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by Jan McMurray

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Blair Hammond from the federal government and Darcy Peel, Leo Degroot and Russ Laroche from BC’s Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) provided background information, with David Marshall of the Fraser Basin Council facilitating.

The local herd in the Nakusp and Duncan area – the Central Selkirk herd – has 25 animals remaining, down from 90 six years ago and 600 some years ago. The Columbia North herd has the healthiest population in the Kootenay region, at 147. Four herds are extirpated (Central Rockies, South Purcell, South Selkirk, South Monashee).

One person asked if the local herd with just 25 animals is sustainable, and if they should be relocated. Hammond replied that there has to be about 10 breeding females to have some semblance of a population, and that a minimum of 100 is needed to guard against genetic issues. Peel said a Canada-BC joint science team would be prioritizing the herds in terms of where recovery efforts should be focused, and this will be posted on the website.

Degroot said the number one reason for the decline of the caribou is believed to be the removal of old growth forest due to harvesting, pipelines, and road right of ways. Removal of old growth brings moose, elk, and deer into these areas, and with them, their predators – wolves and cougars – “and caribou tend to pay the price.” Also, when the old growth forest is removed, so is the caribou’s main food source – lichens. Another cause of caribou decline is believed to be disturbance. When heli-skiers and snowmobilers come into their habitat, caribou tend to move and travel raises their stress level and depletes their fat reserves, particularly in winter when they are short on calories.

There was a question about why caribou recovery efforts in 2008 closed areas to logging and snowmobiling, but not to heli and catskiing – as well as a suggestion that the heli-ski community help with data collection by reporting caribou sightings. Peel said the heli-ski community was being engaged now “to make sure their activities are not further contributing to caribou recovery challenges.” He also said that an MOU with the heli-skiing community has expired and “we are now trying to get an agreement back in place.”

Degroot said that core caribou continued on page 2

Huge turnout to mountain caribou meeting in Nakusp

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continued from page 1

and snowmobiling 10 years ago, “but what has become apparent is we have to manage matrix habitat, too.”

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

A Meadow Creek farmer urged, “Throw away the ‘us vs. them’ mentality and realize we are all one or we are all going to be extinct.”

Wayne McCrory, registered professional biologist and Valhalla Wilderness Society director, said discussions just like this one happened during the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Planning process in the 1990s, but “here we are in a huge crisis. What I am hearing here is the same thing I heard 25 years ago: we’re going to do more planning, more studies; we are not going to protect more habitat and we’re not going to have more closures. We should be using everything we have in the toolbox right now... if you don’t protect caribou habitat, you won’t have any caribou left.”

Amber Peters from the Valhalla Wilderness Society said there are over 350 species at risk in BC, and human beings are not separate from the ecosystem. “We have to protect more habitat to sustain ourselves,” she said.

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Eagle Graphite reports strong early results from battery tests submitted

Eagle Graphite Inc has reported positive early results from testing for lithium-ion battery anodes. This work is being performed as part of its ongoing graphite usage study. Eagle Graphite owns the Black Crystal graphite quarry and plant in the south Slocan Valley.

Lithium-ion coin cells were produced using anodes made from purified and spheroidized graphite from the quarry. Both uncoated and coated graphite showed excellent ‘near theoretical’ results in initial charge discharge cycling. The uncoated graphite is undergoing long-term cycling. After 55 cycles, 99.23% of the original reversible capacity remained, which is viewed as a very strong result.

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Kootenay United Cannabis Association hosts major symposium

by Moe Lyons

On April 11, over 250 people met in Nelson at the Kootenay Cannabis Symposium, sponsored by the Kootenay United Cannabis Association and the RDCK. Among the 16 speakers were officials from all three levels of government, various experts, and industry players. Most of the attendees were farmers, microprocessors and small retailers, there to learn how to fight for their lives, or at least for their livelihoods.

The day opened with facilitator Brittny Anderson, Nelson City Counsellor and co-founder of the Cannabis Conservancy, saying, “We are all here because of this plant that has given us so much. In the Kootenays, our way of life is integrated with the cannabis plant. Legalization is going to impact our community in ways we haven’t seen here.”

A recurring theme was that the province is putting corporate model in mind, with little or no understanding or concern for local microprocessors. Over and over, people reiterated that the process is too slow, too expensive and phenomenally frustrating, and that there is little or no trust for government on the part of all players in the industry.

Joanne Garrah, representing the Controlled Substance and Cannabis branch of Health Canada, said there are currently 168 licence holders in all of Canada, and almost all are large-scale corporate entities. They have not received 250 applications as expected: so far there have been less than 200 Canada-wide. Of these, 25% are in process, and 4% have received a confirmation of readiness. Many people think this file should be taken away from Health, which is already overextended, and put into Agriculture.

Mary Shaw spoke on behalf of the provincial government, which covers distribution and retail, minimum age requirements, and possession. She says they are hearing there are too many barriers, and are wanting to meet with representatives from small-scale growers.

Meeri Durand from the RDCK said the RDCK is “obviously aware of the importance” of this topic. They have met with 400-500 people in regional workshops, and are working on a business development model with Community Futures. They have heard over and over about how convoluted and detailed the process of becoming legalized is.

Durand says, “A lot of local producers were caught out in July when the ALR announced it won’t recognize indoor production as farm use.” Amongst those were many in the Slocan Valley, “a traditional hot spot” for cannabis production. They had been expecting to see more than 250 applications from the Valley, but there have been only about 50 applications.

In 2013 when the medical system was put in place, there were 500 applications from throughout the Kootenays. One was successful, in Creston. “Obviously,” she says, “people are struggling for resources.” Financial barriers are huge, making transition nearly impossible, while “we should be the first out the door.”

“Most people who grow cannabis are farmers,” Durand says, but the current system is “out of reach for people who just want to farm.” A huge problem is that there is “no centralized help for information.” The biggest barrier is “trying to get an understanding” of how to navigate the system. On this issue, the RDCK is recognized as the “most progressive local government in the province” and they are looking for “innovative made-in-the-Kootenays solutions.”

Paul Kelly from Community Futures says they are offering “Cannabis Business 101” classes starting in early May, and will be “helping people to navigate banking and lending,” discussing “risk mitigation,” talking about other sources of capital, and offering community counselling for free.

After the speakers, participants broke down into groups. Obstacles, barriers and solutions were written down on big sheets of paper and later posted on the walls.

For the retail sector, concerns included lack of engagement on the part of local governments. They say local governments simply don’t have enough information, and that higher levels of government should provide consultancy to them. They also say it is almost impossible to compete with the black market because legal cannabis costs about twice as much. Another concern is that accompanied children are not allowed into the stores. Excessive packaging is another frequent complaint.

Microprocessors have numerous concerns, as follows.

They say the application process is “too stringent and convoluted, too cost prohibitive, and too lengthy.” As far as business and finance goes, they say there is a “lack of education, lack of templates, and compliance costs that are completely unreasonable.”

They say there is a clear need for “coordinated advocacy,” particularly as the large producers are already busy lobbying. The regulations don’t allow for organic marketing. Many local growers look to the craft wine industry as a model, and would like to be able to use craft labels.

Growers are asking the provincial government to be more flexible about use of the ALR, and are suggesting that this flexibility be extended only to microprocessors, and not to large corporate entities.

There is also frustration with the fact that the process for CBD (used for medical purposes) is very slow, and that edibles are stalled.

Human resources are a big factor. Where will the increased workforce will come from, and what will happen for housing and transportation?

Growers and processors need training to learn how to run these businesses. The need for consultancy help is a recurring theme. People are asking for government help with the application process, as well as support for local business via grants, subsidies and help with supply chain issues. One problem cropping up these days is “predatory consultants.”

It is almost impossible for microprocessors to access funding, because no one will agree to lend money until the application process is completed and the operation approved, but the process is so complicated and expensive that unless people have significant startup capital, they can’t get to where they would be eligible.

One big complaint is that too much information is required up front. All kinds of information about people on site and site design are required, and these are not supposed to change after the application, which is not feasible. What would make sense is to require all this information to be available on-site but not to have to upload it in advance. Then after all this it takes 18-22 months for an application to be processed.

Locally, there is a great desire to see farmgate sales, special events permits, consumption cafes, access to farmers’ markets, and grandparenting of existing microprocessors, including flexibility about local zoning.

The day wound up with words from Jim Leslie, Founder of Kootenays Medicine Tree, speaking on behalf of KUCA. “This is,” he said, “the first successful community-based symposium. Our responsibility is to make sure there is a multiplicity of choices. Our foundational principle is that we must be interdependent with each other, not pitted against each other. This shows we have the possibility to make this a have region, a have province, a have country. We must not drop this momentum. This is going somewhere.” He announced there will be a craft symposium in Nelson this fall.

Slocan Waterfront Restoration & Development Society (SWRDS) is hosting Herb Hammond, R.P.F., the well known forest ecologist, who will be speaking on the topic of Forests, Forestry & Climate Change: If you love the forests. How to protect and restore the ecosystem services provided by our forests. Friday May 10th, 2019 Slocan Legion 502 Harold St., Slocan Dinner 5:00 pm by donation Presentation with film 6:00 pm
Dumping at Smeill Pit

On April 17, 2019 I went for my morning walk. At the brake check pull-out by Smeill Pit next to the transfer station I saw a pile of willow clippings – a fire hazard – and numerous pieces of garbage over the bank. There are also grease tubes and empty oil jugs being left behind. This has been going on for some time, not only in this spot but at other locations as well.

I would like to see some signage and garbage containers put at the brake check by Smeill Pit.

There has to be a better way of doing things! All the garbage along the highway is not only an eyesore but is bad for the environment and wildlife.

Ron Heppner
Edgewood

Restoring the forest

If you love the forests, then it’s past time to protect our watersheds from steep slope logging, as it impacts the quality of our precious water.

Over the past generation, we have eliminated years of accumulated protections, and legislation has been changed, to professional reliance.

Unfortunately, without government oversight we keep having disasters, as witnessed by landslides in our watersheds after logging, and another truck filled with gasoline and diesel ending up, this time in the Salmo River. May the driver rest in peace.

One of the actions we are taking to make change for the better at the Slocan Valley is providing a platform for Registered Professional Forester and forest ecologist Herb Hammond to help us to understand how to protect and restore our ecosystems, as provided by our forests in the face of climate change.

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.

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The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lakes Valleys from South Slocan/Playmor Junction to Edgewood and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake.

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The Valley Voice

Come out to the Slocan Legion on Friday, May 10 for a dinner starting at 5 pm then a lecture and film. The event is sponsored by Slocan Waterfront Restoration and Development Society.

As a community we can collectively work to improve our logging of our forests and start the next generation of forest work, in restoration.

Denise Dufault
Slocan

Collaboration key to leverage cannabis opportunity

We are rich here in the Kootenays. Rich in skill, knowledge and experience in bringing to market some of the finest ganja known to man. While rich, this culture has long been discreet, which has pushed those who farm and work with this ancient medicine underground.

Now survival of our local economies depends upon our cooperation and community building. It is time to leverage the strengths and experience of the community and take advantage of the opportunity to create a wholly integrative, self-supported, premium cannabis industry.

This is the vision of the Kootenay United Cannabis Association – a collection of cannabis workers, cultivators, medical users, processors, retailers and concerned citizens who recognize the need for our local operators to meet the prescribed compliance standards in order to transition successfully so as to stave off major economic disruption and a resulting increase in disparity. We also recognize that having an industry comprised of all elements will create a more robust industry that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Opportunity is on our doorstep for those who have contributed to building this industry, who have laboured long and hard under the veil of secrecy and perpetual risk, to be recognized for their hard work and passions within the security and stability of a legal marketplace.

Cooperation and participation amongst industry members is needed now more than ever in order to create a thriving, value-added micro cannabis industry within the Kootenays.

Lindsay MacPhee, Kootenay United Cannabis Association
Slocan

Thank you, guardian angels from New Denver

After Bible study a few weeks ago, I was challenged beyond belief.

Little did I realize what would happen only 10 minutes from where I am staying in Winlaw. I hit an avalanche area dead on. I know I hit a log and a bunch of debris. I drove up a slight incline and rounded a corner – the sun was in my eyes – I couldn’t see. There was a mountain on one side and a river on the other. Luckily I made it out unscathed. I now know I have a guardian angel. Boy! do I need one. That day it was two rough looking guys. Never judge a book by its cover. They gave me a ride home. I have to admit I was a little frightened when I saw them. (I forgot – my son is rough looking too.) I was relieved when I saw two nice looking ladies in the cab with them. They live in the New Denver area. We had just discussed in Bible study at the Junction Church (crossroads of Highway 6 and Highway 3A in South Slocan) that your higher power will protect you. Thank goodness it did that day. I’m a fatalist – if it is your time to go, you’ll go. It wasn’t my time. The good Lord isn’t ready for me yet. I wonder will he/she ever be?

Luckily the tires were okay. I only bent two rims. It was easily fixable. It could have been so much worse if it wasn’t for my two new guardian angels.

Botella (Bo) Rudolph
Winlaw

Living with climate change similar to living under hostile regime

Few people in Canada have lived under a hostile, totalitarian regime. I’m one of those. I was a child.

I was a witness. Oh, don’t give me your pity, your “oh, I’m so sorry! You must be so traumatized!” No I wasn’t. I was a child.

They could (and did) deprive you of anything and everything: bicycles, horses, cattle; could cut off power, water, heating fuel, food supply. They kicked people out of their home; oh, excuse me: they “requisitioned” your house. You had 24 hours to get out. Or two hours. Or fifteen minutes. They raided the streets and public transit for men guessed to be between 16 and 40 and carted them off to forced labour camps. You could be shot on sight for being outside after dark or after curfew, whichever came first.

Human rights? There were none. Justice? Nope. They controlled the courts.

That could never happen in Canada, right? Well... maybe not. But we know that global warming will cause drought, flooding, landslides, storms, and massive wildfires. Translated: starvation, destruction, infrastructure breakdown, disease. Bridges out, powerlines down, roads closed. Acute shortages of medical supplies, of antibiotics, insulin, beta-blockers, anaesthetics; hospitals literally overflowing with patients; cholera, typhoid, Zika, ebola outbreaks. And hungry, homeless refugees, millions and millions of them. Are you ready for this? Wars, too. War: the sure-fire cure for a crumbling economy.

Oh, yes, you say, they’re doing something about it: we have carbon tax, we are getting rid of single-use plastics, we are recycling! Window dressing. Putting out a forest fire with a tea cup. There is no money for research into alternative energy sources. We have to pay for that superannuated pipeline our federal government bought, and we will have to pay for the SIXTY BILLION tax break and subsidy to the LNG industry. Unfortunately, you can’t eat liquid natural gas, either.

Elke de Boer
Fauquier
Inconvenient truth
Rory Lindsay must have counted my letter ‘Slocan cell tower power and range’ in the March 28 issue of the Valley Voice as one of those in response to his letter of March 14. In fact my letter was inspired only by Nicole Cabodyna’s ‘Slocan cell signal in the same issue.

Scientific studies such as https://doi.org/10.1016/j. pathophys.2014.10.001 have clearly shown a link between mobile and cordless phone use and malignant brain tumors. The fact that the cancers form on the side of the head used for the phone is telling. Also, Mr. Lindsay’s assumption that brain cancer is on the decline is not borne out by what I have read. The rate of glioblastoma, a deadly form of brain cancer, doubled for people in England between 1995 and 2015 according to a study published June 2018 in the Journal of Environmental and Public Health. Long latency periods, sometimes decades, are possible before symptoms emerge.

The numbers of cancer cases are very small, but should be regarded as the tiny tip of a huge iceberg. People affected by electromagnetic radiation may complain of many health problems other that cancer, including: moodiness, depression, headaches, fatigue, difficulty concentrating and memory problems. Children using mobile phones are especially at risk because of their smaller heads, greater brain conductivity, and thiner skulls.

As we are still seeing in the case of the effect of some human activities on catastrophic climate change, the denial by vested interests and their protagonists never ceases. I am sure this is the case for the effect of electromagnetic fields on human health for a long time to come.

Keith Newberry
Slocan

Restrictions needed to achieve stable caribou populations
After the presentation and feedback session regarding southern mountain caribou, it was local influence, local authority, local opinions that clearly wanted to be included in the process than the objective to preserve the dwindling southern caribou populations.

With such an iconic North American species, it would seem obvious that being a part of the stewardship of the land leading to these animals continuing to share this landscape with humans would be the intended goal, a benefit for all. The Slocan Lakes Caribou Society has been formed with piles of signatures supporting… caribou, you would think! I haven’t read their mission statement, but considering the same idea to create a similar society in Revelstoke and presented by and from the same source of interests, I will assume they would have the same ultimate goal is not anything more than protecting the human self-interests first and caribou’s last.

In the decades since the 1800s not one mention of Euros (that’s white man’s) has done anything to ultimately alter the steady decline and extinction of the caribou starting far south into the US states. The thinking has focused around, ‘What are they go for if you can’t hunt them?’ Not so different from the way Euros treated the local First Nations, most of which were hunted, harassed and extirpated until being declared extinct. I feel shame for my culture and challenge the Judeo/Christian hierarchy that puts humans ahead of all other creatures and therefore we need not seriously have responsibility for families and cultures. I’d be curious to talk about caribou. They have families and culture that I dare say in my view may have more significance in this landscape than any of us. How many of us have spent any time in their shoes/hooves to even nearly understand them.

A representative from Bell (CEDAR) Pole mentioned that as the climate changes, Ponderosa Pine habitat will move north and there won’t be it for the caribou in that case. I took this as a “so why bother” statement. Am I the only one that sees the irony in this statement from Bell pole representative: Hello, Ponderosa Pine is not habitat for Bell pole either! In fact, Bell pole has a much stronger statistical correlation to caribou, than caribou to Bell pole. Woodland and mountain caribou lived far south outside the Inland Temperate Rain Forest ecosystems. When and if caribou go, so too will Bell Pole.

Let us give our best to be stewards that can achieve something no others Euros have achieved: stable caribou populations. That will only come with some self-imposed restrictions.

Kip Drobish
Hills

No remorse for animal cruelty
If someone abuses their dog, or mistreats their horses or other animals, they are viewed as irresponsible, if not reprehensible, by the public and the law, and can even be barred from keeping animals in the future. When the Wildlife Act, they can lose their rights to hunt, or fish, as well as their property used in the violation, even if it was unintentional.

Why is there no actual prospect of animal cruelty known as species extinction not treated similarly? Mountain caribou are suffering a tragic assault from industrial and recreational activities which have directly destroyed or degraded their habitat to the point that they can no longer survive in some portions of their range.

Any frank and honest look at their own actions by these offenders – be they logging executives, heli-skiiing companies, off-road vehicle operators, hydroelectric companies (and their investors and supporters) – would clearly reveal their culpability, and send an ordinary person shivering in awe.

What is in order here is a heartfelt apology to the world by those responsible, along with a sincere promise to set things right for the caribou. Instead, unable to comprehend the enormity of their crime, and showing no remorse whatsoever, the perpetrators are lobbying to continue their destructive business-as-usual. Being highly likely – easier in fact – to re-offer and take下令 defined: don’t have a voice in any decisions regarding caribou recovery.

Why is enforcing the law a public policy concern? Canada has laws in place which are designed to protect an endangered species in just such a critical time frame. Why is enforcing the law a public policy concern? In what other arena does the public have say in the outcome? Why should those who want to continue the crime of driving a species to extinction have any say in the matter at all? In what other instance does the accused get a say in the well-being of the victim?

There are higher laws to answer to as well. Considering the eternal loss of any species is more than wrong, and it is far more heinous than any typical animal cruelty, it is a psychosis that simply cannot be tolerated by anyone claiming to live in the 21st century.

Sometimes the government needs to act out of a greater wisdom for the greater good, and to resist simply doing the bidding of those who elect them, or those that selfishly squeal the loudest. Protection and recovery of the caribou is clearly one instance where the right thing needs to be done by those in positions of authority, regardless of the desires of special interest groups, career criminals, or the like.

The caribou, if they have any chance of recovery at all, are going to need all the suitable lands within their historic range to be preserved and preserved in perpetuity, since no one knows how long recovery might take. This is undeniably the ethically correct action to take. It is the right and selfless thing to do, and those who have profited from the caribou’s demise should be the ones to foot the bill.

Bob Vetter
Johnson’s Landing

BC Forestry then and now
In the late ’60s and early ’70s, W.A.C. Bennett took BC through a boom period. Lumber had never witnessed before or since, using forest dollars. Dams and highways were built all over the province.

As a young person growing up in a sawmill community, [I saw] no end of opportunity. The sawmill in Slocan provided employment at an economic base that could make BC a powerful economy. People who controlled wealth and money wanted to keep power in eastern Canada. So they set out to destroy the BC forest base thus destroying the threat of wealth and economic greatness.

Since when have lots of letters have been written in many newspapers expressing concerns over questionable logging practices in BC. If you regard what has gone on in the last 50 years as a government with the mandate to destroy the BC forest base, then it makes sense.

A few years ago in the Duncan watershed thousands, if not millions, of cubic metres timber were felled, smashed and burned. The ministry was questioned, why not haul it out and do something with it? The response was they could not afford to haul it out. Then why not leave it standing until you can? Something to think about, one hemlock spine for your stairs is valued at $7. How many spindles can be cut out of a single cubic metre of hemlock? And why not haul it out and not afford to haul wood out of the Duncan, wood was hauled from Williams Lake to Bella Coola, put in the water to haul to Sointula and the water to haul to Castlegar. This only makes sense from the point of view of destroying the industry by making it unprofitable (burning diesel fuel).

Consider the sheer stupidity of exporting good logs and attempting to survive cutting basically garbage logs. For any given sawmill enough log to make a complete good product is nearly impossible. Cutting only garbage wood means that maybe three or four or five times more trees had to be cut down in an attempt to keep full time work going, thus leading to the destruction of BC, whereas cutting the good with the bad a fraction of the number of trees need be cut.

To this end BC forests have been greatly overcut to provide people outside of BC the pleasure of milling our best wood and enjoying the great profits that should belong to BC. This practice has forced the closure of over 100 sawmills in BC. The only people making forestry dollars are those cutting down and hauling past closed sawmills (burning diesel – global warming). With over 100 sawmills closed how many young people are denied a livelihood and homeless people line the streets?

Recently there has been tens of millions of dollars spent to destroy trees. As a young person growing up in the Slocan valley was inspired only by the ministry was asked why not give salvages permits in exchange for maintaining these roads? Ministry managers do not belong to the private sector so it could not be done. When did we ever elect a government with the mandate to give away our wilderness and timber to the private sector for nothing in return? As for salvage, one tree salvaged means one less tree cut down. Roads open for salvaging are open for firefighting and natural disasters. Considering the last two years of firefighting there are billions of reasons why this access should be maintained forever. There never should have been any money spent ever to destroy roads. As people familiar with hunting regulations know all that had to happen was to post such areas as a ‘No Go’ area and no money need be spent. This could have been backed up with video cameras via satellite link for policing. This would not have cost millions of dollars in a province that relies on lotteries and fundraiser to provide medical care for the people of BC.

In the interest of BC jobs and lowering pollution it should be legislated that any tree cut in BC must be hauled to the nearest good production facility and no uncut logs or timber cants leave the province.

One time BC thrived on forest dollars and now the ministry even put enough money in general revenue to cover its own budget?

Ed Varney
Vallican

Advertise in the Valley Voice. It pays!!! Call 506-7218 for details valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca

LETTERS
New Denver council, April 9: New Denver to establish sustainability committee for climate action plans

by Katrine Campbell

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2019. The main item of business was the establishment of a Sustainability Committee. The motion passed with a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER
PUBLIC NOTICES
NIKKEI CENTRE GARDEN CLEAN-UP

Community members are invited to join us from 10 am – 2 pm on Sunday, April 28 as we get the Nikkei Interment Memorial Centre gardens and pathways ready for the 2019 season. Bring your work gloves, pails and weeding tools – refreshments will be provided.

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 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.

Outdoor 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, weekdays between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. Council thanks all residents for their cooperation.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Village of New Denver has recently established a Sustainability Advisory Committee to make recommendations to Council regarding the development and implementation of climate action initiatives, greenhouse gas reduction initiatives and the transition to 100% renewable energy sources. Local residents interested in serving on the Sustainability Advisory Committee should contact the Village Office for more information. The deadline for expressions of interest is 4:00 pm on Thursday, May 23, 2019.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Village of New Denver is now accepting applications for a Casual/On-Call Office Assistant. Additional information about this position is available from the Village Office.

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

Position will remain posted until filled. All applicants are thanked for their interest – only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Silverton council, April 9: BC Hydro transmission line project update

BC Hydro representatives were on hand with an update for the transmission line project from Fauquier to New Silverton. Although the update stops at New Silverton, it will significantly benefit Silverton. There will be a power outage from 7 am to 7 pm in Silverton (and the Village of New Denver) on May 5 due to work on the line.

Council came up with four talking points to discuss with MLA Katrina Giroux regarding BC Hydro’s work in Silverton. These are: the health centre and doctor situation, difficulties encountered by mining companies, road maintenance and paving aggregate inspection, wildlife management.

Public Works has completed a cleanup in the museum area in the Silverton Gallery building. This has resulted in the creation of a small, wheelchair-accessible meeting room that will accommodate up to 11 people comfortably, with kitchenette facilities. The seniors’ drop-in will be moved to this space. Village workers are preparing the installation of the outdoor exercise equipment and expect to have it installed by the end of May. They are also doing a bunker test on Silverton’s playground. Councilor K. Gordon noted a more detailed public working session and public closed session was needed. The public works closed session has been scheduled for later in the week.

Councilor C. Allaway said it results in overlighting for the adjacent property at 912 Kildare. They want to build a garage with a satellite dome on one of the buildings once the personal use. Coady noted such projects have a potential to affect density, while Moss suggested the official Community Plan should deal with the issue. Coady also noted there was nothing in either the zoning bylaw or the OCP to prohibit that, and it is “desirable to have a policy around disposing of municipal land, but it would be more productive to address requests on a case-by-case basis.” Moss said the owners of property on the other side of the allowance should be given a chance to buy.

Selkirk Paving invited Council to consider their offer to purchase the former Orchard property at 912 Kildare. They want to buy the unused property so it can move forward on up Kildare. Gordon will attend if possible.
Paddy Flanagan wins Lifetime Achievement Award for public safety volunteer work

By Ian McMurray

The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society Forest AGM took place April 10. A very good year financially for KDFCS, with a $649,747 surplus. An operating reserve has been set up, and treasurer Tara Clapp said that when there is $1 million in the reserve, the forest operation will be self-sufficient. “If we had another year like last year, we would have the reserve fully funded, but we don’t expect as good a year,” she said.

The board decided to raise its accrual rate for silviculture from $7 per cubic metre to $8 per cubic metre. There is $31,482 in the budget for silviculture, and $576,437 in silviculture liability. Clapp said the board wants to look at how to address the liability because some of the silviculture work doesn’t have to be done for 20 years. When Susan Munro of Muirhead Logging, a forestry contractor, said there was enough, manager Sabrina Mutterer said it was “tight” but that there’s not a “lot of leeway” in the budget. “We’re trying to make up for it by running a tighter operation.”

The Legacy Fund has a balance of $78,675 and is in a mutual fund type of investment. Steve Anderson, 2018 KDFCS chair, said the idea was to operate the fund as an endowment fund, with the interest made available to the community. The board is writing a business plan with the assistance of the CBF Non Profit Advisors Program, and Clapp said the Legacy Fund will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Paddy Flanagan wins Lifetime Achievement Award for public safety volunteer work submitted

Paddy Flanagan of Kaslo was one of six Public Safety Lifeline volunteers recognized for their exceptional contributions to emergency and disaster response throughout the province as part of National Volunteer Week, April 7-13, 2019. Paddy Flanagan won the Lifetime Achievement Award (Search and Rescue, Road Rescue).

Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, presented the awards to the winners at the annual Public Safety Lifeline volunteer ceremony at the Parliament Buildings. Emergency Management BC staff joined Farnworth to celebrate the achievements of each volunteer and their contribution to their communities.

The dedication and sacrifice displayed by these Public Safety Lifeline volunteers reflects the selflessness and generosity of spirit that forms the core of emergency response in British Columbia," said Farnworth.

Paddy was born and raised in Rossland, where he developed a keen interest in the outdoors. After he graduated high school, he attended the Open Pit Mining School in Rossland, and in 1974 he started to work for Kaiser Coal in Sparwood.

Paddy’s volunteer involvement with Mine Rescue, first aid, the fire department, ambulance services, and the use of extraction tools. In the late ’70s Paddy took a basic search and rescue (SAR) course and was involved in some searches, such as avalanche searches in the Elk Valley. In the early ’80s Paddy took his search manager courses, cllf rescue course, and also apprenticed and received his journeyman lineman papers. His passions for mine rescue and the great outdoors were a perfect combination for him.

Paddy moved to Kaslo in 1989 and began working for West Kootenay Power as a journeyman lineman and joined the local SAR group. After helping out with some vehicle accidents using chain hooks, haskaws and chisels, the Kaslo SAR group realized there was a need for auto extraction tools. In order to raise enough money to buy their first jaws of life, the team cut logging trucks for firewood and were able to keep running and upgrading ever since. Paddy’s rope rescue skills from his experience at the mine came in handy and due to the steep landscape of their area, he was able to support the SAR team in becoming certified in rope rescue. He taught not only his own team, but also local groups basic search and rescue skills and was involved with Kootenay Helit Rescue. He was also trained as an Avalanche Tech 1 and Mountain Rescue 2 certified.

Paddy feels extremely lucky to have had the opportunity to take advantage of such great training that has been provided over the years by his employers, SAR teams and the Province of British Columbia, as this training and these experiences have helped him in all aspects of his life.

Paddy is also very thankful to his wife Claudette for supporting him through it all.

Other winners included Deb Chmara of Castlegar (Emergency Support Services), Dale Hark of Cranbrook (Road Rescue), Les Salakos of Clearwater (Search and Rescue), John Lomb of Ladysmith (PEP Air) and Doug Barry (posthumous) of Delta (Radio Communications).
Nakusp council, April 8: New CAO appointed effective April 29

by Katrine Campbell

Cheryl Martens was appointed as CAO, Corporate Officer, Financial Officer and Approving Officer, all effective April 29, 2019. Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Mark Tennant was appointed as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer effective immediately.

The mayor presented gifts to retiring CAO Laurie Taylor and thanked her for her service. DeSandoli thanked her for helping new councillors adjust to their roles, saying: “We may not be up to speed [yet], but… maybe jogging?”

Fire Chief Terry Warren said, “She’s been great – it was a pleasure working with you.”

“It’s been more than 1,300 meetings and 43 years,” replied Taylor. “My dog will be very happy.” She added, “It’s been a privilege and a pleasure working with you.”

• Former mayor Karen Hamling, along with Barb Towle and students Matja Lander and Kiley Waterfield, appeared to talk about the Village’s Fair Trade designation. Hamlin explained NSS students started the movement to get the designation in 2009 and they and their supporters must promote it to keep it. Although Nakusp needed only one coffee shop to sign on to use FT coffee, most of them serve it now. Council uses only FT coffee and sugar at public events. The group urged people to look for the Fair Trade symbol which is on many products besides coffee and sugar. “Go on the website – you’ll be amazed at what there is,” Towle said.

• The second delegation, Craig Leggett and Mary Ann Codles from BC Hydro, gave council an update on the third year of the Monashee transmission line refurbishing. The project’s aim is to complete restoration and repair work on the 100-km-long transmission line that serves more than 1,000 customers between Fauquier and Silverton. Crews have now completed most of the required work, 235 of 346 structures have been upgraded in the $11 million project. The final planned outage will take place on Sunday, May 5 from 7 am to 7 pm and all customers will be notified. Crews plan to complete all pre-work the week prior to the outage and will complete all structure replacement work by Friday, May 10.

• Mayor Tom Zeleznik reported on his recent activities. On March 12 he attended the open house at Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services re: a proposed 10-unit affordable rental housing project to be located at 101-107 1st Avenue in Nakusp. ASLCS are developing the project and have received funding from BC Housing and the Columbia Basin Trust.

• He attended the announcement of the Province launching a multi-million dollar high speed internet project up the Slocan Valley to Nakusp, which will benefit 26 communities. On March 28, he and CAO Laurie Taylor met with BC Hydro’s Vice President Operating Officer of the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (a subsidiary of the Columbia Basin Trust) to discuss not for profit businesses will be notified. where the infrastructure will be up. They discussed the possibility of using the Emergency Services building.

• The mayor attended the Rotary Club’s “Roger Turner Honoured” event of the Rotary’s 90th birthday. He also attended the Rotary’s “Gala Night” event of the Rotary’s 90th birthday.

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Root & Branch Harvest is hiring a: PROGRAM COORDINATOR

~Connect growers who have surplus food with volunteer harvesters and share among growers, volunteers and community groups~

Location: Nakusp & area

Hours: Seasonal, part time

Duration: June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020

Qualifications: A high school diploma, a Class 5 Drivers license, and a dependable vehicle.

Minimum requirements are a High School Diploma, a Class 5 Drivers license, and a dependable vehicle.

Please forward your resume to the Village of Nakusp – Box 280, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0. E-mail: ntvscripts@nusky.net. Further information is available through the Village Office.

The Village of Nakusp is currently seeking a Hot Springs Caretaker/Attendant on a temporary basis for approximately 35 hours per week for days, evenings, weekends, without holidays. Include to Mow, Edging, and Weeding, as well as coordinating customer service, electronic admissions and the attendant facility hygiene and cleanliness standards, monitoring aquatic activities, operating the concession/property.

Wage: $13.50/hr plus benefits.

Location: Nakusp

Deadline: Submit applications to the Office by April 30, 2019.

Closing Date: May 9, 2019

Contact: (250) 265-3635. www.selkirkrealty.com

In support of the Clinton Animal Rescue Society, the Nakusp Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting an open house on Saturday, April 27 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Come meet our team and enjoy refreshments. The Nakusp Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank Clinton Animal Rescue Society and the Nakusp Community Events. Council gave final adoption to three bylaws that will regulate the operation of off-road vehicles within the village.
Kootenay Career Development Society on 2019 List of Best Workplaces for Women submitted

Kootenay Career Development Society (KCDS) has been named to the 2019 list of Best Workplaces™ for Women. KCDS received this honour after a thorough independent analysis conducted by Great Place to Work®.

The list is based on direct feedback from employees of the hundreds of organizations that were surveyed. To be eligible organizations must have a minimum of 15 female employees, and at least 90% of employees agree that their workplace is safe and people are treated fairly regardless of their gender.

“KCDS is committed to achieving a diverse and inclusive workplace that supports the health and well-being of all of our staff,” said executive director Jocelyn Carver. “We are very proud to be recognized a Great Place to Work for Women and specifically as a high trust organization that is supportive of career advancement for women.”

In line with UN Women’s theme for the recent International Women’s Day “Think equal, build smart, innovate for change”, the publication ‘Empowering Women for Innovation and Business Success’ considers ways in which the private sector can advance gender equality and women’s empowerment, while providing tangible examples of how this can be achieved.

For more information visit www.kcds.ca.

New Denver Royalty introduces its candidates submitted

New Denver Royalty is pleased to introduce its candidates for the program this year. The New Denver Royalty program has been running every year since 1939, making this one the 81st Royalty Pageant. The program started as the May Queen program, and over the years there has been Little Miss New Denver, Mr New Denver and Miss New Denver.

Stephanie Smith and Kira Popil Johnson joined the program in January as candidates. Their first introduction to the public was on February 16 at the Annual Royalty Tea, where they helped prepare refreshments, and with Miss New Denver 2018 Charlotte Farrell put on a fashion show and received their candidate hammers and tuars.

Their next public appearance will be at the Annual Royalty Tea on Saturday, May 4 at Bosun Hall. Charlotte, Stephanie and Kira invite you to attend the New Denver Royalty Pageant on Thursday May 16 and Friday May 17.

Charlotte Farrell was acclaimed as Miss New Denver 2018 at the 2018 May Days Pageant. She has represented our community well over the past year, committee organizers say, visiting 10 other pageants and being present at several community events.

This year the Spring Fling will be held on Sunday, May 5 from 10 am – 2 pm. The decision to change the event from a Saturday to a Sunday this year was made so that families could partake in other valley events happening that same weekend.

While parents have been relieved of the pressure to fundraise for playground equipment, there are still many important programs and quality educational opportunities that the PAC helps make happen through money raised at this annual event. The Spring Fling includes the ever-popular plant table with an amazing selection of starts, generously donated by the many incredible gardeners in the valley. Be sure not to miss the kid-friendly pattyenny auction featuring art and gently used toys and children’s books – always a highlight to watch being auctioned off at the end of the day.

Winlaw Elementary holds Spring Fling fundraiser submitted

With news from the Ministry of Education that Winlaw Elementary will be getting a new playground, there is much to celebrate. The school Parent Advisory Council invites you to come out May 5 for its annual Spring Fling fundraiser to learn more details about what’s in the works.

KCDS is a non-profit organization which empowers individuals, employers and communities economically and socially through career development, employment counselling, and human resource planning.

Choose from a selection of delicious baked goods, local cheeses and confectionery, with sausages on the BBQ and locally roasted coffee. Don’t miss the opportunity to bid on a number of fantastic silent auction items, donated by community artisans and local businesses.

This important community event is happening at the school rain or shine and will also feature a bake sale, games and multi-age activities and face painting.

Proceeds raised will help fund the quality educational programs, services and resources including field trips, arts, music and reading programs in the classroom for the 2019-2020 school year. Previous programs funded include busing for the ski and swim programs, artists in the classroom and more.

Contact Angela for more information or details: angelabowes@yaho.ca.

Andrew Popoff 1933-2019 submitted

Andrew Popoff passed away April 3, 2019 at the Slocan Valley Community Health Centre in New Denver, BC. Our father and grandfather was born July 15, 1933 and raised in the Perry Siding Village in the Slocan Valley.

Andrew is survived by his three children Andy (Elaine) Popoff, Sid (Jamie) Popoff, and Florette (Dennis) Berry; eight grandchildren Charlotte, Daryll Popoff, Lauren Wedening, James Katsasoff, Blayre Popoff, Reid Popoff, Tyson and Forrest Popoff and six great grandchildren.

Andrew was predeceased by his wife Florence and brothers and sisters.

His request was no funeral service and cremation to follow. We would like to extend our gratitude to all of the staff of the Slocan Valley Community Health Centre for the great care they gave our father, also to the Cavlegan Funeral Chapel for their care and service.

Graham, Stanley Leslie May 9, 1927 – April 3, 2019

It is with sadness that we share the news that Stan has passed away. Born in Los Angeles, California, Stan was raised as a Canadian. He spent his early years in rural Saskatchewan before moving with his parents to Calgary and discovering the mountains he loved. He completed his schooling in the early 1950s and started his career as a draftsman with Shell Oil Company. After marrying Patricia, sister of a friend, he was transferred away from the mountains to Edmonton for 20 years. Every long weekend Stan and his family would drive west to camp and fish or south to visit family in Calgary. After transferring back to Calgary, he and Pat spent weekends in the mountains, hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing. A lifelong photographer, he would give slideshows of calendar quality photographs. An original DIVER he built garages, finished basements, and built a cabin. He always had a workshop and in later years crafted furniture, wooden bowls and stone jewelry. After 35 years with Shell, Stan and Pat retired to waterfront property on the Shuswap Lake. There they spent years enjoying the outdoors at home and while traveling with their trailer. Stan’s final years were spent with Patricia while traveling with their trailer. Stan’s final years were spent with Patricia and near his daughter in Nakusp, still enjoying mountain scenery. Stan will be forever loved and remembered by his wife of 67 years, Patricia, son Paul (Nadya), daughter Leslie (Stephen), grandchildren Christopher (Melanie) and Graham (Megan) great-granddaughters Jenna and Katelyn, brother and sister-in-law Duncan and Helen, and numerous nieces and nephews.

An event highlighting his life will be held with family at a later date.

If you wish to leave a personal message of condolence you can visit the family’s online register at www.valleynn.ca.
Youth Train in Trades program courses and enrolled in the through some of her high school graduate was able to fast track Hill Wineries for the summer. Internship lined up with Mission at Selkirk College and has an Training program to get a head-start on her career in the culinary arts. After attending a ‘Made for Trades’ day at Selkirk College in Grade 10, the thought of travelling and studying different cuisines around the world sounded really appealing. Hatfield is one of seven professional cook students who participated in this year’s YTT program designed to offer dual credit trades training to high school students interested in trades foundation programs.

“I’m really grateful for the financial support,” says Hatfield. “Half of my cook training classmates were part of the YTT program. It’s such a great opportunity.”

Kootenay Lake School District 8 pays for tuition, and successful applicants can choose from trades foundations programs offered locally: carpentry, electrical, fine woodworking, heavy mechanical, metal fabricator, millwright/machinist, welder, hairstyling, pipe trades, automotive service technician and professional cook training. Interested high school students are advised to apply 12 to 8 months in advance of program start dates.

Funding support and earning dual credits are not the only benefits attained from enrolling in YTT. Students like Hatfield work and learn alongside post-secondary and international graduate level students, such as the post-graduate Diploma in Culinary Management students in the cook training program.

Students from both cook programs were teamed up for the recent Top Chef competition at Selkirk College. Teams competed in real-life, high-pressure challenges. Hatfield’s group, Team Spain, took home both Best in Presentation and Best Overall accolades.

“With her internship, Zohara is also an ideal candidate to now enter the Youth Work in Trades (YWT) program and earn a $1,000 bursary after she logs 900 hours with a Red Seal tradesperson,” says SDF Trades Training Coordinator Brent Firkser.

Whole School student art show: Frog Mountain now open

Professional cook students participated in this year’s Selkirk College YTT program designed to offer dual credit trades training to high school students interested in trades foundation programs.
Holly Hyatt releases solo album Wild Heart

by Art Joyce

Holly Hyatt’s new album, Wild Heart, is a breath of fresh air and a new direction for this talented singer and bassist. Fans will already be familiar with her rich bluesy voice and her work with father and musical collaborator Jon Burden in their Holly and Jon recordings. Her vocals remind the listener of the great women blues singers, and the band’s latest album Shufflin’ the Blues dug deep into the classic blues catalogue. But this time out, Hyatt is charting her own creative path, delving deep into the glory days of Motown R&B and funk, with a little light pop thrown in.

Producer Clinton Swanson, one of the West Kootenay’s top saxophone players, produced the recording. Hyatt’s new sound relies heavily on his ability to propel her original melodies with graceful horn sections, occasionally spiced up by his tasty sax solos. Although Burden contributes some guitar, the instrument is used here primarily for texture, not as a solo instrument. He rises effortlessly to the challenge, pushing his rhythm through a wah-wah pedal to achieve a tight funk groove.

It’s nice to see Hyatt branching out into a breezy R&B feel, exploring subtle tonal shadings throughout the album. According to Burden, Hyatt recorded all of the vocals on the album, seamlessly emulating an entire backup vocal section that at times sounds like it came straight out of Motown. Anchored in deep personal ties to her home on the Slocan River, songs like the single ‘River Flows’ are a reminder that nature isn’t something outside us—it’s our lifeline. The song has the grace and flow of not only her shylic Slocan River home but distinct echoes of her musical mentors, reminiscent at times of the great Mavis Staples. ‘River Flows’ won Best Song in the R&B category of the 2019 Kootenay Music Awards.

All the songs on Wild Heart were written by Hyatt. Her lyrical abilities have clearly grown and matured, touching on her experiences as a mother, wife and artist. Rather than bewail the world’s many injustices, her need to “speak my truth” as an activist is tuned to a feelgood key, as on songs like “Create Unity.” Her vocal harmonies and choruses raise this song to anthem status. She wants us to feed the light in our souls and have fun doing it, as in songs like “Sunny Day in January” or “Get Funky.”

Hyatt and Swanson wisely opted for an organic approach to the instrumentation, and this achieved to great effect with keyboard player Brandon Smith. His use of piano, organ and Rhodes keyboard are especially effective in creating the groove. Although synthesizer is listed as one of the instruments, it’s not intrusive but blended into the mix. Unsurprisingly, Hyatt contributes rich, slinky bass lines throughout the album. It’s no wonder she chose R&B and funk for her first solo album; it’s a genre made for bass players. There’s a confidence and an assurance of her craft in Wild Heart that testifies: This is an artist who has arrived at the peak of her powers. Hyatt will perform songs from the album at the Fire Valley Concert Series in Edgewater on April 28, 8 pm; the Kisko Hotel May Days party May 17 and 18, 8 pm; Elephant Mountain Literary Festival, July 12; and Starbelly Jam July 19. To see the full tour schedule visit https://hollyhyatt.com/shows.

The album will be officially released April 26 through www.hollyhyatt.com, iTunes, Spotify and CD Baby. Local outlets include Packrat Annies (in Nelson), or you can get signed copies at Holly’s next live show.

Reconciliation talk by Nipawi to be hosted at the Whole, May 1 submitted

The Whole Perspectives Series, hosted by the Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society (RARTS), will present Nipawi Mahihkan Misit Kakinoosit speaking about ‘Reconciliation in Canada and BC’.

A young man, trained from his early days as a speaker for his people, whose knowledge, perspective and clarity is shared with humility and assurance of his craft in Wild Heart process and where we currently are in Canada today.

Please join us on Wednesday, May 1 from 7 to 9 pm for this important presentation and question and answer session at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, 3762 Little Slocan S Road, Vallican. Turn off Hwy 6 at the electric substation, cross the Passmore bridge, turn right and follow the signs to the Vallican Whole.

Please join us on Wednesday, May 1 from 7 to 9 pm for this important presentation and question and answer session at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, 3762 Little Slocan S Road, Vallican. Turn off Hwy 6 at the electric substation, cross the Passmore bridge, turn right and follow the signs to the Vallican Whole.
BC Rural Dividend grants support Central Kootenay

Under the BC Rural Dividend Program, the Government of British Columbia is providing more than $2.6 million for 17 projects in the region. These grants help fund projects that support economic development and diversification in rural communities throughout the province. Grants can be up to $300,000 for a single applicant project or up to $500,000 for partnership projects.

These include $97,359 to the Village of Kaslo to produce development and management plans for two priority areas identified in a Lands Investment Attraction project funded through the Rural Dividend; the aerodrome lands and Kaslo Bay Area. This will create opportunities for aviation and recreational tourism.

Village of Nakusp: $66,400 to develop an investment lands inventory, a community investment readiness assessment and a marketing strategy.

The Village of Slocan: $60,500 to develop a detailed design plan to support the continuation of its Harold Street North downtown improvement project. Community Futures Central Kootenay: $100,000 to hire a manager to co-ordinate operations of the Nelson Innovation Centre, including a technology business mentorship program and membership framework.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay: $1,091,324 for four projects.

- $100,000 to build a beginner lesson loon and rental/staging area at the Mount Abriel mountain bike trail as well as a 3.6-km portion of the Peak to Beach trail.
- $300,000 to build local government capacity by hiring and providing economic development training to a project coordinator and 10 interns, with emphasis on business attraction, land development and disaster resilience.
- $170,124 to address priority areas of the Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission: business and community economic development, and farm innovation.

- $321,200 to hire an economic development officer, tourism co-ordinator and project coordinator to help implement the Stronger Together Creston Valley-Kootenay Lake Economic Action Strategy, funded by a previous Rural Dividend intake.

- $32,000 to implement five key actions from the West Kootenay Destination Development Strategy, including a backcountry safety awareness campaign and environmental code of conduct for residents and visitors.

The Rural Dividend is one aspect of government’s rural development mandate, which commits to making rural communities more resilient. The Province has committed to extending the $25-million-per-year Rural Dividend to 2021-22.

SD8 invites feedback for 2019/20 budget planning

Following a 30-minute Strategic & Budget Plan presentation, participants were provided with three open-ended questions for answering: Strengths, Opportunities, Threats and Priorities for the district’s Strategic Plan and making decisions on how best to allocate resources to attain the board’s goals of learning, organizational excellence, engagement and relationship building.

Major topics that emerged from the process revealed considerable consensus around the need to continue investing in greater mental health supports and resources for inclusive education services. Also, professional development opportunities for both teachers and CUPE support workers caring for diverse needs learners in the classroom, and the importance of early education initiatives rose to the top of the agenda.

The board is now inviting the public to participate in the discussion, and to provide input into next year’s budget. Everyone is encouraged to visit the district website to learn more about the budget process at sd8.bc.ca/about/departments/finance/budget2019-2020.

In this process, every voice counts. For this online exchange, the public is being asked to provide input into how school facilities throughout the district can be improved at the facilities planning page, sd8.bc.ca/about/planning/facilities-plan.

Participate in the facilities discussion at: my.thoughtexchange.com/#537341911.

Fourth annual Volunteer Week celebration fills the hall

The Silverton Memorial Hall was the site of the fourth annual ‘Get Your Just Desserts’ volunteer recognition event. Hosted by the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society, the party honoured more than 100 deserving volunteers from up and down the Slocan Valley with tasty treats and plenty of door prizes. Attendees came from more than 40 different organizations.

On April 7, MP Richard Cannings sent a letter to all volunteers in recognition of their efforts in the community. In his letter, he commented: “The people living in this valley have always stepped up to help out. Like ‘The people living in this valley have always stepped up to help out. Like
gold, these folks are very precious, always stepped up to help out. Like
and this was reflected in both the decorations and the tributes.

MP Richard Cannings sent a letter to all volunteers in recognition of their efforts in the community. In his letter, he commented: “The people living in this valley have always stepped up to help out. Like ‘Gold Standard’ trivia quiz had the tables buzzing as guests found the answers to questions, all of which had the word gold somewhere in the answer. Funding was provided by RDCK, Area H and by the Columbia Basin Trust. Numerous local merchants and volunteers from up and down the Slocan Valley provided door prizes. Attendees came from more than 40 different organizations.

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Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program regs come to Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

In early April, representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) held public meetings throughout the Columbia region this month, and were in Nakusp on April 16. Meeting facilitator Lynne Betts explained that FWCP’s mission is to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams. Although funded by BC Hydro, and the mechanism through which BC Hydro fulfills its obligations to compensate for the dams, FWCP is separate from BC Hydro, she stressed. FWCP works with BC Hydro, the conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams. Although funded by BC Hydro, and the mechanism through which BC Hydro fulfills its obligations to compensate for the dams, FWCP is separate from BC Hydro, she stressed. FWCP works with BC Hydro, the campground are underway. Public parties involved. The project will be paid for with a $2,500 RDCK Community Development Fund grant. The presentation at the evening meeting in Nakusp included a discussion about FWCP-funded projects for 2019-20, and about the Columbia Region Action Plans – which guide funding decisions. “They [white sturgeon] were native but that was a few hours before the river for them to feed on. All they are doing is competing for the sport fish,” a fisherman said. A young fisherman, and said he had been releasing white sturgeon in school for seven years. “Only one has been caught. I don’t think they are going to come back,” he said. Marketing Director, was hired to lead FWCP’s fundraising efforts in 2019-20. More few suggestions for FWCP were offered by Wayne McCrory, Registered Professional Biologist and Valhalla Wilderness Society Director. He asked for scientific research to be done to determine the cause of the kokanee collapse in the Lardeau River, and the impacts of the collapse on grizzly bear and other wildlife. “There have been put out there but I have yet to see a scientific explanation (and for the Meadow Creek) for the Upper Arrow than just the one at Hill Creek. “How do we get back what we lost if we don’t move more spawning channels?” Community Development Fund grant.

Slocan council, April 8:

Wellness Centre Grounds Concept Plan underway

by Jan McMurray

• Eric Clough was hired to complete the Wellness Centre Grounds Concept Plan, with input from all parties involved. The project will be paid for with a $2,500 RDCK Community Development Fund grant.

• Health Committee representatives from the Village of New Denver and Slocan District Chamber of Commerce presented the committee’s mandate, accomplishments, opportunities and mandates.

• Presentations for opening the campground are underway. Public meetings to replace the plexiglass will continue to operate the Waneta Basin Trust for approximately $1,000 from the RDCK Community Development Fund. A letter will be sent to Fire Chief John Gates, congratulating him for his 15 years of service.

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• Council provided a $100 grant from the RDCK Discretionary Fund to the Fish Derby organized by the fire department, first responders and Technical Society.

• In response to a letter from Summit Lake resident Debbie Pitotudsche, the Village of Slocan will write a letter to the Village of Nakusp in support of Summit Lake Western Turtles ($1,000); Sqx: Dana Halilic - Anti-Bullying Movement Program ($1,250); Slocan Valley School Food Program ($2,500); Slocan Valley Community Band ($1,250); Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society - vegetation management ($5,150); Slocan School Society - kitchen stove and PA system ($2,000); Silverton Community Club - pyrotechnics licences ($300); Slocan Community Library - library and collection development ($2,500); Slocan District Chamber of Commerce - Chamber welcome baskets ($100); Silverton Golf Club – upgrades ($1,000); Slocan Seniors Society - Anti-Bullying Movement Program ($1,250); Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society - seniors outreach programs ($2,382); Village of Slocan - Slocan Fitness Centre upgrade ($2,201); WE Graham Community Service Society - Farm to Kitchen Intergenerational Cooking ($4,000) and After School Program Van Service ($6,400); Horse Association Central Kootenay - Youth Polish Shine Show and Horse Activities ($250); Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital Health Foundation - Surgical Services Project ($500); Nelson Cares - Stepping Stones Kitchen ($500); Nelson Civic Theatre Society - building and branding kootenayfilm.com ($125); Rossland Gold Fever Follies - The Big Boom Theory Traveling Show Mentoring Program ($500).

Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Society assists with private final arrangements

submitted

When a loved one dies, it can be an overwhelming event for those left behind. At this stressful time, many people choose to use a commercial funeral company to deal with burial or cremation. However, there is an alternative option in BC where a family or an individual can make their own private final arrangements. This allows family or friends to maintain control over how they wish to say goodbye to the deceased. The Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Society was formed in New Denver to provide information about various types of final arrangements for those who would prefer to do it themselves. Please note that the society does not provide funeral services.

On the website www.carpentercreeklastwishesociety.ca, you will find a wealth of information about the tasks required when someone dies. You can download and print off the documents required at the time of death. There are links to sites with instructions on how to build your own coffin and the society can help locate a local builder. Contact numbers to call are listed if you require more support in understanding the procedures.

The AGM for the Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Society is scheduled for May 7, 2019 at the Silverton Gallery at 7 pm. All are welcome to come to the meeting, if you have questions or would like to know more.

ANNUAL SPRING FLING, Sunday May 5th 10 am – 2 pm. Rain or Shine! - The Winlaw PAC

Congratulations Mark Holland, winner of the Winlaw Elementary Fall 50/50 Draw!

Thank you to all the families and community members that bought tickets in support.

Don't miss our next fundraising event - ANNUAL SPRING FLING, Sunday May 5th 10 am – 2 pm. Rain or Shine! - The Winlaw PAC

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Kootenay Outdoor Producer Co-op holds 4/20 public meeting in Nelson

By Jane Barton

Fifty people were present at the Rod and Gun Club in Nelson on Saturday afternoon for the latest update from the Kootenay Outdoor Producer Co-op. The co-op held its founding meeting last October on the day that cannabis became legal in Canada and with the same sense of irony, their spring 2019 update was held on 4/20.

Co-op President Todd Veri began by introducing the other members of the board of directors: Vice President Kristin Williams, Secretary Andrew Greene and Directors Carrie Nichols and Laurie MacDonald. Veri then outlined what work has been done to set up the co-op, the current status of farm licenses and the 2019 crop, the microbial problem, and plans for extract and edible production.

Veri reflected back to a year ago when their work involved studying the proposed regulations and legislation and trying to determine how an outdoor growing model would fit into the legalized cannabis industry. The co-op has had to adapt its plans to fit Health Canada’s application and licensing process and the directors have been working diligently to get licenses in place. They have recently submitted applications for a nursery, eight Estate Community Farms and eight Craft Community Farms. An Estate Community Farm is a minimum of 15 acres with 4.5-6 acres fenced to contain one estate garden and 6-12 craft gardens. A Craft Community Farm is a minimum of 6 acres with 2-3 acres fenced containing 8-12 craft gardens. A craft garden would be approximately 1/4 acre in size, an estate garden approximately 3 acres.

An unexpected hurdle for the co-op was not being able to find a local credit union or bank that would let them open an account. In the end, in January, they opened an account with Alterna Bank, an online subsidiary of the Ontario based Alterna Savings Credit Union.

The lack of a bank account meant a delay in processing license applications; Health Canada requires payment up front before it will work on a file. Thus the nursery application, submitted in mid-December, was held up. It has passed two of the vetting stages, but is still not approved.

Work to prepare the nursery has been ongoing for five months. Unfortunately, the nursery stock that had been lined up had to be let go, with penalty, due to the lack of approval. The co-op has a supply of seeds that they had been tutored several years more. They now have available a supply to grow for the coming year.

To the best of their knowledge no other outdoor growers have been approved. Veri likened the process to applying for a liquor licence for a restaurant – “sometimes it can take years.”

Another issue dominating the work of the co-op board is how to deal with Health Canada’s zero tolerance for microbial contamination. The solution currently in use is irradiation and Veri stated that all licensed operators are proceeding with this at the time. This co-op wants to produce organic cannabis, so other solutions must be found that do not compromise the organic status or affect the product’s quality.

Health Canada is currently developing regulations in preparation for the October 17, 2019 legalization of cannabis edibles, beverages, and extracts. The co-op wants to be part of this value-added segment of the industry and will be seeking expressions of interest from local specialists in these areas. They will then be in a position to ask co-op members to be involved in selling the companies, and will create a manufacturing division similar to the farm structure for crop production.

Undeterred by the hiccups along the way, the painfully slow licensing process which now appears to be backlogged by at least a month, the dreams and plans are still big for the Kootenay Outdoor Producer Co-op. There is interest in the Kootenay product from all over the world, according to Veri. His enthusiasm does not appear to be dampened by the promise of no crop this year.

There have been growing pains for the co-op and the government but progress, though slow, is being made.

Federal changes needed for BC craft cannabis to survive legalization: consultation report

Without a significant change in approach by the federal government, British Columbia’s globally recognized craft cannabis sector will not survive legalization. This is the key conclusion of a discussion paper released today by Grow Tech Labs that captures the results of a just-completed province-wide consultation to establish a co-operative of small BC Cannabis Producers and Processors. Consultation meetings were held in Nelson’s largest craft cannabis market.

“Everyone agrees the inclusion of small cannabis producers is vital to the success of the legalization process but barely a handful have survived the application process,” says Barinder Rasode, CEO of Grow Tech Labs. “This needs to change on the co-operative front as the market requires craft cannabis advantage. Without federal leadership, we are just blowing smoke when it comes to establishing a diverse marketplace and supporting the economies of BC rural communities.”

The discussion paper, “Establishing a Craft Cannabis Co-op for BC Producers, Processors and Retailers” notes there have been only “a trickle of applications” from the 5,000-6,000 small medical producers in BC, discouraged by very low production contracts, significant up-front investment requirements, consulting fees, non-specific criteria, lack of municipal engagement and financing options. The report includes recommendations for the federal and provincial governments.

In addition to identifying these advocacy priorities for discussion, the consultation includes a governance framework and next steps to incorporate a craft cannabis co-op that delivers a sustainable alternative to the black market and maintains BC’s position as an international marketplace leader and ensures medical and recreational consumers across Canada and the globe have access to the highest quality BC cannabis possible.

A series of regional meetings will be announced later this month to review these proposals and the draft articles of incorporation for the co-op for small producers, processors and independent retailers.

In February 2019, Grow Tech Labs and the Co-operative Association invited British Columbians to participate in a consultation process to review the concept, learn more about co-ops, provide feedback and answer questions. Over six weeks, 10 community meetings were organized with hundreds of sector leaders attending and providing feedback online.

To receive information, contact http://www.hcsccp.com/news. All comments, feedback and questions are confidential. You are not required to disclose your address or pay any fees to be involved in the co-op’s development phase.
School strike for climate change set for May 3 in Nelson

submitted

On Friday, March 1, students in Nelson conducted their second school strike for the climate in front of Nelson City Hall. Millions of students all over the world are striking as a way to demand action. The first strike in Nelson, on March 15, had a turnout of over 200 students. Youth planners expect even more this time. “We are asking that everything repairs to the boardwalk, the closure happened earlier this month. The RDCK asks users to respect the signs and stay off the boardwalk portion of the trail until further notice.

This section of Galena Trail can still be used by walkers and riders as an out-and-back. The lower trail from Denver Siding to Rosebery is fully open and trail users are encouraged to use this section, as well as the numerous other trails in New Denver and surrounding area.

Until the bridge is rebuilt, walkers and riders won’t be able to shuttle up to the Three Forts trailhead from New Denver and then hike or ride down the Galena trail back to the Denver Siding trailhead. Many riders use Galena as a gateway trail from New Denver to the unsanctioned Idaho Peaks trails and this too won’t be possible. However, the Three Forks trailhead can be used to access the unsanctioned Idaho Peaks trails, as well as for access to the K&S Trail to Sandon and Payne Bluffs.

A marked map of the location of the closure can be found on the RDCK website: rdkc.ca/assets/Services/Parks/Documents/2019-03-22%20GAT%20Boardwalk%20Trail%20Closure.pdf

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The Valley Voice April 25, 2019

Columbia Basin. Deadline for proposals: May 31, 2019. Criteria: Originality, durability, quality and aesthetic appeal. Submitting artists must include: Name, address, phone number, email, website (if you have one), a one-page Artist statement and/or Bio. Images, photos or jpeg, of 3 prior sculptural works. Proposed sculpture info: Title, medium, height, width, depth. Drawings of proposed sculpture. Estimated cost of sculpture. Please and Proposals to: Village of Nakusp, Attention: Public Art Committee. Box 280, Nakusp BC V0G 1R0 or tzeleznik@nakusp.com

COMING EVENTS

ARROW SLOCAN TOURISM ASSOCIATION AGM: April 25, TONIGHT! At Bosun Hall, New Denver, 7 pm. Please come to this new association’s inaugural AGM! Please was formed for tourism marketing of the Arrow Lakes and Slocan Valleys. Guest speaker: Andrea Ryan of Destination Castlegar will talk about Castlegar’s experience with tourism marketing organization. Refreshments, sweet and savoury goodies. All welcome!

Business Classifieds start at $10.00. Call 250-358-7218 for details

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUDDY’S PIZZA, KASLO: Award winning, hand-stretched artisan pizza. 250-353-2282.

KASLO HUNTING SOCIETY Housing Coordinator, assisting residents of Kaslo and Area D with affordable housing. Office hours: Tuesday-1:30 - Wednesday & Thursday 9:12 or by appointment. #23 The Langham, Kaslo. 250-353-8565. Funding

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COMING EVENTS
HILLS & TOWNS RECREATION SOCIETY Annual General Meeting Sunday, April 28, 3 pm, Hills Community Hall. Annual membership fee per household is only $5.

DIGITAL LEARNING DROP-IN: Tuesdays, March 19-May 7, 9-11 am, Slocan Learning Centre. Get free help with your digital devices (tablets, cell phones and laptops). Class aligns with bus schedule. For info contact Sayre Knight, 250-226-6949, sknight@cbal.org

SAYRE BAND INC 5-piece band: The Donado Hoedown and live caller. April 27, 6-9:30 pm at the Bosun Hall in New Denver. Beginners are welcome. Call 358-7158 for information.

SLOCAN VALLEY THREADS Guild annual Yard & Yarnage event Sunday, April 28 from 10 to 2, Highway 3 at Perry’s Bridge Road. Free admission to food, fabric, plants, yarn, craft supplies & members’ display. Call Lynnda 355-2267 for information.

Café Langham presents DEAD CROW: PROLOGUE film & discussion Friday, April 26, 7 pm. Local author and performance artist Sean Arthur Joyce premiers a film of his performance poetry event, while Mark Mealing explores the Trickster theme in global culture. $10 Donation at door; www.thelangham.ca

THE LANGHAM presents FREYA FRIDAY May 5, 7 pm. The captivating New Denver musical duo of guitar virtuoso Noel Fudge & concerned virtuoso violinist Martine denbak produces beautiful, lush and intricate original music. $15 Willow and Sunnyvale. www.thelangham.ca

CARPENTER CREEK LAST WISHES Society Board of Directors welcomes all to attend our Annual General Meeting. Tuesday, May 7, 19 at 7 pm at Knox Hall. Questions? Call 257-773-1974 Shawn Swan.

MOTHER’S DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST: May 12, Slocan Park Hall. 9:30 am-noon. $10 adult/$5/12 and under. Plants for sale. Passmore Seniors’ raffle, kids’ bounce house and more. Call Lynnda 355-2267 for information.


COMING EVENTS
WEEKEND

HOURS

Gaia Tree Whole Foods

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• All Organic Grains
• Bulk Ordering – Community Discount Day
Last Friday of the month
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CLASSIFIED ADS

COMMUNITY COFFEE HOUSE. 7:30 pm Saturday May 4, Silverstream Gallery. An enjoyable line-up of mini-performances and music to entertain, with MC Matthew Fry. Refreshments available. Admission by donation. Proceeds to local Arts Council.


WHOLE PERSPECTIVES SERIES: ‘Reconciliation in Canada and BC’ with Nipewai Mahathak Must Kainoosiken, of the Young Wolves Warrior Society - Cree Nation, Wednesday, May 1, 7-9 pm, Vatican Whole Community Centre. Cross bridge at Passmore and follow them.

SCHOOL SPRING MARKET FUNDRAISER! Saturday, May 11, 10-3 pm at the Whole School! Festive plant sale, kids activities and crafts, traditional Mexican concession, live music, local vendors, chair massage. Adult admission $2 (kids 12 and under free). Call 250-226-7731 for info.

Vendors, & chair massage.

WHOLE SCHOOL SPRING MARKET
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RDCK board, April 11: Recycle BC depots to phase in starting this summer

**by Jan McMurray**

- The Recycle BC agreement for recycling services in the RDCK was presented to the board and approved for signing. The 12 core depots and additional satellite depots will be installed in six or seven phases over the course of the year, beginning in July or August. The first four core depots will be located at the Ootischenia Landfill, Crescent Valley Hall, Nelson Lakeside, and Town of Creston.

**RDCK board declares climate action imperative submitted**

At its April 11 meeting, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) board of directors joined municipalities across Canada and around the world in formally recognizing the global and local state of climate crisis. The board declared an imperative for all orders of government to undertake changes to building construction, energy systems, land use, and transportation, and explore opportunities to address the reality of the crisis. The motion was brought forward by Leah Main, Director for Village of Silverton and Chair of the Community by Leah Main, Director for Village of Silverton and Chair of the Community for Sustainable Living Advisory Committee (CSLAC).

“This resolution stands as a political statement that recognizes the serious intensity and unpredictability of weather related events (fire, flood, landslides and drought) afflicting residents and communities, agricultural production, recreation; heat, smoke and stress related illnesses; change of landscape and biological diversity; and threatened water quality through loss of source water.”

In response to climate change, the RDCK has several commitments underway that consider mitigation and adaptation strategies for climate change. These initiatives include: and 100% Renewable Kootenays by 2050, led by the West Kootenay Eco-Society; Regional Watershed Governance Initiative Scoping study seeking to investigate the RDCK’s role in watershed governance and; Regional flood and hazard assessment project that will identify the risk of flood-related disasters. For more information about the RDCK’s response to climate change, visit the Sustainability section at rdck.ca/EN/main/services/sustainability-environmental-initiatives.html.

**New West Kootenay Transit Plan in the works**

**by Jan McMurray**

The West Kootenay Transit Plan is being revamped. Stakeholder workshops were held in six communities April 8-12, and public meetings are being organized for June. The plan will be finalized in October. A transit plan is a three- to five-year plan; “where we take a good look at what we’ve already done, create opportunities to do better, and quantify the results.”

**The physical loss of infrastructure like homes, roads and services is devastating, and the cost of repairing communities and lives is significant.**

RDCK staff will review previous plans related to climate change and adaptability—the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP - 2010) and the Strategic Community Energy and Emissions Plan (SCEEP - 2016)—and will identify where opportunities exist to build on what is already being done. In the RDCK, the impacts of climate change include an increasing intensity and unpredictability of weather related events (fire, flood, landslides and drought) afflicting residents and communities, agricultural production, recreation; heat, smoke and stress related illnesses; change of landscape and biological diversity; and threatened water quality through loss of source water.

**The Slocan Fire Department will be getting a slightly used fire engine to replace its old one.** The 2010 E-One International pumper will be purchased from the US and will cost about $260,000 (Canadian) including shipping. A new fire engine costs approximately $300,000 in Canada. As fire engines have a certifiable life span of 25 years, a new engine would cost about $20,000 per year. Staff has been looking for more cost efficient options and has found equipment from the US for Beailey, Blevett, Ootischenia and Robson. The slightly used Slocan pumper will have an operational lifespan of up to 17 years.
Café Langham presents Dead Crow: Prologue, a film and discussion Friday April 26 at 7 pm.

Local author and performer Sean Arthur Joyce premieres a film of his performance poetry event Dead Crow: Prologue and reveals the literary influences that went into his book-length series of narrative poems.

A cross between the Haida Raven creator-trickster and the Celtic Morrigan crow-goddess, Dead Crow is a demigod with a bad attitude. Tens of thousands of years old, exiled to Earth for the sin of pride, he’s decided, for the first time, to share his story with humanity.

Local author and performer Sean Arthur Joyce premieres a film of his performance poetry event Dead Crow: Prologue at the Langham, April 26.

Special guest Mark Mealing will present ‘The Trickster in World Mythology,’ exploring how this archetypal theme reoccurs in various guises in cultures all over the world. Suggested donation $10 at the door.

Frey at The Langham May 3

Named after the Norse goddess of love, beauty and fertility, Freya is a musical duo that intertwines guitar virtuoso Noel Fudge with concertmaster violinist Martine denBok, producing lush, intricate original soundscapes that evoke the essence of the goddess herself. Fudge wows audiences with his masterful combination of fingerpicking, strumming, and percussive techniques, while classically-trained denBok grounds the music with warm, sensuous tones and melodic characters. The result is an unmistakably unique sound that is fresh, playful and timeless and that pulls at your heart strings.

The Langham is thrilled to welcome Freya back! Tickets are $15, available at Willow and Sunnyside in Kaslo. www.thelangham.ca.


INTERESTED IN SAVING ENERGY AND MONEY?
The RDCK is committed to helping residents save energy with the new Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP).

Discover how energy saving programs can help renters, homeowners or those looking to build a new home. Learn about free installation of energy and water efficient products, how to get money back on energy upgrades, financing options and meet local contractors.

FREE Information Events 6-8pm
Presentations at 6:30pm, Door Prizes & Refreshments
April 16 - Castlegar, Castlegar & District Community Complex
April 23 - Slocan, Slocan Legion Branch 276
April 24 - Silverton & New Denver, Silverton Memorial Hall
April 25 - Salmo, Salmo Valley Youth & Community Centre
April 30 - Nelson, Prestige Lakeside Resort
May 1 - Nakusp, Nakusp & District Sports Complex
May 2 - Creston, Creston & District Community Complex
May 6 - Kaslo, Kaslo Branch 74 Royal Canadian Legion

*In June, similar community events to be offered in the rural areas of Harrop, Yahk, East Shore, and Larder Lake Valley.