March 24. The petition can be downloaded from the perryridge.org website, printed, signed, and sent to PRWUA, c/o Marilyn Burgoo, 4403 Slocan River Road, Winlaw, BC V0G 2P0. People can also phone 250-226-7324 to arrange for a pick-up of petitions. The petition can be sent directly to MLA Katrine Conroy, but Burgoo prefers to collect them and send them on to the MLA herself.
March 28, 2019

COMMUNITY

Main break just a warning for New Denver

by Katrine Campbell

The ‘boil water’ advisory briefly issued by the Village of New Denver March 19 turned out to be a “better safe than sorry” scenario. It was rescinded later that afternoon.

The Public Works crew was working on Fifth Street when they noticed water pouring from the line under the Hwy 6 bridge over Carpenter Creek and called it in. Staff followed the protocol in the Village’s emergency plan; they notified Interior Health and sent the crew out to the Orchard (south of the creek) with the ‘boil water’ notices.

A closer inspection showed the damage was to the auxiliary or backup line, not the main line supplying water to residents and the health centre. There was no risk at anyone at any time, says acting CAO Catherine Allaway. Public Works didn’t have the needed parts in stock, but they were ordered and repairs were done Monday March 25.

“It’s good that everyone got a practice run on emergency procedures,” Allaway said. “It’s good for everyone to know what their role is” in a low-stress way as the crew “quickly figured out it was not a tremendous problem.”

The existing water lines date from the late 1970s. Allaway said the Village has issued a Request for Proposals on BC Bid looking for consulting engineers on a three-year contract. “The hope is that if we have an engineering firm committed to working with us for three years they will help us tackle some of these water issues. We hope that by choosing a firm, we will know upfront what their pricing will be, to allow us to budget. It’s good to have a professional look at this aging structure. A water system is never done.” Allaway added that “the current council considers drinking water a priority.”

Boil water advisory briefly issued by the Village of New Denver March 19 turned out to be a “better safe than sorry” scenario. It was rescinded later that afternoon.

Artists and food vendors are encouraged to respond to an open call for a juried Arts & Culture Faire being planned for June 15 at The Vallican Whole Community Centre in the Slocan Valley. Applications are now available at slocanvalleyarts.ca.

“The arts are alive and thriving in our region,” says board president Peter Vogelaar. “An annual Arts and Culture Faire in the valley will help showcase the incredible talent and creativity happening here.”

The gorgeous setting will provide for artisan booths both indoors and outside, where performance, kinship and a children’s craft corner will be located. This will be a free event for all ages.

Hosted and organized by the Slocan Valley Community Arts Council, the Faire will take place Saturday, June 15 from 10 am – 5 pm at the Whole, 3762 Little Slocan South Road in Winlaw.

The Faire will also be a major stopping point on the “Eat the Garden Tour”, a bi-annual culinary and horticultural journey through the Slocan Valley, happening the same weekend this year.

To apply, visit slocanvalleyarts.ca and download the application form and guidelines. Cost of entry is $40 with an active SVCAC membership, or $50 for non-members. Application payments will not be processed until after jury selection and unsuccessful applicants will have their payment returned.

Deadline to apply is April 20. Successful applicants will be notified by April 30.

For more information contact the Slocan Valley Community Arts Council at svcarts@gmail.com or visit slocanvalleyarts.ca.

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For more information contact the Slocan Valley Community Arts Council at svcarts@gmail.com or visit slocanvalleyarts.ca.

RCMP warning

Slocan Lake RCMP are warning residents not to leave anything valuable in their vehicles. Police have received calls relating to suspicious persons looking around vehicles at night in the New Denver and Silverton areas. RCMP officers ask the public to call the detachment at 250-358-2222 or CrimeStoppers if they notice anything suspicious.

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