Fuel truck accident causes spill in South Salmo River

by Art Joyce

It’s an eerie echo of the Lemon Creek fuel spill that shocked the Slocan Valley in 2013. On the evening of March 27, a fuel tanker truck went off the highway near the junction of Highway 3 and Highway 6 into the South Salmo River.

Sgt. Chad Badry of West Kootenay Traffic Services said when emergency officials arrived they found the driver dead and the smell of gas so strong they had to leave the area. According to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOE), approximately 40,000 litres of gasoline and approximately 10,000 litres of diesel were spilled into the river. Limited fuel was recovered from the tankers.

The Salmo-Creston pass was temporarily closed to traffic, causing a major congestion problem on the Kootenay Lake ferry crossing. Some drivers reported having to sleep overnight in their cars due to multiple sailing delays that lasted until March 29.

Fortunately there are no registered water users, wells or community water systems downstream from the site. No American water users have been affected by the spill so far but Interior Health has issued a ‘do not use’ order for water at the Waneta Dam. IH advised residents who draw their water from the river between the crash site and the Salmo River at the United States border to be alert and check their water for any signs of diesel fuel including sheen or fuel odor.

“This means no drinking, swimming, showering/bathing or brushing teeth if a fuel odor is detected.”

Remediation efforts are underway and the truck was removed from the river on March 29. MOE photos show containment and absorbent booms on the river deployed at a bridge upstream from the confluence of the Salmo and Pend d’Oreille Rivers. Ministry actions include a surface water sampling plan, wildlife management plan, waste management plan, a Shoreline Cleanup & Assessment Technique (SCAT) plan and an aquatic and habitat assessment plan. When asked what the likelihood of recovering such highly refined fuels is likely to be, MOE responded that “gasoline and diesel are non-persistent products, meaning they typically evaporate quickly when spilled to the environment.”

On March 28 a contractor hired by MOE reported seeing half a dozen deceased minnows but none were detected on the following day. By March 30, MOE reported that fuel sheening at the Salmo River impact site had "visibly diminished." However, "aquatic assessments indicated mortalities of both fish and invertebrate species in the 2 km section immediately downstream of the incident site." Fuel sheen was noted over a 14-kilometre stretch of the river. Vacuum trucks and absorbent pads were also used at the impact site and air monitoring is ongoing.

According to MOE, “the responsible person or spiller is legally required to clean up or manage the clean-up of a spill. In incidents where the responsible person is unknown, unable or unwilling to manage the clean-up, the Ministry… may assume the role.” These costs will be recovered by MOE contractors from the owner of the tanker truck, Westcan Transport.

The unique ski-bike was brilliant in the Slush Cup event at the Summit Lake Ski Hill Carnival on March 31.
Bike skills track work to begin this spring at Mt. Abriel

by Jan McMurray

It’s full steam ahead for the Mt. Abriel Recreation Site just north of Nakusp. This spring, a huge pavilion will be built on site, the campground will open, and construction will begin on the bike skills track.

An open house on April 6 at Selkirk College in Nakusp was an opportunity for people to provide input into the design of the bike skills track, and to meet the Nakusp and Area Bike Society (NABS) board of directors and Mt. Abriel project manager, Dawn Driscoll.

James Norton from Bike Track, a company that designs and builds bike tracks all over the world, will be designing the skills track and was at the open house to gather feedback from riders. He said the bike skills track will have beginner, intermediate and advanced sections, and will be built to adaptive standards as much as possible. He estimated six to eight weeks to build the track.

Tristin Sinclair, Nakusp resident who competes in mountain biking events, dropped by the open house to share his ideas. He is very happy about the prospect of having a skills track near Nakusp; at this point, he has to travel to Nelson to train. He said the track will attract a lot of people if it’s designed and built well, and is looking forward to events being hosted at the new Mt. Abriel track.

An experienced trail crew with Alex Marshall as manager is ready to start on site early May, with the bike skills park starting later on in the construction year, NABS reps reported. CBT funding of $25,000 has been confirmed, and an announcement is expected soon for further funding for the $112,615 project.

Another exciting addition to the Mt. Abriel site this spring will be a new pavilion. This covered area will be an inviting gathering space for events and picnics, Driscoll said.

The pavilion will be built with donated local wood. A truckload of logs has been donated by NACFOR, and a local mill will set up on site to mill the logs into lumber.

“This whole project wouldn’t be possible without the generosity of local businesses and local volunteers,” Driscoll said.

A crew of up to six will build the pavilion under the direction of Caesar Dolhaine, who was construction manager for the Mt. Abriel bridge project last year. The pavilion project is funded by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction’s Job Creation Partnership and is being executed with assistance from the local WorkBC office.

Also this spring at Mt. Abriel, the 26-site campground will open. This fully accessible facility was built last year. Driscoll reported that the hiring process for a campground attendant is underway, and that NABS is partnering with the Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services social enterprise programs for firewood and bottle return services.

“There are very few trail networks with a campground in BC. We’re very lucky to have that,” Driscoll said. Not only will the campground provide revenue to help with the ongoing funding needs of the site, but it also allows people to come and stay.

“We want Mt. Abriel to attract people to our area,” NABS Director Randy Speers said.

When completed, the Mt. Abriel Recreation Site will have 50 kilometres of trails for all levels of able-bodied and adaptive riders. NABS Secretary Shannon Glasheen said they anticipate two more years of trail building. NABS has a partnership with Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association, which started as Sufferfest and is working on standards for adaptive trails.
April 11, 2019  The Valley Voice

**NEWS**

**Sexual assault response training hosted in Nakusp**

by Jan McMurray

Victims of sexual assault deserve a much better response than they have been getting from police, victim services, health care workers, the justice system, etc. and Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS) is part of the movement to improve this.

The Stopping the Violence workers at ASLCS brought experts to Nakusp April 2-4 to provide local stakeholders with best practices training on how to respond to sexual assault survivors. About 40 local people participated, including RCMP officers, doctors, nurses, ambulance workers, victim services workers, and counsellors.

The end goal for ASLCS is to form a Sexual Assault Response & Resource Team (SARRT) in the community to ensure a coordinated response to incidents of sexual assault. Representatives from each sector that would participate on the local SARRT were invited to the Nakusp training session.

“We must ensure that sexual assault survivors receive dignified, compassionate and well organized treatment,” said Carlee Hughes of ASLCS at the introductory session, April 2.

Hughes shared some telling statistics. In 2012, there were 460,000 sexual assaults in Canada. Out of every 1,000 sexual assaults that year, only 33 were reported, and only three resulted in convictions.

“For years, communities have grappled with how to improve their response to sexual assault. The time has come for this to end,” Hughes said. “It’s been a part of our culture for far too long.”

Morgan Baldwin and Charlene Eden of Ending Violence Association of BC spoke about the societal attitudes and beliefs around sexual assault that do not hold up to the facts — that sexual assault happens in dark alleys by strangers; that if you don’t say no or fight back, it’s OK; that the perpetrator is working class or the neighbourhood drunk; that the victim is a sex trade worker, or someone who deserved it; that rape does only three resulted in convictions. In 2012, there were 460,000 sexual assaults in Canada. Out of every 1,000 sexual assaults that year, only 33 were reported, and only three resulted in convictions.

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“We have all heard these myths,” Eden said. “We do live in a rape culture. These attitudes and beliefs are engrained in us from a young age — how it happens, who it happens to, and who does it. We have to tackle these myths head on.”

Baldwin stressed that sexual assault victims also hold these beliefs, and this is a huge barrier for them to report the assault and to access services.

Efforts to change these attitudes and beliefs and improve the response to sexual assault victims have been underway by community committees such as SARRTs since 1988, Baldwin said. “The committees are named different things, but they are all focused on systemic change,” she said.

Eden said that to implement a SARRT, “you have to get everyone around the table” to talk about things like response and referral protocols, public education, and training for responders. “Systemic change can happen when you put these pieces together,” she said.

RCMP Sgt. Stephanie Ashton of Surrey spoke about the “change in attitude” at the RCMP around sexual assault investigations since the Jian Gomeshi story broke and an article by investigative journalist Robyn Doolittle appeared in the Globe and Mail. These were “catalysts for change” in the RCMP response to sexual assault, Ashton said, including new and extensive training for all RCMP officers, better liaison with community partners, and external review of police investigations into sexual assault.

Going forward, Hughes said the ASLCS team would be gathering local representatives from each sector to create a protocol that local service providers can follow when they get a disclosure of sexual assault.

“We will be leaning on our supportive mentors at EVA BC for guidance going forward, the programs at ASLCS (STV Outreach, STV Counseling, Safe Home and Victim Services) as well as some volunteers to create the protocol,” she said.

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Thank you

I just wish to express my great appreciation for your recently published article on 5G technology, and the associated health risks. I feel very fortunate to live in an area where people are aware of these hazards, and where the news media is educated and open-minded enough to publish such important information to people.

A very deep thank you.

Diane Volkart

Winlaw

Arrow Lakes Caribou Society

I noticed with interest that a new Arrow Lakes Caribou Society was formed. I was shocked to read that no caribou were allowed to be members of the new society – only loggers, ATVers, snowmobilers, hikers, bikers, skiers and humans are allowed to sit on the board.

No caribou, toads, any wildlife or untouched forests are welcome to be part of the decisions made about their existence. How fair is that?

PS: Sarcasm is intentional.

Walter Pasieka

Nakusp

Thanks for the 5G article

Thank you for your article on electromagnetic radiation (EMR).

With the roll-out of 5G, we are experiment the human race and our being subjected to the biggest electromagnetic radiation (EMR).

So there was this parade, and as Danny Kaye sang it in the movie: “The King was in his altogether but altogether but altogether as naked as the day that he was born.”

Well, you know, there was this kid who piped up: “Hey! The emperor has no clothes!”

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Remember Hans Christian Andersen? He told good stories, didn’t he? Remember the one about the emperor’s new clothes? There were these two crooks who had made him a set of new clothes so fine they could only be seen by honest and intelligent people. Emperor couldn’t see nothing, but he wasn’t about to admit he was dishonest, or worse, stupid.

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Mountain caribou, government, and you

Mountain caribou are a hot topic these days, with the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change determining that caribou are facing imminent threats to recovery — including our very own herd here in the Central Selkirks.

Mountain caribou are a globally unique species that migrate up and down these mountains, living in old-growth forests and on high alpine slopes. Once found in abundance, there are only about 25 animals left in the Central Selkirks herd. Other nearby herds are now locally extinct.

As with many endangered species, the main problem is loss and fragmentation of habitat. For mountain caribou, threats are compounded by an altered predator-prey relationship. With fewer old-growth forests, there are more deer and moose, which brings more wolves and cougars, and caribou become easier prey. Further, weather, climate, and disease can play a role, and then the big cherry on top is climate change, which is changing snowpacks, caribou travel and their access to food. Provincial and federal governments have just released two caribou recovery plans — a draft agreement under the Species at Risk Act (Section 11), as well as a Partnership Agreement with West Kootenay and Saulteau First Nations for herds in the Peace region. While the Partnership Agreement could be a model for herd recovery in other parts of BC, the draft Section 11 agreement and associated habitat protection plans might be taken in our area.

Particularly concerning aspect of the draft Section 11 Agreement is the weak approach to habitat protection, with no intertemporal protections in place while recovery planning goes on for another two years. If we are actually going to recover this species which is quite literally on the brink of being gone forever, we need some habitat protections now while governments continue to plan. In the world’s only Inland Temperate Rainforest and there’s not much left of it. Protecting caribou habitat will protect these old-growth forests, which is good not just for these animals but for many others as well.

Now is your opportunity to get involved. Review this important agreement and use the online feedback form to ask for habitat protection until the next steps are solidified: engage.gov.bc.ca/caribou/section11agreement/. The Province is also holding public meetings across the province. The process is now underway.

Nadine Raynolds
New Denver
Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

Addressing the facts re: cell phones and cancer

Wow! Five responses to my letter to the editor (VW March 14, 2019). I must have been in my first grade class because in his induction, Art Joyce missed the whole point of my letter. I just wanted to express my annoyance with the way he always gets up on a soapbox to pontificate on his pet theme while supposedly reporting - not get into an argument on the facts.

OK – let’s address the facts. Unlike Art (and his apostles), some of us still maintain an open mind on the possible health effects of exposure to radio-frequency radiation (RFR). I’m sorry, Art, but the jury is still very much out concerning the matter. New research shows that co-workers of electric utility workers have an increased risk of developing cancer. Art Joyce, you need to think like a statistician, not a politician, if you are going to report on this. Art Joyce has misrepresented the situation, and the public needs to be aware of it.

Rory Lindsay
Slocan

Changes needed to forestry legislation

What does the forest mean to you? For some it’s a place to play, for some it’s a place to work, a place to heal, a place to explore, to live.

I’ve spoken to some of our community elders in the past week. They remember the efforts they made to get parks created here in the past. Many of us live near and beneath these parks. When these parks were created local activists wanted and believed the parks would allow for greater protection to the watersheds above local communities. This did not happen.

Now, all across the Kootenays we have lost local parks but in the places closest to communities, our watersheds, we have clearcuts. What do you see when you look up? You can see them everywhere and they’re growing.

The fact is we have little to no control over our local forests. Logging companies are right now testing their power to direct police to arrest protesters without an injunction. The necessity of getting an injunction meant that a court had to say it was okay to arrest protesters. That law is being tested right now in Meadow Creek. It is the fact that we and the protesters speaking calmly and quietly – respectfully – while logging company employees yelled and threatened them. Then I saw a logging company employee run the barricade, knocking a protestor’s car aside. Following that, the protesters were arrested – without an injunction – and charged with intimidation. Who were the intimidators?

Unfortunately, money from the sale of our forests, which are in a very real way our lives, is more important to the development of forest practices at the moment than our communities. For example, it is standard practice right now to spray kilo deciduous trees to give room for more valuable timber to grow. Yet this decision is absolutely clear to know a natural fire break for communities that face growing wildfire threats. Here’s something to consider...

Many advocates are seeing this as our window, with the Greens having some limited power in a coalition government. Coalition governments have always been known in Canada for the most progressive reforms. This government might listen if we in this province ask loudly enough for changes to forest practices.

Some of the changes we were protesting for on Saturday, April 6 included a review of the draft Section 11 agreement and an update to the online feedback form to ask for habitat protection until the next steps are solidified: engage.gov.bc.ca/caribou/section11agreement/. We were also looking for more power for local forest district managers to decide what gets cut and what doesn’t. This is important because they might then decide that logging on unstable ground, like Perry’s Ridge, is no-go. They might also work more closely with our regional district representatives. We were protesting, also, for better fire protection management.

I would have liked to see more people come out to protest – to stand up for their community, their lives and the lives of their children. I am proud of the little band that came together to show their support.

Dan Spring
Winlaw

The world has become stranger

It’s the 21st century and we aren’t riding in flying cars, with robots to do all our work while we live in luxury and ease… the dream of people 100 years ago about how our times would look. We have stupifying facts to ponder.

In the First World a massively popular series, Game of Thrones, is the latest fantasy world of magic, weird religion, monsters, and explicit sex. The European Middle Ages actually passed – and no one noticed them; now we have high-tech machinery, capitalism, medical miracles, democracy, women’s liberation, and freedom for the masses, among other advances upon medieval life. Yet people live to play faux-medieval warrior or battle-maid. At least, tens of millions of Western middle-class folk do, who made the Game series a mammoth success, and who also dress up as para-military scenes of war in medieval settings.

Now add to this strange anomaly – our 21st century attraction to an age when brutality and warfare were rife. People love to play with the living short, physically-punishing lives ruled by warlords and clerical hierarchies – another fact. Inequality by many measures (health, peace, rights, security) between the First World and the rest of the world is worse than it was during the age of European empires, and inequality between the wealthiest individuals and millions of humans in the bottom half of our global population means eight men own more than four billion other humans.

Meanwhile some bourgeoisie of the rich world plays a game, trying to find Six Game thrones hidden in various lands (Canada, the UK, Sweden, Spain, Sweden, Spain, Spain, …). To play, one needs to own a smartphone, and if you have money you might be able to travel to these lands just for the fun of it.

Back to my point about medieval fantasy and real history. Teachers told me that the Game of Thrones was a series I had studied to be an historian. They told me an example of learning from history: the Swedish school Industrial Revolution. Terrible, unacceptable suffering was inflicted on working people in England as it forced the poor into unbearable urban slums; capitalists brutalized them in mines and factories where hundreds died while people had no political rights to resist their oppressors and were forbidden to form "combinations" (unions). But Britain’s ruling classes became liberal and humane, human rights advanced, good laws were passed, and the bad old days can never return.

That was the story of progress, and I learned as a child and youth in the 1960s. Look at the world today. Do you still believe that story? Study more; nations industrializing after 1800 have chosen to inflict the same horrors on their people as England did to its citizens.

I have not changed the climate change that imperils the lives of humans on the planet; I’ve said nothing about the industry of tourism possible only because of First World business that ruins the environment in many ways.

Truly, the world has become stranger and stranger to me longer. I live, and I cannot feel the optimism I once felt about innovation that improves itself over time, and loves to love for one another. I’m 67 – and here I am, demonstrating clichés about old people being curmudgeonly critics with some basis; I apologize for that to my age-peers. I know my negative self is my own fault and I can change. Nelder culture demands it."

Charles Jeanes
Nelson
New Denver council, March 25: FireSmart assessment programs starting up

The RDCK has two programs—the Community Recognition Program is a neighbourhood-wide assessment with a local FireSmart representative, while the Home Partners program assesses individual homes and properties and recommends changes. Insurance companies offer a 10% premium discount for properties whose owners have a certificate of completion of the FireSmart recommendations.

• Council received a copy of a news release from the Ministry of Citizens’ Services announcing improved high-speed internet access in the Slocan Valley. The Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation will install 125 km of fibre-optic infrastructure; the question of last-mile connection to peoples’ homes and businesses is still unanswered.

• Silverton’s Danika Hammond suggested in an email that council take advantage of Columbia Basin Trust’s Community Outdoor Revitalization Grant. The application deadline is May 31. The council directed its staff to complete the steps to transfer ownership of the Village Siding water system to the Village.

• The board directed staff to create a Slocan Valley Watershed and Ecosystem Guidance document.

• The possibility of the RDCK and RD Kootenay Boundary Regional District to coordinate with reps from the Area H North TV Society to discuss municipal financial support. In 2014 the society received a grant of $35,000, down to $19,700 for a trial period of five years. Now it says its reserves have been depleted, and if a large unexpected expense occurred it might have to shut down. It is asking for a larger grant ($25,000) and for a one-time payment of $3,000 to cover receiver upgrades.

• Up to four members of council have been authorized to attend the Slocan Valley Community Arts call for submissions. In an in camera session, council decided to offer Tracy Brown, the incumbent, the position of campground attendant for the 2019 season.

The Village of New Denver is now accepting applications for the following: Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre
• Museum & Collections Assistants (2 student positions available)
• Museum Attendant (1 non-student position available)

Village of New Denver Office
• Casual/on-call office assistant

Please submit a resume and cover letter to: Village of New Denver, Mail P.O. Box 40, New Denver, B.C., V0G 1S0 Email: office@newdenver.ca

In person: 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver

Positions will remain posted until filled. All applicants are thanked for their interest—only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Additional information is available from the Village Office.

CIP/AAP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The CBT CIP AAP Community Engagement meeting is scheduled to take place at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at the Knox Hall (521 6th Avenue) in New Denver. The public is welcome to attend. The meeting is a good opportunity to hear about a wide variety of proposed projects submitted from community organizations benefiting New Denver and area.

ARBOUR DAY

The Village of New Denver is holding an Arbour Day on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. We will pick up all yard and pruning waste that is placed at the curb by 8 am.

Please ensure that:
• all branches are bundled and tied and all garden refuse (leaves, etc.) is bagged.
• all bundles and bags are an acceptable weight and that bundles are not more than 3 feet in length.

Absolutely no household garbage or construction material will be picked up.

On Arbour Day only residents that have trees or branches too big to bundle are invited to take them to the old dumpsite from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, where Public Works staff will be available. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

OUTDOOR BURNING REMINDER

Residents of New Denver are reminded that outdoor burning is regulated in the Village of New Denver. Permits are required for all outdoor fires except cooking fires 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 1 to May 15 and from September 30 to November 15— for more information please contact the Village Office at 115 Slocan Avenue, 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. Council thanks all their residents for their cooperation.
Kaslo council, March 26: Sewer area expands by 27 properties

by Jan McMurray

• Twenty-seven properties have petitioned to be part of the sewer service. The Sewer Specified Area #1 Amendment Bylaw 1255, which adds the 27 new properties to the sewer area, was read three times and is expected to be adopted on April 9.

Brought forward from in camera was the decision to charge the sewer parcel tax in 2019, as the sewer debt has been repaid. Sewer parcel tax revenues were used to repay the debt in the past. Another reason for foregoing the parcel tax this year is that the 27 new users have active sewer connections until September at the earliest. The $3,475 connection fee from each of the new users will go into the reserve fund to cover repair and replacement costs.

Going forward, the sewer parcel taxes will also be put into the reserve fund.

A letter from Anne Malik, received earlier in the meeting, asks that council not charge the sewer parcel tax in 2019. “The delay of a Parcel Tax until six to nine months after the sewer expansion area have been added to Sewer Specified Area #1 would ensure equity and fairness,” she writes. She notes that the point of delaying the tax means the Village wouldn’t have to pay it in 2019, a year when the Village has to pay the $3,475 sewer connection fee for City Hall. She further points out that delaying the tax gives the Village time to allocate taxation dollars in the budget to cover its share of the sewer service.

• Deputy Fire Chief Russell Semenoff attended the meeting to provide council with a report about fire safety. He noted that there has been a shared service between the Village of Kaslo and the RDCK since 2013. The department currently has 39 members, and has a goal to recruit eight more this year. In the Landreau Lake, there are four First Responders: one in Hwessor, two in Argenta and one in Johnson’s Landing. Semenoff said that most of the department’s callouts are First Responder calls. In 2018, there was a change in the way emergency responders are dispatched, and this reduced the number of first responders calls for the Kaslo department. “In general, the result is that we don’t respond to minor calls where we are not required,” Semenoff says in his written report. “However, for calls in the Landreau Valley, our First Responders can provide more timely response where BC Ambulance response is delayed.”

Semenoff said there were two serious cases in the Landreau Lake in 2018 where the First Responders were not called out, and this problem has been reported to the appropriate authority.

The RDCK decision to provide fire services with volunteer firefighters has resulted in Kaslo’s fire chief being paid half time, with assistant chief, captains and training officers receiving additional remuneration above their stipends. “While other departments in the RDCK have gone to the paid-on-call model for firefighters, we remain on a stipend system,” Semenoff said.

• Kaslo Housing Society representatives Erika Bird, Kevin Flaherty and Tari Chapp reported on the society’s efforts, and asked council to participate on a committee or working group in the short term. They also asked for a meeting with the new CAO to discuss planning for the property the society leases from the Village.

• Mayor Hewat reported on RDCK business, and provided the RDCK tax requisition information for Kaslo. Kaslo residents collectively will pay $426,691 in RDCK taxes in 2019, up 13.70% from last year. Services that have increased significantly ($5,000 or more) include the Community Facilities, Recreation and Parks service, the library service, the refuse disposal service, and fire protection.

• The Kemball Building Space submitted

The Friends of the Landreau Lake invites you to the Argo Community Hall on Saturday, April 20 at 1 pm for ‘How to Grow Oyster Mushrooms’, a two-part presentation by Robert Macrae. The first part is an illustrated talk on mushroom cultivation in Japan with Mushroom cultivation in Japan...a dozen different species of wood decay mushrooms cultivated commercially in Japan. Many mushroom species cultivated in Japan are found growing wild in the Japanese economy to complete an ecological circle. There are perhaps a dozen different species of wood decay mushrooms cultivated commercially in Japan....the Japanese economy...a dozen different species of wood decay mushrooms cultivated commercially in Japan.

• Learn how to grow mushrooms in Argentina

Kokanee angling season reduced on Kootenay Lake submitted

The Kokanee angling season on the upper west arm of Kootenay Lake has been reduced to four days in 2019, down from 28 days last year. The first two days, April 1-2, have already passed. This measure is an effort to support long-term sustainability.

Going forward, the sew...a dozen different species of wood decay mushrooms cultivated commercially in Japan.

• Annual meeting of the Village of Kaslo council, March 26: Sewer area expands by 27 properties

The first two days of the Kokanee angling season on the upper west arm of Kootenay Lake have already passed. This measure is an effort to support long-term sustainability.

• The Landreau Fire Department attended the meeting to provide council with a report about fire safety. He noted that there has been a shared service between the Village of Kaslo and the RDCK since 2013. The department currently has 39 members, and has a goal to recruit eight more this year. In the Landreau Lake, there are four First Responders: one in Hwessor, two in Argenta and one in Johnson’s Landing. Semenoff said that most of the department’s callouts are First Responder calls. In 2018, there was a change in the way emergency responders are dispatched, and this reduced the number of first responders calls for the Kaslo department. “In general, the result is that we don’t respond to minor calls where we are not required,” Semenoff says in his written report. “However, for calls in the Landreau Valley, our First Responders can provide more timely response where BC Ambulance response is delayed.”

Semenoff said there were two serious cases in the Landreau Lake in 2018 where the First Responders were not called out, and this problem has been reported to the appropriate authority.

The RDCK decision to provide fire services with volunteer firefighters has resulted in Kaslo’s fire chief being paid half time, with assistant chief, captains and training officers receiving additional remuneration above their stipends. “While other departments in the RDCK have gone to the paid-on-call model for firefighters, we remain on a stipend system,” Semenoff said.

• A letter from Don Scarlet gives notice that the Kaslo Community Airport Management Corporation intends to terminate the agreement with the Village.

The KA M C has been unable to continue its operation and fulfill its obligations due to loss of active members and consequently has returned all its funds to the Village,” he says.

• A letter from Daphne Hunter, May Days coordinator, makes many requests of the Village to ensure the event goes smoothly. The letter was referred to staff to review and prepare a plan.
Nakusp council, March 25: Council deals with budget items and cracks down on off-road vehicles

by Katrine Campbell

• Three bylaws regarding off-road vehicles were given third readings. Bylaw 686, 2019 will regulate the operation of off-road vehicles within the village. Council requested staff prepare terms of reference for a committee to investigate potential off-road vehicle trails and make a recommendation to council. The committee will consult with the public and other interested stakeholders and take into consideration the Village’s Trails Master Plan. Bylaw 496-5 will amend the Traffic, Street and Sidewalk Control Bylaw to remove sections pertaining to ATVs. Bylaw 684-01 will amend the Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw to remove sections pertaining to ATVs in the Traffic, Street and Sidewalk bylaw and add Schedule 15 to provide for ticketing of infractions of Bylaw 686.

• Council agreed to provide a letter of support for the Arrow Lakes Fine Arts Guild’s proposal to secure the forestry buildings at 1st St and 5th Ave NW for a joint community arts centre, gallery and tourist info centre.

• Council voted to partner with Interior Health on pertinent projects, the arts centre, gallery and tourist info centre.

• Council noted the Official Community Plan (OCP) is a priority in the Strategic Plan and debated ways of paying for an update. Nakusp’s was last done in 2007. The cost to update is estimated at $70,000-$80,000; Councillor Joseph Hughes asked about grants, but the CAO said the reserves came from revenue generated at the hot springs and were established to fund upgrades and improvements at the facility. In the end, council voted to increase the hot springs contribution to the general operating budget from $15,000 per annum to $55,000, to provide $40,000 to prepare a new OCP.

• The Village will provide $2,000 and will partner with Dawn Driscoll and Mike Riediger to develop a ‘Visit Nakusp’ social media platform. The 2019 operating budget of $4,503,704 was approved as follows: General Operating, $2,634,496 (including tax levy of $1,033,296); Water, $547,640; Sewer, $435,968; Hot Springs $855,600.

• The hot springs capital budget of $70,000 was approved. Several items were removed from the priority list, while erecting a covered roof for the Municipal Ticket Information Centre.

The 'Monster and Sea 24' started in the early spring of 2015, when six people in Seattle, led by Troy Nebeker, did a relay paddle for 24 hours to raise money for families who were dealing with cancer. Their goal was to stuff five envelopes with $1,000 each, and put those envelopes in the hands of people who could use some help at a really tough time. Through generous donations and support, they blew past their goal and raised more than $7,000, helping seven families in the process.

Since the first year, the Monster and Sea became a grass-roots movement. By 2018, the event grew to 26 cities with multiple teams across the US and Canada and collectively they raised $156,000. On April 13/14 Team Kootenay will be joined by more than 40 teams across the US, Canada and the Cayman Islands. They will all gather together as a community to paddle and say to cancer: “You can’t take today. Today is ours.” At its core, the movement wants to accomplish three things: help families who are dealing with cancer, have fun, and inspire people and communities to not let life pass by them. Get going – do the things you love.

To support the fundraising effort of Team Kootenay, please visit their GoFundMe page gofundme.com/monster-and-sea-24-team-kootenay and share their campaign with friends and neighbours.

Call for Artists

ALFA ART WALK

Please submit artist bio and 4-5 photos to:

ALFA Art Walk c/o Selkirk College, Box 720, Nakusp BC, V0G 1R0
Or by email at: alfa@galad%!@gmail.com
Deadline April 30, 2019

24-hour relay paddle to help families with cancer

Cancer is a taker. It wants everything from us – our health, our confidence, our families. And it is relentless. Statistics say one in three people arm-wrestle with cancer, but what about the other two people?

Our job is to stand in the gap. Fill the void with love, compassion, and our ability to go when our friends can’t. This is what The 24 is all about.

A team of eight paddlers will set out on April 13 for a paddleboard relay on Kootenay Lake in order to raise money to help local families with cancer. Team members Elaine Baleslra (Proctor), Reta Boychuk and Kristy Holt (Nelson), Dianae Duc (Harrop), András Lukacs, James O’Splinter, Mo (Proctor), O’Splinter (Rossland) and Jodee Meyers (Nakusp) will gather in Harrop to inspire their communities to not let life pass them by, to have fun and raise money through micro-donations.

Their goal is to offer a breath of fresh air to families dealing with the wrecking ball of cancer. It is a chance for them to feel ‘normal’ – even just for a minute. Team Kootenay will give out donations in $1,000 increments to families in need and how it’s used is for the family to decide. This is not about research or finding a cure, this does not go to a charity. This is cash, in an envelope, put in the hands of folks who need it. It could help pay the utility bills, or buy some groceries, or maybe take the family away for a weekend to get a break from the chaos, parking lot stairs was added.

• Council received the Public Works department report from engineer Bob Gresiuk. One item of note was the failure of the Powell Creek culvert, which drains into the lake below 1st Ave SW. Gresiuk reported he had met with the Village’s engineer to discuss the best way to repair the culvert. The CAO noted the 2018 budget had provided money for an engineering study of the drainage system but it wasn’t done as the management change in the operations department decided it wasn’t a priority. There is no estimate of repair costs but staff will advise council at the April 8 meeting.

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Call PALS today at 250-265-3792.

Is your PALS membership up-to-date? Memberships cost only $10.00 per year. PALS NEEDS YOU!!

WEEKLY SPONSOR:

Nakusp's Day to assist with the promotion of health and wellness in the community and reduce the risk factors for chronic disease as part of the Healthy Communities initiative.

• Mayor Tom Zeleznik said it was time to look at an economic development commission in the Strategic Plan. He spoke about the Slocan Valley EDC, which is supported by three villages and Area H. Its coordinator, Ron LeBlanc, would come to Nakusp to explain what the commission does, Zeleznik said.

• Treasurer Mark Tennent presented the 2019 operating budget with a PowerPoint presentation. The mayor invited questions from the gallery. One person asked if the improvement in snow removal was because of the change in management at Public Works. Staff responded that the improvement was due to the lower snowfall. Asked if there would be work done on the campground this year, staff said there was a provision in the budget to prepare a plan for upgrading the campground.

• Council noted the Official Community Plan (OCP) is a priority in the Strategic Plan and debated ways of paying for an update. Nakusp’s was last done in 2007. The cost to update is estimated at $70,000-$80,000; Councillor Joseph Hughes asked about grants, but the CAO said the reserves came from revenue generated at the hot springs and were established to fund upgrades and improvements at the facility. In the end, council voted to increase the hot springs contribution to the general operating budget from $15,000 per annum to $55,000, to provide $40,000 to prepare a new OCP.

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Provincial biologist sheds light on Kootenay Lake fishery collapse

by Jan McMurray

Provincial Rivers Biologist Greg Andrusak gave some insight into the collapse of the Kootenay Lake fishery in his presentation at the Larder Valley Hall on March 18. He estimates that it will be 10-15 years before big Gerrards are back in the lake.

Andrusak and his team have been studying the population dynamics of the Gerrard rainbow trout in the Larder and Duncan Rivers since 2006, and his March 18 presentation coincided with his annual trip to the area to do night-time snorkel surveys.

The study on the Gerrards started out in 2006 to understand what happens when the Gerrard population drops, so this is a critical time for our research,” he said.

Andrusak’s team has determined the minimum and maximum number of Gerrard spawners needed in order to sustain the population. “We want more than 108, but not more than 500,” he said. In 2012, there were 1500 Gerrard spawners – three times the number needed for a healthy population. This caused high predation rates on kokanee and caused them to collapse.

Because the Gerrards feed almost exclusively on kokanee, Andrusak said that the decline of the Gerrards is “all about kokanee.”

“Gerrards eat kokanee so when the kokanee crash, the Gerrards crash,” he said.

The kokanee collapse has affected not only the number of Gerrards, but also their size. “For Gerrards to get big, you have to have big kokanee,” he said. “Fewer and smaller Gerrard spawners means a reduction in the total egg deposits at Gerrard. The recovery of the Gerrards requires recovery of kokanee first.”

Andrusak said there are likely multiple causes for the collapse, and the ministry is looking at management activities, restoration and enhancement activities, and the general variability in the populations as possible causal factors.

The kokanee spawning channel and the fertilization program were brought up as likely causes by members of the public at the meeting, and Andrusak confirmed that the ministry is looking at both of these as possible contributors to the collapse. “Over time, if we’re continually producing lots of kokanee [in the spawning channel], there’s going to be a lot of predators,” he said. Similarly, the fertilization program tries to recover and maintain the kokanee population at pre-dam numbers, so “we may have increased that further than we need to go.”

“We have enhanced the lake to the point we need to give people more opportunity to fish on the lake,” he said. “We need more top down controls from fishing, but what lever is right and how to do it is the question.”

Andrusak said he felt communication was part of the problem, as well. “There was a lot of information that seemed to indicate there was a potential concern, and we as biologists may have missed the signs as far as the large increase in predators and declines starting in kokanee – but it was very difficult to know that it was going to lead to the collapse,” he said. “Hindsight is 20-20.”

Other factors people asked about were the H1N virus and the lake temperature, but Andrusak these were not factors in the collapse. He said water temperature due to climate change is a problem in other areas such as the Chilcotin, but not yet in the Kootenays, with our glaciers. “I don’t see it happening here in the next five to ten years, but it will be a concern in the longterm,” he said.

Andrusak said there are some signs of kokanee recovery, but it will still take time for the fishery to come back. His presentation was part of the Friends of the Larder River speaker series.

Municipal Campground Attendant

The Corporation of the Village of Silverton is currently seeking a campground attendant under seasonal contract starting May 1, 2019 to October 15, 2019. The site revenues from the campground are divided 50/50 between the attendant and the Village of Silverton.

Duties of the Attendant:

- Assist with pre-season opening and post-season closing of campground
- Ensure that clients use designated camp sites
- Collect camping fees at least twice daily
- Prepare for garbage disposal and adhere to Bear Aware best practices
- Maintain fire pits and camp sites
- Supply and sell wood to campers
- Ensure washrooms are clean & supplies replenished at all times (provided by the Village)
- Provide basic tourist information & Bear Aware information (provided by the Village)
- Keep accurate campground log & receipt book
- All related duties the Village Silverton deems necessary
- Residence on site designated attendant site provided at all times
- The attendant will be available on site (minimum) between 7:00am – 11:00am, 4:00pm – 6:00pm, and 8:00pm – 9:30pm, and site inspections during the height of the season at 11:00pm or as necessary to ensure clients adhere to quiet hours.

This position is 7 days per week for 5.5 months, physically demanding, and suitable for more than one individual; however, the Village of Silverton is seeking one attendant to sign under seasonal contract with Village of Silverton.

For further information on this opportunity, please contact:

Hillary Elliott, Village of Silverton Chief Administrative Officer at 250-358-2472, or info@silverton.ca

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a resume outlining their experience, three references, and a cover letter at:

info@silverton.ca, OR by mail/in-person at The Village of Silverton, P.O. Box 14, Silverton BC, V0G 2B0

Closing Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 4:00pm

All candidates are thanked in advance for their interest. Only individuals selected for interviews will be contacted.

Hillary Elliott, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Silverton
Kolibri Drobish does well at nationals

Nordic ski racer Kolibri Drobish from Hills, Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club and Revelstoke Nordic Ski Club recently returned from the national championships near Ottawa where nearly 800 junior and senior athletes from across Canada gave their season’s best performances.

Drobish competed in the Junior Girls age class wearing the Revelstoke suit. There were 80 competitors in her class. Drobish finished just five seconds off the podium for fourth place with a time of 31:33 in the 10 km classic style race. Jasmine Drolet, a Kootenay comrade from Rossland took first place with a time of 30:46. Kolibri also finished sixth in a 5 km and seventh in the pursuit races earlier during the eight-day period that included five races and time to visit national museums, the Parliament and local MPs.

Drobish’s earlier season achievements included a second place aggregate in the BC Cups and two first place performances in Alberta Cup and BC Cup races. Kolibri was also joined by other younger skiers from Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club at the BC Championships, where VHNSC had younger racers totalling a record number of five.

Now as the snow melts on our local ski trails athletes take on a reduced training volume before resuming training in May for next winter’s competitions. Stay tuned, the national championships are in BC next year!
Local children’s author hosts book launch party

Children’s author Lila Strand will host a book launch party for her new book, Little Star Lost, on Sunday, April 14 at 2 pm. Come out to Knox Hall in New Denver for story reading, book sales and signing, snacks and little give-aways. All ages are invited—although the book is most suitable for children of four and older.

Little Star Lost is about a lost star child’s journey to find where he belongs. Ultimately he finds himself, his deeper core of being, his goodness, strength and inner light. He finds that ‘home’ is within himself, rather than an outside place.

Strand’s books are beautifully illustrated throughout in watercolours and feature a timeless connection to self and the world around us.


Come out and enjoy a little star child’s story. Books can be bought from Strand at the book launch, from many area bookstores, and from her website lilastrand.com.

People in communities across BC held marches in support of changes to forestry regulations to include ecosystem restoration, sustainable forestry and meaningful community consultation. The province-wide event on April 6 was organized by Jennifer Houghton, a survivor of the devastating Grand Forks flood of May 2018. Pictured here are participants in Winlaw. There were also events in Lanteau, Argenta, Nelson, Glad and a march from Salmo to Ymir.

ALFA calls for Art Walk submissions

The Arrow Lakes Fine Arts Guild is looking forward to this year’s ALFA Art Walk in Nakusp; the three-month event is returning for its sixth consecutive season. The 2018 Art Walk was very successful with visitors and locals alike enjoying the self-guided tour as laid out in the highly complimented brochure.

The project received a lot of praise on the participating artists’ works. Local and regional artists, ranging from painters to sculptors to photographers, have showcased their creations in participating venues, providing the community a rich cultural experience.

ALFA Guild is calling for artists interested in participating in this year’s Art Walk. Deadline for submitting a bio and four or five photos of your work is April 30. Email submissions to alfaguildgallery@gmail.com or mail to PO Box 720, Nakusp BC, V0G 1R0.

Advertise in the Valley Voice. It pays!!! valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca
The Valley Voice   April 11, 2019

COMMUNITY

submitted

The Slocan Valley Threads Guild’s annual Yard and Yardage Sale takes place Sunday, April 28 from 10 am to 2 pm. Come inside the schoolhouse off Hwy 6 at Perry’s Bridge Road to explore a treasure trove of fabric, notions, patterns, yarn, and craft supplies. Members have been collecting donations all year to offer at reasonable prices. You never know what you will discover! Be sure to enjoy the work of members on display on the walls as you look for bargains; the Guild has had a productive winter.

Robert Macrae
“How to Grow Oyster Mushrooms”

Outside the building, the yard becomes a garden centre where you can find just the perennial or start you need for your garden or home. Many books will be available to inspire gardening and all types of making. You will find some equipment for sale, and boxes full of items – yours for a donation. Guild members will be happy to help you get what you need and answer your garden and crafting questions; they are a community of nearly 100 makers who love to re-purpose, re-cycle, and create with fibre.

Robert Macrae

On your way in the gate you can buy a cup of coffee or tea and muffin to start your day. When you get hungry for lunch, go inside to the lovely tea room with delicious soups and stews, savories and sweets. All proceeds will be used to support the Guild and the many classes it offers. Sign up for a membership while you are there for only $10 a year. Admission is free. No dogs please.

Phone Lynnda at 355-2267 for more information.

Celebrate spring at Yard & Yardage 2019

The Painted Dogs of Zimbabwe trot into the Langham

submitted

Join Zimbabwean native and conservationist Fannuel Nsingo as he shares his experience as a researcher at Hwange and Mana Pools National Parks in Zimbabwe working to understand and protect Africa’s painted dogs as well as other endangered species.

The painted dog, or African wild dog, once roamed the African continent with estimates of over half a million spread among 39 countries. However, current estimates show a huge population decline, averaging their numbers around 3,000 dogs.

Nsingo and his wife Colleen run Escape to Africa Safaris, which creates small and intimate vintage-style safaris hosted by Fannuel who concentrates on education around conservation initiatives, responsible eco-tourism, cultural heritage and close, respectful encounters with African wildlife.

Saturday April 20 at The Langham in Kaslo, 7pm. $10 suggested donation at the door, and all are welcome.

www.thelangham.ca.

The Downhill Dummies is one of the Summit Lake Ski Hill Carnival’s favourites.

PHOTO CREDIT: CHANTELL PAUL

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Cheetah appeal dismissed – Annie and Robin can’t be kept in Crawford Bay

by Jan McMurray

Kalo residents Earl Pfeifer and Carol Plato cannot have their cheetahs, Annie and Robin, live with them at their home in Crawford Bay. The decision of the B.C. Conservation Appeal Board was upheld by the BC Environmental Appeal Board on March 4.

“I was not surprised at all by the decision,” Earl Pfeifer said in an interview. “The Ministry of Environment Appeal Board does not reverse decisions and never has.”

Pfeifer says he and Plato are now “looking at various options” for their future. Since they’ve been in Canada, Annie and Robin have been able to stay legally at Northwood Zoo in Seargrove, Ontario and at Discovery Wildlife Park in Inismail, Alberta. Cheetahs are listed as a prohibited species under BC’s Wildlife Act, but permits to possess them can be issued to zoos, educational or research institutions, or to private individuals where ‘special circumstances’ exist. In this case, Pfeifer felt there were special circumstances because he and Plato are trying to conserve an endangered species – and conservation is one of the goals of the Wildlife Act.

Pfeifer was proposing an educational program called RunCheetahRun, where he would bring the cheetahs into schools and teach the students about their impending extinction. He was also hoping to allow people to observe and to help feed and walk the cheetahs.

Although there was no question that conservation is at the heart of the Act, the appeal board found that the legislative framework “was established to discourage – not only the keeping of a prohibited species individual CAS [controlled alien species] as pets – but private ownership of all CAS in general.”

Pfeifer argued that cheetahs don’t pose any public health or safety risk. “In 4,000 years, no wild cheetah has ever attacked or killed a person,” he said in the interview. At the appeal hearing, the board heard from both sides that cheetahs are the most docile of the large cats, and can be and have been trained as ambassador animals.

However, the board was concerned about public safety on several counts. They found that neither Pfeifer nor Plato have any formal training in cheetah training and handling. The proposed enclosure for the cheetahs allowed for direct access to the home, which the board felt could put visitors to the home at risk. Also, the cheetahs would need daily walks and exercise outside of the proposed community space.

Pfeifer says he won’t advocate for changes to the legislation. “As far as cheetahs go, anything I say or anything anyone says is irrelevant. Cheetahs will be virtually extinct in the wild by the end of 2024. That leaves about 1,700 in captivity around the world to carry on the species.”

Pfeifer described his three and a half days in the appeal hearing as “sickening.”

New Denver’s Bread & Roses Cooperative Bakery incorporates

Submitted

New Denver’s Bread & Roses Cooperative Bakery is celebrating an important milestone. The newly formed venture has been officially incorporated under the BC Cooperatives Act.

Incorporation allows the board, which has been meeting since September, to continue developing this unique, community-owned and community-run business.

The Bread & Roses mission is to provide quality baked goods for the people of New Denver, including a full range of breads, as well as savoury and sweet treats. They aim to use as many local and organic ingredients as possible and respond to members’ needs.

Board member Claire Paradis states, “The success of our enterprise depends primarily on good food and good service so that’s where we’re headed.”

“More food security and food sovereignty for our community is another important goal for the co-op,” says board member David Everest, “as well as always keeping the triple bottom line of people, planet and profits in mind.”

In fact, our name references the Bread and Roses labour movement of 1912 and grounds us in a value system that honours people, community and the environment.

During a bitter strike at the Lawrence, Massachusetts textile mills in 1912, a young woman was seen carrying a sign saying “Bread yes but Roses too.” That sign brought home the conversation about the aims of the strike to include workers’ dignity and all the things that make life worth living beyond better wages and working conditions (bread). As the popular song says “Hearts can starve as well as bodies, give us bread but give us roses.”

Baking will begin in June, providing bread and baked goods for sale at the New Denver Friday market. “Although we had a goal to open a storefront by this spring, we decided it was prudent and more sustainable for ourselves to go slowly and develop the business,” says board member K.L. Kivi. “This will allow us to control our destiny and develop a customer base as well as the co-op membership and financing. We aim to open in a permanent location by spring 2020.”

The co-op will be financed by member shares and managed by an elected board and a co-op membership. Membership can be obtained at the Friday Market and investment opportunities can be explored by contacting: David at gardaw@gmail.com or 358-2714 or Tonio at 358-7158 or by emailing breadnroses@yahoo.com.

The Stephensons

If you like The Beatles, Gordon Lightfoot, Bob Marley, David Bowie, Willie Nelson, Steely Dan, Led Zeppelin and Cat Stevens, come out for an evening of fun in celebration of the end of winter. Bring a friend and prepare to “laugh, cry, sing and dance,” Saturday, April 20, 7 pm, at Silverton Memorial Hall. Tickets $15 at the door, doors open 6:30 pm.

AllenSong is genre-defying, award-winning Canadian songwriter Paul Allen and his wife Petra. Not just another sound-alike duo, AllenSong has a unique style and sound.

Their music has been described as “songs that mix flavours of roots, folk, country, R&B, soul, jazz, pop and even reggae.” His melodic singing style, soulful baritone voice, and lyrics sung in two-part harmony, do a great job of transmitting emotion.

Paul Allen is an “old school” songwriter and performer who has shared stages with artists like Kenny Shields and Streethearth, Merle thrift, Grooden of the West, Jann Arden and Sarah McLachlan. Paul and Petra decided to step back from big city life and move to New Denver to live a quieter life and raise their family. AllenSong has started working with The Invisible Clones Band which has expanded the dimensions of their music and allows Paul the opportunity to write a broader range of songs. An AllenSong concert is an evening of engaging stories, music and fun!

The Stephensons are an up-and-coming BC trio, performing at the Silverton Memorial Hall Saturday, April 20.

Thank You

The family of Cari Eichhorst would like to express heartfelt appreciation to the community for the kind support in the recent passing of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Thank you to the physicians and staff at Saddle Mountain Medical Clinic; to Randy MacKenzie and Sandy Scott our community paramedics; to Anne Miskulin from Arrow & Slocan Lake Community Services and the Home care attendants Joan Atherton, Karen Friedenberger, Angela Glada and Linda Hascarl; to Cyndi Kryski, Home Health Nurse; to staff of Nakusp PharmaChoice; to Ione Kandali and Meals on Wheels volunteers; to Judy Adam; to Tessa Wiseman and Leah Holder; to Pastor Tony Parent and friends from St. Andrew’s Community Church. Thank you to Ali Butts and Valley Funeral Home for your compassionate professionalism. Also, special thank you to Dr. David Goranson and to Robyn Hicks and staff at Halcyon Assisted Living facility for their support and loving care. And thank you to everyone who has offered food, friendship and words of comfort. Your kindness matters!
Local arts councils receive hike in funding
by Jan McMurray

A $15 million boost to BC Arts Council funding over the next three years has resulted in an increase in the grants provided to the Slocan Valley Community Arts Council and the Langham Cultural Centre.

The extra funding for the Slocan Valley Community Arts Council – $6,500 this year compared to $7,000 last year – has allowed the council to hire a part-time administrator for the first time since the organization formed in 1986. Val Mayes got the job and started in January.

“Like many non-profits, we’ve been running with a volunteer board and volunteer efforts all these years,” Mayes said. “With a part-time administrator, we’ve been able to update our membership system and we’ve just launched a brand new website at slocanvalleyarts.ca.”

The arts council is also planning a special event for Saturday, June 15 at the Vallican Whole called “The Whole Arts & Culture Fair.”

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

YARD & GARDEN WASTE PICKUP
7:00 am on May 1st

The Village will commence its annual Community Clean Up yard debris pickup up on May 1st, 2019. Have your leaves, dead plants, grass, clippings and boulevard gravel ready on the boulevard or beside the alley by 7 am on May 1st.

There is no need to call to schedule a pick up and there is no charge for the service.

Dear New Denver community,

I would like to offer my condolences for your loss of Ralph Wilson last autumn. I understand Ralph did not just provide many of you with services, he and I shared in a trade. If there’s any way I and my team can fill the gap left behind, please feel free to contact Kaslo Window & Gutter Cleaning. We understand Ralph did not just provide many of you with services, he and I shared in a trade. If there’s any way I and my team can fill the gap left behind, please feel free to contact Kaslo Window & Gutter Cleaning. We

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Community buildings get energized with CBT Grants

by Jan McMurray

It’s time to celebrate the opening of Arrow Lake Equipment Rentals in Nakusp. Operator James Bruvall invites everyone to the grand opening on April 15 between 10:30 am and 3 pm.

Come check out our selection of tools and equipment, and have lunch on us,” he says. Smokies and potato salad will be served.

Arrow Lake Equipment Rentals, located on Hot Springs Road just off the highway, has all kinds of tools and equipment that will serve contractors and do-it-yourselfers alike. “We have tried to gather the equipment that you will need,” says Bruvall, rhyming off a long list including drills, compactors, drywall lifts and carts, garden tools, pressure washers, trailers, skidders, backhoe attachments and grapple attachments.

Bruvall also operates Arrow Lake Movers, Arrow Lake Storage & U-Haul, and Arrow Lake Property Services out of the same location on Hot Springs Road.

With a background in business, Bruvall found a way to stay in Nakusp. “I fell in love with the people and the atmosphere here. I didn’t want to leave, so it was a matter of finding a niche that needed to be filled.” He became familiar with Nakusp because his family owns property in Galena Bay. Bruvall studied business at the University of Calgary and Mt. Royal University, “and I’ve been doing it ever since,” he said. “I’ve run businesses successfully and unsuccessfully in a multitude of areas.”

In 2012, Bruvall ran a rodeo in Nakusp. “It wasn’t a success financially, but it was a great experience and it spurred me on to find something that would allow me to live here.”

Bruvall has rodeoed in Alberta, and lived in Revelstoke and Galena Bay, “but I didn’t have a place to hang my hat until I built my house in Nakusp. It’s such a beautiful place – I can’t say enough positive things about it.”

See the ad on this page for more information.

Clariﬁcation

The Slocan Lake Arts Council (SLAC) would like to provide some clarifi cation on information reported in the last issue of the Valley Voice. Indeed SLAC and the Valhalla Fine Arts Society are in the process of discussing and working out details of amalgamation between the two societies. Please know that SLAC would still maintain its Arts Council status and no final decisions will be made without a special general meeting with the SLAC membership later this spring.
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BUDDY’S PIZZA, KASLO.** Award winning, hand-stretched artisan pizza, 250-353-7263.

**KAISER HOUSING SOCIETY** Housing Coordinator, assisting residents of Kaslo and Area D with affordable housing. Office hours: Tuesday 1-3 Wednesday & Thursday 9-12 or by appointment. Email: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca. Serious inquiries only, please.

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**ARE YOU AN ASPIRING ENTREPRENEUR?** Have you called Community Futures to learn about the free Business Plan workshop open to anyone? And if you’re eligible, you may also qualify for the Self-Employment program where you will receive ongoing business training and coaching and usually financial support while you start your business. To learn more call 265-3674 ext. 203 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

**THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business?** If so, Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training, and delivers the Self-Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lake area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

Thank you for your support.

**KNOTS KIDS CLOTHING PROGRAM** Donate clothes, Monday, April 13, 2019 from 9 am-noon. Pick-up from Slocan Park to Slocan City. Call ahead for large pick-ups @ 250-355-2212. Thank you for your support.

**ALL’LESSONG and The Invisible Clones** in concert with special guests ‘The Stephensons’ Saturday, April 20, 7 pm, Memorial Hall, Silverton, BC. Tickets $15 at the door. (doors open 6:30 pm).

**SLOCAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY** Society Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, April 24, 2019 from 7-8 pm. To be held at Slocan Community Library, 710 Harold St, Slocan.

**TEXAS HOLD’EM TOURNAMENT** Saturday, April 13, Slocan Valley Legion, 502 Harold St. Slocan. 7 pm. Dinner $9. New Denver 20th Annual Charity Event. Tickets $30 at the door, $35 at the bar. Call ahead to purchase tickets @ 250-355-2212. Thank you for your support.

**PARK AND PLAY IN THE PARK:** Tuesdays, April 16-21, 10am-12pm, Crescent Valley Beach. Kids, bring your caregivers for fun run of crafts, themed activities and exploration. Snack is provided at this free program. For info contact Sayre Knix 250-226-6949, sayreknix@cbal.org, facebook.com/BCALSlocanValley

**ENVIRONMENT**

**FREE DROP-OFF** for most appliances, all metals, power tools, lawn mowers, etc. 250-359-7815; 1-877-376-6539 3467 Aberdeen Rd, South Slocan. Call 250-358-7218 for details.
Fernie author and Convergence workshop Outlet Youth Centre; and May 18 with Galadriel Watson, both at New Denver’s McPherson, May 4 with Nakusp author series - April 27 with Nakusp author Barbara trickster figure, admission by donation. Mealing, April 26, 7 pm, Langham Centre,

CONVERGENCE WRITERS’

and play!

ALPHABET SOUP IN SLOCAN!

April – Saturday

Gaia Tree Whole Foods

Full organic produce

NEW MARKET FOODS

118 6th Ave • New Denver

118 Broadway St.
Nelson, BC  V0L 1L0

Daily hours: 7 am to 9 pm

Phone: 250-358-7158

email: dalyce@habenson.ca

Phone: 250-265-3370 • Fax: 250-265-3375

Box 780
119 Broadway Street
Chartered Professional Accountant
H. A. Benson Inc.

SLOCAN V ALLEY THREADS GUILD'S

6:30-9 pm at the Bosun Hall in New Denver.

SQUARE DANCING!

5 piece band ‘El Lancer’-

Square Dancing!

IN A CELEBRATION OF HISTORY

at the Vallican Whole Community Centre.

Annual General Meeting, April 30, 7-9 pm,

at the Valcan Whole Community Centre. In a celebration of history

Ellen Burt presents What Forever Feels

like, a memoir of Johnsons Landing. April

1, 8-10 pm, Langham Centre.

HILLS RECREATION SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting Sunday, April

3, 7 pm, Hills Community Hall. Annual

membership fee per household is only $5.

AN UNCONVENTIONAL LIFE, A

SPECIAL LANGHAM SHOW. Saturday

April 13, 7-30 pm. Lynn van Deursen

& Noemi Kiss return with their musical

journey. Storytelling, book sales and signing,

snacks and little give-aways.

SLOCAN LAKE BOATING

ASSOCIATION AGM – Knox Hall, 2 pm,

Easter Sunday April 21.

SQUARE DANCING:

5 piece band ‘El Lancer’

Third Thursday 7:30 pm –

15, & 22, 9-11 am W.E. Graham School

and share mindfulness and the exultation

of high jinx & history told

through songs, slam poetry & puppets! $15

Sunnyside & Willow.

BERLIN WALTZ Thursday April 18, 7:30

pm. Fringe- theatre sensation Devon More

shares his experience as a researcher

conservationist & guide Fannuel Nsingo

Saturday April 20, 7 pm. Zimbabwean

PAINTED DOGS OF ZIMBABWE

annual Yard & Yardage event! Sunday, April

28, 3 pm, Hills Community Hall. Annual

General Meeting Sunday, April 28, 3 pm,

Hills Community Hall. Annual

memberships fee per household is only $5.

INWARD JOURNEY:

YOGA IN SILVERTON – THE

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From the Hill: Cannings on cost to taxpayers of abandoned wells and mines

The BC Oil and Gas Commission recently revealed some concerning figures about abandoned oil and gas wells in British Columbia. In one example, Ranch Energy recently declared bankruptcy, leaving up to 500 abandoned wells in care of the commission. Much of the cost to clean up those sites will likely fall on the shoulders of the BC taxpayer, and could be as much as $90 million for Ranch Energy’s alone.

However, the problem is much bigger than that. There are more than 122,000 inactive wells across western Canada, and most have absolutely no prospect of ever operating again. In BC, the provincial government is moving to a system of leases on active wells, designed to raise about $10 million per year to cover clean-up costs of the orphaned wells. This may fall short of what is needed.

At the end of January, a decision by the Supreme Court of Canada in the Redwater case provided some good news on this front. Lower courts in Alberta had ruled that the assets of a bankrupt resource company must be disbursed to banks and other creditors before being used for obligatory reclamation work on abandoned wells. But the Supreme Court found otherwise. As Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Wagner wrote in the decision, “Bankruptcy is not a licence to ignore rules.”

This issue goes beyond abandoned oil and gas wells to mines and other resource extraction operations. It has been estimated that there are more than 1,800 abandoned mines in BC that have little possibility of clean-up by the companies that created them. This is the legacy of a time when there were few laws requiring financial securities to guarantee mine clean-up costs. BC was one of the first to bring in such laws, but prior to 1996 there were no reclamation securities required.

In Canada’s northern territories the federal government has had to cover these clean-up costs, meaning our taxes are often used to deal with someone else’s mess. The Faro Mine in Yukon was abandoned 20 years ago. It is a 25-square-km moonscape of toxic waste, once the largest open pit lead-zinc mine in the world. Canadians have already spent about $300 million maintaining the site since it was abandoned, and the clean-up has barely begun. It is estimated Canadians will have to pay a billion dollars to completely remediate this mess.

At Giant Mine outside Yellowknife there are massive sealed storage chambers containing a total of 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide. The site’s 950-hectare footprint is also highly contaminated with arsenic and other toxics. The clean-up has already cost close to a billion dollars and each year costs an additional $2 million. Clean-up involves freezing the arsenic for eternity.

And eternity, as Woody Allen said, “is a long time, especially toward the end.”

Natural resources are the backbone of the Canadian economy, and most resource companies act responsibly, providing good jobs for Canadians and cleaning up their operations afterwards. Future generations of Canadians must not be burdened by the environmental damage caused by a few corporations who reap tremendous profits from the extraction of our shared resources, then walk away from the mess. We need to have regulatory systems at both the provincial and federal levels that uphold the polluter-pay principle, so that we all benefit from the sale of our natural resources.

Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan-West Kootenay
Public spaces add state-of-the-art technology

submitted

Nine communities in the Columbia Basin, including Nakusp and Slocan, will soon have new digital equipment, software and other technologies that people can use for free to learn, connect, enhance their digital literacy and bring creative ideas to life. These purchases are being made with support of more than $633,000 from Columbia Basin Trust’s Invasive Species program.

Rural ER nurses lead the way in critical care

submitted

Slocan Community Health Centre (SCH) Emergency Department nurses Andrea Smith, Mercedes Casley and Steve Mounteer, along with Dr. Charles Birdthistle, recently received training in Intravenous and I-Gel Insertion. The day also included review of airway ventilator.

From there, she moved to Conflict Resolution (let’s get this resolved). She will engage the audience in making processes, locally and internationally, of innovative conflict management.

The SHC is the first site in the Kootenay Boundary region to provide this advanced practice training for registered nurses. It provides 24-hour emergency coverage for Slocan Lake and the surrounding area. “This training has potential to improve patient outcomes through timely and advanced critical care,” says Andrea Smith, one of the RNs supporting the emergency department.

These advanced practice skills will support the rural emergency team in providing life-saving interventions. The ER nurses and physicians at SCH work in collaboration with Trail’s High Acuity Response Team to ensure critical patients receive the highest quality patient care.

Lynn van Deursen and Noemi Runions accompanies on piano.

An Unconventional Life returns to The Langham April 13

submitted

Lynn van Deursen and Noemi Runions accompanies on piano.

The Hidden Garden Gallery invites you to a Food for Thought presentation by Deborah Sword, Sunday April 28, 7:30, at the Knox Hall in New Denver. After her well-attended talk last year, we’ve invited Sword back to share more conflict competence tips.

Good Intentions: the words, the actions, the results will be research based, entertaining and interactive, with active discussions that leave you with concrete ideas for improving the quality of your interactions.

Intentions could be a meaningful part of communication. Instead, our intentions are often accidental and usually invisible. In this talk, Sword will differentiate between positive intention setting and negative intention blaming.

She will engage the audience in making links between what we have learned from our unique, individual life journey and how that applies to relationships.

Most of Sword’s career has been in conflict management and she still loves the work. She started with a masters degree in Environmental Dispute Resolution (let’s get this resolved).

From there, she moved to Conflict Resolution (let’s get this resolved). She will engage the audience in making processes, locally and internationally, of innovative conflict management.

Come explore your power to improve your conflict competence. Admission is by donation.

Rachel Eckert (nee Riggins)

It is with deep sorrow that we say goodbye to our wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. Rachel was born to Edgar and Jennie Riggins on October 15, 1933 in Leo, Alberta and passed away on March 24, 2019 in Vernon, BC at the age of 85 years. She was predeceased by her husband of 56 years, George, in March of 1988; parents Charles and Elizabeth Ann Aylwin; siblings Elizabeth, Clara, Ed, Peter, Nellie, Arthur, Willa, Stanley, Lillie May and nephew Dennis. She will be fondly remembered by us all for many things but mostly her quick wit and keen mind right up to the end. Ruth’s ashes will be buried beside her husband George at Valley View Memorial Gardens in Surrey, British Columbia. A memorial Service was held Tuesday, April 9 at 2 pm at the Tabor Home, 31944 Sunrise Crescent, Abbotsford, BC.

We will miss her unconditional love and tireless devotion to her husband and her family. Her warm heart, open door and home baking to all who wished to come by her home will be greatly missed and cherished. Rachel’s strong faith in God was evident in every aspect of her life which she held so dear.

Funeral arrangements have been made with BETHEL FUNERAL CHAPEL LTD., 5605 27th Street, Vernon, BC V1T 8Z5 (250) 542-1187
Registration now open for energy efficient home reno program

submitted

The RDCK’s Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) – Home Renovation is open for registration. Residents who register for a subsidized evaluation will be eligible for rebates as well as lowering their energy costs.

Residents of the Regional District of Central Kootenay can access a subsidized EnerGuide home evaluation to learn how to reduce energy consumption and lower greenhouse gas emissions by completing energy efficient upgrades. Following the evaluation, they will be able to access current rebate offers, financing options, a local contractor list and energy coaching. The program can also benefit renters and those who are low-income.

“The REEP supports the Regional District of Central Kootenay’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the quality of life for residents,” said board chair Aimée Watson. “We are pleased to work with our partners in this program to make it more affordable for residents to make energy efficiency renovations to their homes.”

To register, visit www.reep.ca for information and to access an online registration form, or contact program manager Carmen Proctor by phone 250-352-8278 or email ecosave@nelson.ca. Hard copy registration forms are also available in municipal and RDCK offices across the region.

You can also learn more about the program at various events from April to June 2019. At the information events, you can ask questions, meet local contractors and connect with financial partners to discuss loan options for energy upgrades. The events are listed below and will be held from 6 pm to 8 pm.

April 23: Slocan Legion Branch 276, 502 Harold Street, Slocan
April 24: Silvertown/New Denver, Silvertown Memorial Hall, 203 Lake Avenue
May 1: Nakusp & District Sports Complex, 200 8th Ave NW
May 6: Kaslo Branch 74 Royal Canadian Legion, 403 5th St.
June 3: Area E, Harrop Hall, 6066 McConnell Road
June 11: Area A, Crawford Bay Community Hall, 16230 Wadds Road

In addition to the Home Renovation program, the program’s New Home component continues to support builders through education, training and access to information. In March, builders from across the RDCK attended the BCIT ‘Lab in the Box’ training course in Nelson and Revelstoke and received training in high performance construction. For more information about how to improve the efficiency of your new build, please visit www.rdck.ca/reep.

RDCK gets funding for evacuation route planning for remote communities

The RDCK will hire a consultant to have discussions with community members and to look at the logistics. “When we talk about Harrop-Procter evacuation, can we get the big ferry? Do we need boats, helicopters? Those are the kinds of things the consultant will have to figure out,” Johnson said.

The project must be completed by February 2020.