Desautel Sinixt hunting case wins second appeal

by Jan McMurray

The landmark Rick Desautel Sinixt hunting case decision has survived its second appeal by the Province of BC.

The Province’s latest appeal was dismissed on May 2 in the BC Court of Appeal in Vancouver by Justice D. Smith, Justice Willcock and Justice Frich. They found that Desautel, a member of the Lakes Tribe (descended from the Sinixt) living on the Colville reservation in Washington State, “has an aboriginal right to hunt elk in the Sinixt’s traditional hunting territory in British Columbia.”

Desautel’s lawyer, Mark Underhill, said the decision is significant on two counts. First, “it’s one of the strongest judgments from our Court of Appeal on the need to take into account the aboriginal perspective when considering these aboriginal rights questions, and a strong affirmation that the fundamental purpose of Section 35 of the Charter is reconciliation with First Nations,” he said.

The second reason the decision is significant is “because it continues to affirm the existence of the Sinixt and I can’t overstate how significant that is for Rick and thousands of Sinixt descendants on both sides of the border. We were fighting about the very existence of a First Nation and that lack of recognition over many generations is now taking a toll on the psyche of all Sinixt descendants. To have the Court of Appeal confirm they are indeed aboriginal people of Canada is such a significant step for all Sinixt people.”

In an interview, Desautel said, “Now that I’ve won the court case, the first appeal and the second appeal, and there are five judges behind me, I feel it’s a pretty rock solid case. If the Province wants to appeal it again, I say bring it on.”

Only one more appeal is possible, to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Province has 60 days to ask the court’s permission to file this final appeal.

“I would hope that the Province would look carefully at these reasons and focus on the court’s principle of reconciliation, and think about pursuing that avenue as opposed to more litigation,” Underhill said.

“If there’s no appeal, it becomes the law of the land,” Desautel said. “We’re on the edge of our seats until the beginning of July to see if they’ll appeal. We might just be celebrating two different Independence Days down here on July 4.”

Starting in 2008, Desautel purposely tried a few times to get arrested for hunting in Canada. His goal was to go to court in order to get recognition for his people in Canada, a country that declared them extinct in 1956. He was finally charged in 2010 with hunting in the Castlegar area without a licence, and hunting big game as a non-resident. He was acquitted of the charges on March 27, 2017 in the Nelson court.

He was also charged in 2010 with exercising his aboriginal right to hunt in traditional Sinixt territory in BC. Desautel has just won a second appeal lodged by the province of BC.

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Fate of Jewett School discussed at SD8 board meeting

by Jan McMurray

Much to the surprise of Meadow Creek community members, the future of Jewett School was on the agenda of the April 23 School District 8 board meeting.

The meeting agenda package included a report outlining the pros and cons of keeping Jewett School open, and the pros and cons of moving students to JV Humphries in Kaslo or Homelinks. The resolution the board was asked to consider was: “That in the event that the main teacher position at Jewett Elementary is not filled for 2019-20, that students from the Jewett catchment receive educational services at JV Humphries or via Homelinks at parent discretion in school year 2019-20 and moving forward.”

The school has four students this year, and the teacher will be transferring to JV Humphries in the fall. The report indicates that all the other staff at the school – the educational assistant/custodian and secretary – would also be either retiring or working in Kaslo or Nelson instead, and states that it is very difficult to fill positions at the school.

In the end, the resolution didn’t go anywhere because as Trustee Beebe pointed out, the resolution was unnecessary. She said the board had met with parents, staff, and the Jewett School community as part of the Facilities Plan process. “They know they can go to JVH, Homelinks and DESK. All kids in SD8 can go to another school. I don’t think we need to have this to put any spins out there. It’s already fulfilled in our policies.”

However, there was much discussion before the resolution died.

One parent, Greg Underwood, attended and let the board know that the community felt blindsided when they found out about the agenda item just a few days before the meeting. “We have been trying to keep the school open for years now – this is not the way to go about closing it,” he said. Underwood was concerned that there were several inaccuracies in the report, and said the community was upset to see that the teacher position at Jewett for 2019-20 was given only a two-week posting.

Superintendent Perkins explained that this was not a decision to close the school, but “an educational consideration at this time.” There is a lengthy process to close a school, she said, adding that the minister can close a school when there are fewer than eight students.

Perkins also said that it is “perfectly normal” to have two-week teacher postings at this time of year, which is the busiest season for hiring teachers. She said they would probably extend the posting for two more weeks and then keep it open all summer.

“This resolution is just about offering options to parents should we get to early September without a teacher,” she said. “It’s important we have the conversation regarding education at Jewett. We really don’t want it to be last minute.”

Deanna Holitzki, Director of Human Resources at SD8, explained that if no teacher is hired by the end of September, they would put the vacancy out to teachers on call. She said they are able to offer jobs of up to 20 days to teachers on call, and would potentially be able to cover 40 days at Jewett this way. Meanwhile, the permanent position would still be posted.

Jewett School has been under consideration for closure since May 2016. In July 2016, after the Province announced Rural Education Enhancement Fund (REEF) funding for the school, the board decided to defer closure of the school until the REEF funding ceases, and to continue to explore options for diverting the school building while maintaining a public school program in the community. Dawn Lang, trustee for Jewett School, made the motion at the July 5, 2016 board meeting, and spoke about how the motion travelled through the discussion with the community…”

However, there has been very little discussion with the community about divesting the school building while maintaining a public school program in the community since then. When asked about this at the April 23 board meeting, Superintendent Perkins indicated that the discussions would take place according to district policy. She said the Facilities Plan process is underway, and is expected to be finalized in December 2019 or January 2020, with community meetings to be scheduled for this fall. The district is waiting to receive a report on demographics that they’ve commissioned from Barragar Systems before going back to the communities.

Secretary/treasurer Michael McLellan reported that he was able to get an increase in REEF funding for Jewett this year of $50,000 instead of about $47,000 – and the school breaks even on its operating costs with this boost. “So the impact of Jewett closing is negligible financially. It’s an educational decision,” he said.

Come to the Dark Water Dragons’ Launch & Dryland Training, May 15th at 11:00 am at the New Denver Marina. Experience what Dragon Boating is all about!

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www.darkwaterdragons.com

Luanne Armstrong

Langham Theatre, Kaslo BC
Monday May 20 7 PM

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New vessel and terminal upgrades on deck for Balfour-Kootenay Bay ferry route

It will be used during the winter off-peak season, and will relieve the MV Osprey 2000 for a major mid-life refit in 2023.

Upgrades will also be made to the Balfour and Kootenay Bay terminals, including new washrooms, sheltered waiting areas, public parking spaces, electric vehicle charging stations, expanded greenspaces, and better terminal access for drivers along both Highway 31 and Highway 3A.

Beginning in fall 2019, three shallow areas in the west arm of Kootenay Lake will be dredged to ensure the navigational safety of the ferry service. While the dredging will be minor in scale, the Province continues to be committed to completing this work in compliance with all applicable environmental regulations and with minimal impact on the environment and habitat.

The Government of Canada is contributing up to $17,176,667 to this project through the New Building Canada Plan. The Government of BC is providing up to $37,515,720.

The new electric-ready vessel supports the BC government’s CleanBC plan to achieve full electrification of the inland ferry fleet by 2040. CleanBC puts the province on the path to a stronger, better future by reducing climate pollution – including using cleaner energy in transportation and other sectors – to protect its clean air, land and water.

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May 9, 2019 The Valley Voice

Nakusp Secondary wins BC School Sports Outstanding School Award

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp Secondary School has been given the great honour of winning the BC School Sports Outstanding School Award for the 2018-19 school year.

Principal Peter Gajda made this wonderful announcement at the school assembly on April 30, and unfurled the gold and royal blue Outstanding School Award Banner with SD10 Director of Learning Lorna Newman. The perpetual award is a large plaque, on display in the BC School Sports office.

Before making the announcement, Gajda had all students who play on sports teams stand up – and there were a lot of them.

“At Saturday’s AGM, Nakusp Secondary School was recognized by BC School Sports as an outstanding school in the province in athletics,” he said. “We’re pretty outstanding as a school.”

Judging by the applause and cheers from the students and staff, there was no argument with Gajda’s statement.

Gajda told the Valley Voice that in nominating the school, he provided all kinds of information such as the number of teams, number of students on teams, the distance travelled to go to tournaments, and the level of staff and community involvement in coaching.

“We have hosted tournaments and provincials, too,” Gajda said. “More than one NSS team goes to the provincials every year, and that’s been happening for a long time.”

Gajda recognized Jarrett Bass, this year’s athletic director, and past athletic directors Ryan Willman and Rod Morrison for building the sports programs at the school.

Executive Flight Centre wins right to appeal, gets another chance to escape charges

by Jan McMurray

The charges against Executive Flight Centre in the Lemon Creek fuel spill case just don’t seem to stick. They were stayed at trial, then re instituted on appeal. Now, the company has won the right to appeal the decision to reinstitute the charges.

Justice Goepel made the decision to grant EFC leave to appeal on April 24 in the BC Court of Appeal in Vancouver.

“I am not surprised, but I am disappointed,” said Marilyn Burgoon, Slocan Valley resident who initiated the case against EFC in a private prosecution in September 2014. She says she will be seeking intervenor status in the appeal.

Burgoon’s lawyer, Lilina Lysenko, is not surprised with Justice Goepel’s decision either, because she says this case is “of great importance and is a new and important legal issue.”

The important legal issue at hand is how the Supreme Court decision known as Jordan applies to private prosecutions – “...the present proceeding appears to be the only case in Canada that has considered the matter,” states Justice Goepel’s reasons for judgment.

The Jordan decision set the maximum time period for cases such as this one to 18 months from the date charges are laid to the end of the trial.

EFC argues that the company was charged in September 2014 in Burgoon’s private prosecution and the trial was scheduled to conclude on November 30, 2017 – a delay of 38 months.

The federal Crown, who took over the case in January 2016 and stayed the charges Burgoon had laid – and then laid its own charges on November 30, 2017 – a delay of the trial was scheduled to conclude as this one to 18 months from the date charges are laid to the end of the trial.

As this one to 18 months from the date charges are laid to the end of the trial.

As the reasons for judgment document.

The idea behind Jordan is that an unreasonably long trial can create undue suffering to the accused. One of the issues addressed by the Jordan decision is undue suffering of the accused caused by an unreasonably long trial.

How Jordan relates to private prosecutions has never been considered before, therefore it’s an important case.

What about the crux of the matter, which is if EFC should take some responsibility for the fuel spill?

The purpose of the Outstanding School Award is “to recognize a school whose special commitment to improving the lives of its students and staff through athletics, intramurals, leadership and public service has contributed significantly to the welfare of school athletics in its local community and within the province.”

The BC School Sports Award was not the only good news at the assembly. Harvey and Cheryl Truxx of the Royal Canadian Legion handed out awards to many students who entered the Remembrance Day Poster and Literary Contests, and Gajda recognized 90 out of 120 students (75%) who made the honour roll.

“At the start of the year, I challenged you all to be more than ordinary, so thank you all for taking that challenge and being more than ordinary,” he said.

Grade 12 students Maya and Kylie gave a presentation about Fair Trade at the assembly. May is Fair Trade Month, and Nakusp is a certified Fair Trade Town. It was the first Fair Trade Town in BC and the fourth in Canada. Maya and Kylie are looking for other students to take on the cause after they graduate.

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From all of us at...
Jody Wilson-Raybould

With respect to the cartoon in the April 11 edition of the Valley Voice debating which action was more ‘wrong and unconscionable,’ those of the Trudeau government or those of Jody Wilson-Raybould, I feel compelled to say that I find those of Ms. Wilson-Raybould more ‘wrong and unconscionable.’ To tape someone who is conducting a professional conversation with you in the line of his or her responsibilities, without their knowledge, is the greater wrong.

As is evident in your cartoon, others think differently.

Camille Baker

Coming this fall – a major job opportunity

This fall, the call will come for the opportunity to run the business of the nation. There will be at least four major companies making a pitch for that job. We know them as ‘political parties.’ When contracting any company, it’s important that ‘deliverables’ are not just vague promises, but are supported with timelines and measurable outcomes.

In the context of climate change, we have so far seen only vague promises along with increasing GHG emissions. We are all part of the electorate that will help decide which company to hire for the job and for my part, I am looking for one with a sound, measurable climate policy. I also understand there are influential lobby groups that want to maintain an unsustainable economy in order to squeeze out that last bit of profit before it’s too late. Myopia is not a good stance.

Ron Robinson

Sinixt not included in Columbia River Treaty talks

A news article recently appeared in the Arrow Lakes News titled ‘Indigenous inclusion in the Columbia River Treaty talks.’

Chrstia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the federal government, expressed praise for the indigenous people for their contribution as observers to the talks. She named the Secwepemc (Shuswap), the Ktunaxa Nation (from Cranbrook) and the Okanagan Nation as participants, none of which have lived on the Columbia River. The Sinixt Nation or Arrow Lakes people have dwelled on the Columbia for 10,000 years but were sadly not included in any discussions.

This is a gross oversight by the federal government and not entirely unexpected because in Okawa they have no idea about the history of the Columbia River!

I suggest that the federal and provincial governments do their due diligence in understanding who actually lived here. Not the Secwepemc, the Ktunaxa, or the Okanaganas. It is the Sinixt Nation that should be consulted.

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Minisation: the fight to protect BC’s mountain caribou

You may have heard in the news about a draft agreement on protecting BC’s endangered mountain caribou. Unsurprisingly, there are those who are against for the sake of continued discussion!

Caribou across the province continue to be displaced from their critical habitat as our human footprint grows unabated. BC’s iconic mountain caribou are at risk of completely disappearing. Just this past winter in the Kootenays we suffered the loss of two caribou herds. If caribou are to survive in BC, well-researched action plans – like those proposed in the Draft Partnership Agreement between BC, Canada, West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations – are a first step to getting us back on track.

The future of caribou in BC is in your hands. The province needs your input on this pressing issue. Visit wildsing.ca for more information.

For the Wild.

John Bergenske Conservation Director, Wildsing

Insurmountable facts

More than 95% of Americans now use cell phones. Twenty years has now elapsed since a significant portion of Americans started using cell phones. But according to statistics meticulously recorded by the American Cancer Society, the overall cancer rate per 100,000 individuals has seen a slow but steady decline since the mid 1990s – including cases of the “brain and other nervous system” which has fallen from a high of 7.1 per 100,000 persons in 1990 to a 2011-2015 average of 5.6 per 100,000. The decline in cancer cases over the same period is significantly higher than comparable declines in other forms of cancer.

The ACS acknowledges that further land closures may be a part of the solution – as demonstrated in past trials – but suggests an integrated approach to recovery. Recovery efforts must be informed by local experts’ knowledge and be based on the suitability and capability of the land. Our goal is to develop a long-term solution with the province, that focuses on both caribou and communities. This requires a balance between habitat preservation alone is not enough. We must work together to find solutions that benefit both caribou and people.

The future of caribou in BC is in our hands.

Rory Lindsay

Community partners for caribou recovery of the Central Kootenay LPU, Central Selkirks Nakusp and Duncan herd

Following the Community Engagement Session on Caribou hosted in Nakusp on April 17, 2019 the Arrow Lakes Caribou Society met to discuss the ways the community can be a part of the solution to caribou recovery efforts for the Central Selkirks, Nakusp and Duncan herd.

The Draft Section 11 Agreement demonstrates an effort from British Columbia and Canada to secure a provincially-based platform for the development and implementation of caribou recovery plans. This document is a broad framework, and in many areas it is vague – as specific measures have not been developed yet. This has prompted discussion and uncovered many perspectives on the subject of caribou recovery. It is integral that all viewpoints are heard by government through the consultation process. Everybody

Sounds simple enough. You think a forest is just a whole bunch of trees all competing for sunlight and water, dog-eat-dog style? If I’m not mistaken, it is an intricate symbiotic ecosystem. Trees, water, soil, sunlight – all working together in harmony and ecology. Economy is how people manage their resources and interact; ecology is about natural systems. And ecosystems: “a biological community of interacting organisms.”

A forest is a community of interacting organisms. In a biological community everything is recycled: the waste of one species is food for another. We humans are part of the earth’s ecosystems. We breed cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens. We grow grains, soy, corn, canola. But we dump our waste in the ground, in rivers, lakes, and oceans, pretending to recycle.

In the past 100 years, we have spewed billions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, both carbon dioxide and methane. These gases trap heat and warm oceans, melt glaciers and polar ice caps, and change the climate. In fact, the situation is so dire that scientists are looking for ways to capture carbon dioxide, a difficult and expensive undertaking.

Well, duh! Trees have been doing that for millions of years! Expensive! Hell no! It’s horribly profitable. Trees suck up water from the ground and capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere with chlorophyll. With this source, carbon dioxide and water are transmogrified into sugar and oxygen.

Yes, of course! Now there’s a win-win situation.

Before the internal combustion engine and the feller-buncher, there were even more trees left to offset our farts, the burps of cattle, and the carbon dioxide of wood smoke. But mining coal, drilling for oil and bitumen, and fracking for LNG releases clouds of methane. Burning the stuff releases even bigger clouds of carbon dioxide. And when we need them most, we’re cutting down trees as fast as we can. Who said humans are the smartest creatures on earth?

Elie de Boer Faugier

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LETTERS

continued from page 4 than this spoiled brat Justin. He may have been a promising young man, but as the saying goes: Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

He may as well reaply for his drama teaching job so that he has a place there after the election next Oct. After all, he has three years of practice playing the role of PM, much like Ronald Reagan played his role as president of the USA – both much to the chagrin of earnest thinking people. All his faux pas strung together would make a pretty good comedy. We then at least could laugh rather than cry about that good looking actor who thinks he can play politics ad lib, shooting from the hip, failing invariably.

Richard Eichenauer

Fauquier
The meeting was notable for council members jumping up and running out of the room. While this might at first glance seem like strange behaviour, actually it is in reflection of a council deeply embedded in the community. Mayor Casley had to recuse himself twice for potential conflict of interest, once because his daughter was presenting on behalf of Centennial Park improvements and once because of his connection with the Lumiere Association for Community Education. Later, Councillor Moss and Gustafson recused themselves when a matter affecting the Chamber of Commerce was on the table. Everyone seemed to find all this action pretty entertaining.

• Sarah Rousselle appeared before council to request $2,000 for improvements to the Centennial Park ballfield, having earlier turned in a petition organized on Change.org which had garnered 90 signatures. The intention is to clean it up and remove the pitcher’s mound to make it into a slio-pitch field. Council was very supportive of this initiative, but seeing as the request came so late in the budgeting process, the Village does not have the funds to support it financially. Councillor Moss wondered if the work could be done by volunteers, but acting CAO Catherine Alloway pointed out that would be a problem because it is work covered under the union contract with the municipal workers. Moss stated it was “important this council does whatever it takes to get this done” and that it was a “perfect opportunity to show community support and initiative.” The CAO pointed out there would be lots of opportunities for volunteer participation down the line, and council and Gustafson recused themselves later volunteer work event with a BBQ. Eventually council agreed to support the improvements with at least $2,000 in-kind, providing labour and dirt for the project.

• Council awarded the Consulting Engineering Services three-year contract in support of the “From Dust to TRUE Consulting. Staff was directed to draft a contract for council approval. Selecting an engineering firm and entering into an SOA has previously been informally identified by council as a priority for 2019. The SOA will provide the Village with certainty regarding rates for engineering services over the next three years.

• Council received a media release from the RDCK announcing a bridge closure on the section of the Galena Trail between Denver Siding and The Forks (closer to Denver Siding). A grant application has been submitted for the repair.

• Council also received a detailed report on the Kootenay Cannabis Symposium from Ron LeBlanc, Slocan Valley Economic Development Officer Service using the riverstreamkeepers.com.

• Council approved a Development Variance Permit for 207 Kildare Street. Since the variance made the property “less non-conforming than currently” the permit was probably not even necessary, but the owner “just wanted to make sure.” Council commended the owners on a “nice job of presenting this case.”

• The May Days Committee’s standard request was approved. This entails a $100 grant-in-aid towards the Committee’s budget, not including floral to Centennial Park and rent of the portable PA system waived for the four days from May 17-20, a Bavarian Grill in the park on May 19, use of Village streets for the Sunday evening parade, and closure of 6th Avenue on Sunday for the soapbox derby and motorcycle show and shine. Total cost to the Village is $710. As this is a recurring event, funds have already been allocated in the 2019 budget. The committee also requested that Mayor Casley ride in the parade and speak at the May Queen Pageant.

• The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society’s offer to provide a free Weed Watcher Project for New Denver’s public boat launch/marina was accepted. The purpose of the sign is to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species. The Village will take care of the installation.

• Council has made its decisions on the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives Program funding and will be recommending the following for final approval from the RDCK board:
  Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley: $6,200; Harvest Share: $3,000; New Denver and Area Youth Centre Society: $3,800; Slocan Lake Early Learning Society: $3,500; Slocan Lake Garden Society (SLUGS): $1,790; Fibrebration: $2,150; and the Lumiere Association for Community Education (LACE): $2,000; Silvertown Community Club: $1,000; Hidden Slocan Valley Mountain Film Festival Committee: $2,000; Slocan Solutions Society: $750; Slocan District and Slocan Lake Garden Society (SLUGS): $300. Slocan Valley Economic Development Officer Service using the riverstreamkeepers.com.

• Council has made its decisions on the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives Program funding and will be recommending the following for final approval from the RDCK board:
  Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley: $6,200; Harvest Share: $3,000; New Denver and Area Youth Centre Society: $3,800; Slocan Lake Early Learning Society: $3,500; Slocan Lake Garden Society (SLUGS): $1,790; Fibrebration: $2,150; and the Lumiere Association for Community Education (LACE): $2,000; Silvertown Community Club: $1,000; Hidden Slocan Valley Mountain Film Festival Committee: $2,000; Slocan Solutions Society: $750; Slocan District and Slocan Lake Garden Society (SLUGS): $300.

Regional Energy Efficiency Program helps RDCK residents have more energy-efficient homes

by Jan McMurray

The RDCK’s Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEEP) has been launched, and community information events have been happening throughout the region. The ‘REEP road show’ landed in Silvertown on April 24.

The goal of the program is to help homeowners and renters with their heating equipment and appliances, and some homes may be eligible for a free energy efficient fridge and insulation.

If you sign up for the Energize Home Energy Evaluation, an energy advisor will do an evaluation of your home to see where your energy efficiency is lacking. If the energy advisor determines that your home would benefit from the Regional Energy Equipment Program, an advisor will be assigned to your home and will look for specific improvements such as adding better insulation or replacing old furnaces with newer, more efficient models. The advisor will work closely with you to ensure that your home is as energy efficient as possible and will provide you with a list of improvements that can be made.

The Home Renovation component helps increase the energy efficiency in your home. This component is available for both homeowners and renters, and the energy advisor will work with you to identify the best ways to improve your home’s energy efficiency. The advisor will provide you with a list of improvements that can be made, and you can choose whether to do these improvements or not. You will also receive a written report of the findings and recommendations.

The program is open to all residents of the RDCK who are interested in improving their home’s energy efficiency. The program is free to participants, and the energy advisor will work with you to ensure that your home is as energy efficient as possible. The program is available to both homeowners and renters, and the energy advisor will work with you to identify the best ways to improve your home’s energy efficiency. The advisor will provide you with a list of improvements that can be made, and you can choose whether to do these improvements or not. You will also receive a written report of the findings and recommendations.

To sign up for any of these programs, visit www.rdck.ca/reeep or contact Carmen at ecosave@nelson.ca.
Ian Dunlop is settling into his new job as Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Financial Officer of the Village of Kaslo. His first day on the job was April 9.

Dunlop is originally from Burlington, Ontario, but comes to Kaslo after three and a half years as CAO of the Town of Faro, Yukon — population 400.

“I was looking for a slightly larger municipality, with all sorts of opportunities,” he said. “I had done some research about Kaslo and it seemed like a good fit.”

As soon as he arrived, Dunlop was sent off to a Local Government Management Association convention in Rosland. “It was wonderful to have that opportunity to meet all the CAOs in the area and to make those connections,” he said. Then at the end of April, he attended the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments convention in Castlegar.

Dunlop said his first priority was to get familiar with the job, and he was looking forward to the full-day strategic planning session with council on May 5.

“I hope people will be patient with me as I get up to speed in the new job,” he said. He acknowledged that there is quite a bit going on in Kaslo, but described himself as a “multi-tasker” and a “good listener” — so those qualities should serve him well.

Dunlop has an ATV and is thinking about getting a motorcycle after his long drive on beautiful, twisty roads from the Yukon to Kaslo. He says he will definitely be joining hockey.

Dunlop’s partner, a climate change specialist, is currently working in Inuvik and will hopefully find work in the Kaslo area when his contract ends in November.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will close the highway through Kaslo for the long weekend. Dunlop also mentions Sellar Creek Paving is working in the area. Meadow Creek, Kaslo, Ainsworth, Balfour.

For a free estimate Call 1-800-668-2848 Driveways to Highways

by Jan McMurray

The Valley Voice

Kaslo council, April 23: New beacon on Telus tower annoys residents

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Nakusp council, April 23: Committee to find off-road trails within village

by Katrine Campbell

• Council approved the terms of reference for the Off-Road Vehicle Trail working committee. Councillor Joseph Hughes volunteered to sit on the committee as the single member of council; four residents will be the other members. Councillor Aidan McLaren-Caux was asked to ensure the other members are residents of the village, not of Ano K. The committee’s purpose is to identify potential trails and routes that could be used by off-road vehicles within the village.

• Council adopted 2019-23 Financial Plan Bylaw #687, 2019. Tax rates Bylaw #688, 2019 was also on the agenda for adoption, but no data showed on Schedule A so a special meeting was called for April 29 to adopt the bylaw after the full document was available.

• The week of May 27-31 was declared ‘Victims & Survivors of Crime’ Week in Nakusp. Mayor Tom Zeleznik will sign a proclamation provided by Arrow & Shuswap Lakes Community Services, and noted this would be quite different from other routine proclamations. ASLCS has planned events and presentations, with a retired police officer from Utah as the guest speaker.

• The Sexual Assault Awareness training held earlier in April, when the ‘Stopping the Violence’ workers at ASLCS brought a retired police officer from Utah as the guest speaker.

• Community Cleanup Week will be held May 1-15. Last year, the week was extended to two and the name changed from Nakusp Pride. Woody and other community members removed from Village rights-of-way and brushing has been done in alleys.

• Powell Creek culvert emergency response project costs are eating up the budget. Chemuz is working with a ministry habitat advisor pertaining to the rip rap installation.

Nakusp chef enjoying his new career as barber

by Katrine Campbell

Many people in our area work two or more jobs, but Tyler Lesoon of Nakusp has two completely unrelated professions and loves both of them. Becoming burned out with the long and crazy hours of running a restaurant, he quit and retrained as a barber. Lesoon leased the Broadway Deli in June 2017 and created a new and very different menu, which was hugely popular. This would seem to be a good thing, but for someone with a family (wife Michelle Grenier and three daughters aged 15, 12 and 4) the hours would be horrible and the money not so good.

“The issue is you just can’t make that much money cooking,” he said. So he shut down the Deli and got a job with a steady pace as chef at the Lodge at Arrow Lakes (formerly K2 Rotor Lodge). He lasted 11 months.

“It just wasn’t for me. It was time to try something new. I’d been cooking for 25 years and was tiring of it.” Barbering appealed to him, so he went back to school to learn a new skill. His new job is called The Hungry Barber. His full-time job now is cutting hair four days a week, six hours a day at his shop at 313 – 6th Ave NW.

“I love the barbering. I’m loving my life now. It’s one-on-one with every customer and I only have to deal with one person at a time. I have no staff, which is great – it’s nice being the only person that works there.”

Leeson also loves spending more time with family “and doing things I like to do. I’m also eating better.” He is still doing some catering, mostly small private functions, although he bid on and won the contract to cater a dinner for Columbia Basin Trust.

“They wanted as much local food as possible,” he says. He doesn’t usually take on such big events but the idea of using locally grown and produced food appealed to him.

As well, he cooks at the golf course several days a week.
Neufeld resigns from council, pulls out of all other activities for health reasons

by Katrine Campbell

People won’t be seeing Janis Neufeld around Nakusp as much as they used to, as the Uber-busy woman has had to back away from many projects, including her position on council.

SD10 Superintendent’s April report

• The preliminary operating budget released by the ministry on March 15 looks good for news for all districts across the province. It’s the first time in 2006 that all districts have seen an increase in operating grants. The budget shows increases of 17.9% for indigenous grant funding. The budget shows increases of 17.9% for indigenous education funding per student and 4.9% increases for students with special needs. Of particular note for small rural and remote rural districts, geographic factors including the Small Community Supplements were increased by 9%. School District 10’s preliminary 2019-20 operating OP grant is $7,667,783, which includes $3,637,336 in unique geographic factor funding. The 2018-19 grant was $7,121,329, which included $3,148,328 in unique geographic factor funding.

• Budget consultation meetings were held with staff and parents in February and March. Feedback indicates that the districts have some strong secondary options continue at both secondary schools.

• The NSS climbing wall hopefully will be installed this summer. The installation was planned for the spring break, but the engineered drawings have not yet been completed.

• Due to low enrollment at Academy Business School (BAS) and increasing enrolment at Burton Elementary, the BAS outdoor education program may not be offered in 2019-20.

• The school district will purchase a regular bus this year instead of a wheelchair access bus as approved by the ministry. Two main factors are behind the decision: currently no students require wheelchair access and by installing wheelchair access in a regular engine bus, the seats drop from 84 to 52. Within the next two years, three buses will be replaced, and two of those are front engine buses, which are better suited to wheelchair access.

Silverton council holds special meeting on April 30 to give three readings to the budget and tax rate bylaws and to decide on Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives grants.

Chief Financial Officer Colin McClure gave a presentation on the Village of Silverton’s 2019 budget and the impact on property taxes. There will be a 5% average overall property tax increase this year, a 3.2% increase to water rates, and an 8% increase to garbage rate. These increases were set out in the 2018-22 Village of Silverton’s 2019 budget, tax rates and CBT Community Initiatives grants.

Silverton budget, tax rates and CBT Community Initiatives grants

by Jan McMurray

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In 2019, an average home in Silverton is assessed at $282,000. Last year, the same home would have been assessed at $247,000.

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The family at this time will be holding a Celebration of Life in August 2019. For more information or to write a personal note, please visit the family’s online register at www.thompsonfs.ca

1-2 hours just after dark moving migrating adult toads off Highway 31A at Fish and Bear lakes. Female toads are killed each year while crossing the highway to breed. Female toads are killed each year while crossing the highway to breed.

• From late April through July, volunteer for a few nights a week to spend 1-2 hours just after dark moving migrating adult toads off Highway 31A at Fish and Bear lakes. Female toads are killed each year while crossing the highway to breed. Female toads are killed each year while crossing the highway to breed.
Nakusp Business Walk results are in

by Jan McMurray

The results are in from the Nakusp Business Walk Survey, an initiative of the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce.

“Business Walks are something the Chamber has been looking into for a few years, and this year we had the manpower and interest to make it happen,” said Chamber President Ali Raskob.

On March 25, 64 Nakusp businesses were visited by teams of two, who conducted the short survey. There were 12 teams, and the Business Walk happened all in one afternoon.

“The intention is to get a general idea of how the business community feels, so the survey is short and simple,” Raskob explained. “We spent about five minutes at each business.”

There was also an opportunity to complete the survey online, and there were 19 online responses.

“The business community was interested and willing to participate,” Raskob said. “Some business owners even came and opened up just to participate.”

The results: 59% of those surveyed said business was steady or increasing. 29% plan to pursue significant new business and expansion over the next three years. 21 business owners plan to retire/sell within the next five years. 50% do not have succession plan. A common challenge is finding employees. Many said they’d like training in marketing, human resources and customer service. The top two reasons to do business in the community were the clientele and the location. In total, the 64 businesses had 361 employees, and 68% of those are full-time.

Raskob acknowledged the help of Richard Toperczer and Darlene Clark from the Province of BC. They designed the survey, gave the volunteers a training session on how to conduct the surveys, and participated in the Business Walk. She says Toperczer will meet with the volunteer teams on June 5 to discuss the next steps.

Nakusp welcomes new CAO Cheryl Martens

by Katrine Campbell

The Village of Nakusp’s new CAO is an experienced municipal officer who has fallen in love with the village and the area.

Cheryl Martens says she has 20 years experience in municipal government, starting with eight years in Moose Jaw, and then with rural municipalities in Saskatchewan. Hearing the call of the mountains (and tired of prairie winters), she accepted a position in McBride.

However, she and husband Jim realized McBride wasn’t quite the idea of how the business community feels, so the survey is short and simple,” Raskob explained. “We spent about five minutes at each business.”

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The residents of Halcyon House in Nakusp were treated to a fashion show April 29, put on by the Arrow Lakes Healthcare Auxiliary volunteers who run the Thrift Shop. All the clothing worn was from the shop, and available for sale. Items chosen included sleepwear, gardening togs, casual and sportswear, fancy dress and a beautiful wedding dress modeled by the shop manager. Daena Dinning provided the colour commentary at this fun and entertaining event for the Halcyon residents. L to R: Dawna, Bettyann, Dale, Marilyn, Lorna, Kathleen, Simone, Georgia, Kathy.

Beer was new to the Rotary Club’s biggest fundraiser of the year this year. Four craft breweries and eight wineries served samples of their products at the Wine & Beer Fest.

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New Denver May Days offers lots of family fun on May long weekend

by Jan McMurray

New Denver May Days is a fun family weekend in New Denver, with events happening on Thursday and Friday evenings, Saturday and Sunday.

The Royalty Pageant Talent Show happens Thursday evening and the Royalty Pageant Naming ceremony happens Friday. Both events take place at the Bosun Hall at 7 pm. The teen dance for ages 12+ follows the Naming on Friday night, 8:30-11:30 pm. Good Times Entertainment will provide the music, and the $7 entry fee gets you a refreshment and snack.

The Ralph Wilson Memorial Fishing Derby starts on Saturday morning at 8 am, with final weigh-in Sunday at 5 pm. The derby has now been named after much loved community member Ralph Wilson, who passed away last fall. Ralph entered the fishing derby every year, and won several times, too! There are prizes for the heaviest three fish. Everyone in a boat must be registered — $25/person. This event is sponsored by Iron Peak Logging and the Wilson family. The Slocan Lake Golf Tournament also happens on Saturday, starting at 10 am. The tournament is sponsored by Reitmeier Logging and Silverton Building Supplies.

The Bosun Hall hosts the Quilters Guild Show on Saturday from 1 to 4 pm, and then Bingo at 7 pm. The party on Saturday night is at Odin’s Pub at the Valhalla Inn, with DJ Fuzzy Logik. The Dance Party goes from 8:30-12:30. Admission by donation (suggested $10). For more info or to donate in advance, contact Danika Hammond at 778-879-5844.

Sunday is a full day, so start it off right with a pancake breakfast at the Bosun Hall between 7:30 and 10 am. This delicious breakfast is served up by Slocan District Chamber of Commerce volunteers.

The Soap Box Derby on the main street, just around the corner, continues on page 13.
NEW DENVER MAY DAYS offers lots of family fun on May long weekend

continued from page 12

corner from the Bosun Hall, starts up at 10 am, with registration from 9:30 to 10. The New Denver Volunteer Fire Department hosts this wonderful kids’ race. All racers must wear shoes and a helmet.

There’s also a Motorcycle Show n Shine on Saturday on the main street, from 10 am to 3 pm.

Centennial Park will be buzzing with activity on Sunday. The food booth is open from 10 am to 8 pm, the Bavarian Beer Gardens from noon to 8 pm, the Silent Auction from noon to 6:30 pm, and the May Days Artisan Market from 11 am to 6 pm. For more info about the market, contact Jessica Bernhof: 250-551-7204 or jbernhof@gmail.com. $10 for a spot.

At noon, there’s the Excavator Challenge at the park, sponsored by Silver Ridge Earthworks and Snow Removal, Cariboo Brewing Company and Avenue Machinery.

The 18th annual Thomlinson Bocce Tournament starts at 1 pm, and the cribbage tournament starts at 2 pm. Contact Jessica Bernhof to register for bocce at 250-551-7204 or jbernhof@gmail.com.

For the kids, the Bouncy Castle, Fish Pond and Games of Chance start up at noon and the Kids’ Races happen at 1 pm. At 1:30, it’s Treasures in a Haystack, sponsored by Iron Peak Logging. The Sumo Suits Tournament is at 2 pm (adults $10; kids $5). The Puppet Workshop also starts at 2 pm, with a Puppet Show at 3 pm and 6:30 pm. There’s also sand sculpting at the volleyball court at 3 pm.

At 4 pm, don’t miss the Lawn Mower Races! This new event is sponsored by Slocan Yard and House Care. Contact Tom at 1-306-535-7222 for more information.

Arlene Fries and Kevin Welch will entertain the crowd with live music from 3 to 5 pm and 6-7 pm at the park. The parade will begin at 5:30 at the Bosun, and wind its way down to the park.

At 6 pm, Miss New Denver will be crowned, and the Citizen of the Year Award will be presented. The evening wraps up with the After Dark Movie in the Park, Mary Poppins Returns.

May Days means that barbecue season is upon us! Stop by for all your barbecue supplies - meats, vegetables, sauces, etc.
West Kootenay Minor Lacrosse teams play league games in Cranbrook

submitted

The West Kootenay Minor Lacrosse Association (WKLMA) Wolfpack Mini Tykes, Tykes, Novice, PeeWee, Bantam, and Midget travelled to Cranbrook for league play games on April 14. The games were mandatory games that needed to be played within Kootenay League. The players come from the Slocan Valley, New Denver, Winlaw, South Slocan, Rossland, Trail, Montrose, Fruitvale, Nelson, Castlegar, and Salmns. The West Kootenay Minor Tykes and Tykes played the Cranbrook Mini Tykes and Tykes in a three on three format which gave the kids an opportunity to learn how the game is played and to be able to practice team play along with catching and passing. Other games and scores:

- Novice C: Cranbrook Outlaws Silver team 13, West Kootenay Wolfpack 1.
- Outlaws Red team 13, Wolfpack 2.
- Outlaw PeeWee B 6, Wolfpack PeeWee C 2.
- Wolfpack PeeWee C 4, Outlaw PeeWee B 8.
- Wolfpack Bantam C 0, Outlaws Bantam B 15.
- Wolfpack Bantam C 0, Outlaws Bantam B 4.
- Wolfpack Midget B 5, Outlaws Midget B 5.
- Wolfpack Midget B 3, Outlaws Midget B 6.
- Everyone had fun and contributed in their own way and the teams continued to learn and improve their skills. Some of these players had never played in a game before so they got an opportunity to learn how the game is played and will build on those skills.

Volunteers are also needed and can contact wkmla.register@hotmail.com for more information.

Carole Summer passed peacefully on Saturday, May 4th, 2019. She was 73. She was known as an adventurer, healer, community builder, gardener, educator, wife, mother and grandmother. She will be remembered to the people of the Kootenays for her volunteer work, gardens, chickens and friendship, remembered by all for her smile and heart.

Born Carole Sowinski in Chicago on August 13, 1945, she had a lifelong curiosity and passion for exploring that led her to travel the world. She moved to Boulder, Colorado, in 1971, where she studied and taught the lost art of midwifery. She delivered hundreds of babies throughout twenty-five years and was a staunch promoter of natural childbirth. Carole augmented her midwifery career with years of empowering women through ritual and moon lodge, teaching the primal connection of the feminine and the planet, a theme that permeated her life. Her dedication to natural healing led her into the field of homeopathy in 2004. Carole moved to the Kootenays in 2006 with her husband, Chris Webster. They created their dream home outside Kaslo, a wondrous hearth overlooking Kootenay Lake and the Purcell Wilderness, where they lived the organic life, growing food, raising animals and hosting friends from across the continent. Carole was a longtime board member of the Community Services Society, helping at the food hub and arranging the annual edible garden tour.

In September 2018, Carole was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer. She faced her illness with light, grace and courage. She leaves behind her husband, Chris Webster; two daughters, Ananda Etcheverry and Laurel Shane; four grandchildren, Evarian, Gabriel, Charlotte and Josephine Etcheverry; and many friends who knew, admired and loved her. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in her honour to the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society at nkcss.org.

Carole’s final message to all was, Just be kind to one another.

Slocan Lake dragon boat team ready to launch the season

submitted

The Slocan Lake Dragon Boat team will launch the season on May 15 at 11 am at the New Denver marina.

The Dark Water Dragons (DWD) are getting ready to start a new season and invite anyone interested in experiencing dragon boating to come out to their launch and dryland training at the New Denver marina on May 15 at 11 am.

The DWD have been an active, non-competitive, recreational dragon boat team on Slocan Lake since 2012. They usually paddle Sunday mornings, but they are hoping to add an afternoon paddle this year if they get enough interest. The crew is comprised of men and women from the communities of Hills, Rosebery, New Denver, Silverton, Slocan City and Kaslo. The 48’ x 4’ fibreglass boat is unique as it is one of the few boats in the interior that has its own head and tail, created by local artisan Paul Gibbons.

Dragon boating is an excellent exercise regardless of age or skill level. No experience is necessary to join; all you need is a personal flotation device (PFD) and your enthusiasm.

If you can’t make the launch, the Dragons will have a booth at May Days and you can come and talk to some of the crew to get more details on the upcoming season. They will also have plants and baking for sale at the event so please come out and support the team.

For more information visit www.darkwaterdragons.com.
Kaslo May Days kicks off the season with a full weekend of fun

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo May Days will offer its usual jam-packed Victoria Day weekend this year.

On the schedule are Logger Sports, Kaslo Show n Shine, Kid Centric Saturday, helicopter tours, softball tournament, music in the park, Kaslo Riding Club horse demo, outdoor market at the park, Garden Fest, Monday morning pancake breakfast, May Days parade, Maypole Dance and Citizen of the Year.

Logger Sports is one of the most popular events at the annual Kaslo May Days Celebration, and runs Saturday and Sunday 11:30 am-4 pm. Competitors from across Canada and the United States compete for big prize money and the opportunity to show off their logging skills at the Kaslo Logger Sports grounds on the shore of Kootenay Lake, with the Purcells as the backdrop. The free event draws a huge crowd to the community and includes Canadian Championship events such as Tree Climbing, Log Rolling, Axe Throwing and Springboard Chopping. Logger Sports is run by volunteers and is sponsored by local businesses, groups and individuals.

The 22nd annual Kaslo Show n Shine on Sunday will be bigger and better this year, with around 100 cars from the Antique Car Club of Canada in addition to the usual 150 or so lined up on Kaslo’s main street every year. The antique cars are expected to be from 1920 and earlier – a unique opportunity to see how automobiles have evolved.

VHKAS Kaslo
Annual May Days Tea
Monday May 20th 12:30 – 3:00 pm
St. Andrews United Church Hall
4th Street
Delicious Desserts, sandwiches and beverage $7
Children under 5 Free
Crafts, Bake Table, Jewelry and Door prize

Kaslo May Days kicks off the season with a full weekend of fun
The Kaslo Show n Shine volunteers are planning a drone flyover of the show, this year, too!
Kid Centric Saturday at Vimy Park is the place to be on Saturday for kids of all ages. There are the races, entertainment, giant balloon demonstrations and more.
Helicopter rides are also available on Saturday from noon to 3 pm. Catch a ride at Abbey Manor and get a bird’s eye view of Kaslo and Kootenay – and support the local fire department while you’re at it.
There’s lots of activity all weekend at Vimy Park: the softball tournament, the outdoor market featuring yummy food and all kinds of beautiful items, and music at the gazebo.

Garden Fest takes place at Front Street Park on Kaslo’s main street on Monday, 9 am-3 pm. The May long weekend is a busy gardening time for many, but do take time out to check out the large variety of plant, seed and wild crafting vendors, as well as local artisans who create great additions for any garden.

The pancake breakfast at the Seniors’ Centre on Monday morning is a great way to start the day on Monday, the May Days wind up day.
The parade starts at noon, so be sure to be on the main street in plenty of time. The theme of this year’s parade is transportation. The parade winds its way down Front Street and ends up in the park, where the Maypole Dance and the announcement of the Citizen of the Year happen around 1 pm.

Check kaslomaydays.com for more information.

Kaslo & New Denver Community Pharmacy
Pharmacy staff looks forward to May Days fun in both villages!
Serving New Denver & Kaslo
309 Sixth Ave. New Denver • 403 Front St. Kaslo
250-358-2500 • 250-353-2224

Kaslo May Days
Live Music Great Patio
Celebrate Kaslo May Days!
It’s worth the drive to Kaslo!
456 4th St. • Kaslo, BC • 250-353-2225
WILLOWHOMEGALLERY.COM

Cornucopia
“The Natural Choice”
More than just a health food store
Welcome you to Kaslo in May
Groceries, Produce, Drinks and Snacks
Weekend hours
Fri 9-6
Sat 9-6
Sun 10-4
Mon closed
Have a great weekend
250-353-2594

Mountain Fruit
Canada’s Smallest Music Shop
MAY DAYS SALE!
SPRING-CLEARENCE
5 TO 50% OFF!
MAY 19-22
9:30 am to 4:00 pm
Kaslo’s Vimy Park
Kasloggersports@gmail.com for more info

VH KASLO Kaslo Annual May Days Tea
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St. Andrews United Church Hall
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Eric’s Meat Market & Deli
Serving Kaslo & Area for over 75 years
HAVE A GREAT MAY DAYS 2019
425 Front Street, Kaslo
Ph/Fax: (250) 353-2436

Sunny Side Naturals
Natural Health • Organic Groceries
Juice & Snack Bar
404 Front Street Kaslo

Kaslologgersports@gmail.com

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250-358-2500 • 250-353-2224
Friends of the Lardeau presents ‘Connecting People, Community and Land’

submitted
The Friends of the Lardeau River announce that Luanne Armstrong MFA, PhD, will feature in the group’s popular Speaker Series Presentations. Save the date: Monday May 20, 7 pm at the Langham Theatre in Kaslo for an evening with this famous Kootenay author.

Armstrong’s presentation is titled ‘Connecting People, Community and Land Through Story.’ Different cultures connect themselves to place through the stories they tell about where they live. This talk will examine cultural narratives and how they affect where and how we live. Especially in these times, changing the narratives just might be essential to saving our communities.

Armstrong has written 21 books. She writes young adult books, fiction, non-fiction and poetry. She has contributed to many anthologies and edited the Canadian non-fiction anthology Slice Me Some Truth. She has been nominated for or won many awards, including the Moonbeam Fiction Award, the Red Cedar Award, the Chocolate Lily Award, and the Sheila Egoff Book Prize and the Silver Birch Prize.

Armstrong currently lives on her 100-year-old family farm on Kootenay Lake. She mentors many emerging writers all over the world on a long-term basis and in the last three years, has edited eight books through to publication.

Get involved in planning for Lardeau Regional Park

submitted
The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is inviting interested organizations and individuals to attend open house meetings on Monday, May 13 and Tuesday, May 14, for an update on the planning process for the Lardeau Regional Park Management Plan. Survey results and conceptual plans will be presented for the 2.3-hectare waterfront day-use park, which is located at the north end of Kootenay Lake in Electoral Area D.

“Area residents are interested in pursuing active and creative lifestyles through quality park opportunities that keep it simple and keep it natural,” said Aimee Watson, RDCK board chair and Area D Director. “The RDCK has committed to continuing public engagement to inform a park management plan that provides strategic direction for how Lardeau Regional Park is managed in the long term.”

“Lardeau Regional Park presents another wonderful opportunity for residents to enjoy the area’s natural environment,” said Suzan Hewat, Mayor of Kaslo and RDCK board director. “This public engagement process gives an opportunity for them to inform the design and potential uses of this space for generations to come.”

What are your views? Representatives from the RDCK and their consultants will be on hand at the following open house meetings:
Lardeau Valley Community Hall, 13429 Hwy 31, Meadow Creek, Monday, May 13, 6:30 – 8:30 pm; Kaslo Seniors Hall, 304 4th Street, Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

For more information about the RDCK’s Lardeau Regional Park Management Plan, visit rdck.ca/EN/main/services/parks/park-management-plan/lardeau-regional-park-management-plan.html or contact the RDCK Community Services Department at 250-352-8195 (1-800-268-7325) or regionalparks@rdck.bc.ca.

More than 400 kms road resurfacing

submitted
More than $70 million is being invested in more than 400 kilometres of highway and side road improvements in the southern Interior in 2019. Major resurfacing projects taking place in the region this spring and summer include:
Highway 31 in and around Kaslo, between Ainsworth and Lost Ledge, resurfacing and base repairs to approximately 59 kilometres of Highway 31.

Climate change exhibit at the Langham

submitted
A special exhibition on climate change opens at the Langham Galleries May 25. The Arctic: a delicate balance of strength and fragility presents an evening reception for three different exhibits exploring the theme of climate change.

Shifting Ground is a multimedia exhibition featuring new works by five regional artists – Pat Forsythe, Kevn Kratz, Richard Reeves, Maggie Tchir and Peter Velisek – reflecting their experience of the changing environment in the Kootenays.

Snow Crust and Sunbird by Vuntut Gwich’in artist Jeneen Frei Njootli describes the interconnection of her Nation and the Porcupine Caribou through sound and sketch, giving us a glimpse into Northern life and the impacts of a rapidly changing climate.
The Arctic: a delicate balance of strength and fragility by Nelson oil painter and Arctic guide Laura Adams captures the dramatically changing Arctic landscape.

Join us for this very special evening featuring artist talks and dignitaries, with food and beverages provided by Angry Hen Brewing. Free to the public. For more information visit www.thelangham.ca.

animation workshop at the Langham

submitted
Award-winning Creston-based animator Richard Reeves leads this fun, hands-on, interactive workshop as participants create a film without a camera by drawing and scratching images directly onto motion picture film. This craft combines art and science as students learn how we see motion in pictures. The film is then edited together and screened at the end of the workshop followed by a QA & Review. With more than 25 years of experience, Reeves has produced some of Canada’s finest camera-less animation, with screenings in festivals around the world. You can find out more about Reeves and his films at www.flickerfilms.ca.

The workshop is May 25, 10 am to 4 pm. Suitable for ages six and up, the cost is $60/person and no experience is necessary. Space is limited so register soon at 250-533-2661 or langham@netidea.com. Funding assistance is available for students/youth.
May 27 meeting to reveal what’s happening down at Snk’mip Marsh

COMMUNITY

May 27, 2019 The Valley Voice

submitted

Spring has arrived in all its glory at the Snk’mip Marsh Sanctuary at the north end of Slocan Lake, and with it the return of many migratory birds and the serenade of Pacific Chorus Frogs.

Following its acquisition of the 35-acre core area of the marsh in the summer of 2017, the Valhalla Foundation for Ecolog (VFE) has done extensive clean-up and habitat restoration work and has now completed a formal wetland restoration plan for the area. This is the first of the VFE’s projects all over North America. Robin and Tom frequently work with the BC Wildlife Federation, which has taken a leadership role in wetland restoration education in the province of BC. Tom is the highly respected author of several books on the subject and he and Robin have supervised numerous wetland restoration training courses and restoration projects in the Kootenays as well as all over North America.

Last summer and fall Robin was in Hills several times to conduct detailed field surveys of the Snk’mip marsh area itself, the adjacent rail trail grade within the marsh ecosystem, and the rail trail grade within the watershed and marshes.

This year’s 11th season of summer art exhibitions at Studio Connexion Gallery in Nakusp starts with the return of two local artists. Christine Scheepens, who was visited by the artists to show at the space, is pairing up this time with another fellow artist, Ed Kemp, who showed solo in 2011. The duo will show their new series of paintings ‘From High Lands to Oceans Deep’ from Friday May 17 to Saturday June 8.

Christine and Ed are both very creative – in their yard in the summertime and in their studio in the wintertime. This new series was inspired by trips they took, either together or separately. Ed, who has been involved with both fresh water and salt water aquariums as a hobby, appreciated the colourful fish and coral while in Hawaii. Christine, inspired by the many beautiful sights restoration projects all over Europe and in the past few years, just had to start painting again.

Originally from Saskatchewan, Ed fondly remembers visits to his grandparent’s farm. His first paintings often depicted crumbling rural scenes – weathered grain elevators, abandoned antique vehicles... and then there were mountains and wildlife. Works by this self-taught artist can be found in private collections in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Thailand, Europe and throughout North America.

Ed’s work has been part of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and Ducks Unlimited.

Christine has lived in Nakusp for almost 30 years. She is originally from Ontario, where she was born into an artistic family. Over the years, she has taken Emily Carr courses through Selkirk College and clay classes with artist Elite Scheeepens. She prefers working with watercolour and acrylic but has been involved with both fresh water and salt water aquariums as a hobby, appreciated the colourful fish and coral while in Hawaii. Christine, inspired by the many beautiful sights restoration projects all over Europe and in the past few years, just had to start painting again.

From the teeming life of the Pacific Chorus Frog to the serenade of Pacific Chorus Frogs, the fine for possession or consumption of liquor by a minor is $230 while the fine for supplying liquor to a minor is $575. There is also a sound course of action for moving ahead which she will present at this meeting.

For phase one of the Snk’mip work, the VFE has received funding from the Columbia Basin Trust as well as support from local friends of the marsh. With Robin’s help, the VFE has also applied for all the necessary provincial government permits required to do wetland restoration work.

Robin’s findings are fascinating; she will present historical air photos that reveal some surprising facts about the marsh’s history. She recommends a visit to Nakusp Seniors seeking photos of the early settlement of the area to be aware of the increase in youth vehicle... and then there were mountains and wildlife. Works by this self-taught artist can be found in private collections in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Thailand, Europe and throughout North America. Ed’s work has been part of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and Ducks Unlimited.

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Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association seeks support for video

submitted

The Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association (formerly Kootenay Sufferfest Society) is trying to raise $15,000 to produce an inspirational video on spinal cord injuries.

Executive Director Mike Riediger says, “My friends, Ethan Krueger, Tanelle Bolt, and I are looking to make an inspirational and realistic video showing adventure sport in the area. The trip will take us from Revelstoke to Nelson by way of water and accessible trails. In between, we will be riding the adaptive mountain biking trails in the region as well as attending our second annual SCI – Spinal Cord Injury KASA retreat which will take place in New Denver this year.

“Right now we are in the ‘looking for funding phase’ and any help would be an amazing asset to this project. We would love to share this video on the mountain film fest circuit as well as rehabilitation centres across the country, where it can help uplift those new in their injuries.”

On July 2, Ethan and Tanelle are embarking on a journey, filled with obstacles most of us cannot even begin to imagine. In a split second the lives of these two young people were forever changed. Both sustained a traumatic spinal cord injury in the pursuit of outdoor adventure. Although their lives have been altered, Ethan and Tanelle want to prove that life can still be active, rich and rewarding.

Let’s all help Ethan, Tanelle and Mike succeed by removing the financial barriers to this worthy endeavour. Donations can be made by contacting mike@kootenayadaptive.com or donate through the GoFundMe campaign on Facebook @kootenayadaptive.com.

KASA’s weekend retreat features adaptive mountain biking (aMTB), paddle boarding, yoga and hot springs in the spectacular landscape of the West Kootenays. The tentative dates are July 5-9. To learn more about KASA check out their website www.kootenayadaptive.com.

KASA started out as the Kootenay Sufferfest Society, which was determined that taking a more inclusive approach was the ultimate way to promote physical activity for all. Recognizing the need and market potential for adaptable trails, Nakusp and area, Slocan Valley and Revelstoke have all constructed trails that are specifically designed to meet the needs of adaptive cyclists, families, seniors and anyone looking to explore recreational opportunities. This unique concentration of accessible and inclusive infrastructure has attracted the attention of the local mountain biking community and beyond. Mt. Abriel (Nakusp) in conjunction with the surrounding trails has the potential to become a global destination for diverse ability athletes.

Following a 2018 research, feasibility and capacity building project supported by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, KASA has determined there is a global market potential and has already garnered interest and enthusiasm from diverse ability athletes. A successful 2018 aMTB camp and additional support from the Ministry for 2019 has allowed KASA to move forward to realize their vision and mission for 2019 and beyond.

Also on Facebook and Instagram, @KootenayFood.
Learn more at the upcoming AGM, Thursday May 23, 6:30pm, Nelson Public Hall.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Budd’s Pizza, Kaslo: Award winning, hand-tretched artisan pizza. 250-353-2622

KASLO HOUSING SOCIETY’s Housing Coordinator, assisting residents of Kaslo and Area D with affordable housing. Office hours: Tuesday 1-3, Wednesday & Thursday 9-12 or by appointment. #23 The Langham, Kaslo. 250-353-8568. Funding

THE VALLEY VOICE - THE VALLEY VOICE

for this position thanks to CBEF and RODK Kaslo EDC.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

HAVE YOU ALWAYS DREAMED about starting your own business? If so, call 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.

THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business? If so, Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training; and delivers the Self Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 250-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

WHOLE 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 $5 (kids 12 and under free). Call 250-226-7737 for info.

AXELANDA HALLIVAY INVITES YOU! to Kaslo’s Seasons Through My Eyes – A Free Photographic Art Showing & Presentation! Introducing Kaslo’s Seasons, as seen through the eyes of a local legally blind photographer. Sunday, May 26, Open House 1-8 pm. Presentations: 3:30pm, 6:30pm. At the St. Andrew’s Heritage Hall, 500 4th Street, Kaslo. Wheelchair accessible off B Avenue. Free Organic Refreshments, Framed Prints for Sale. Grant funding generously provided by Columbia Basin Trust, through CICA and NKL/AHC.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS!

draw: Saturday May 11, 4 pm. All proceeds 5pm at New Market grocery booth. Prize

DAY RAFFLE includes three other great Halcyon Hot Springs! SLUGS MOTHERS'

ONLY THREE DAYS LEFT

forward to seeing you on June 1st!

Info: 509-1201, 355-2468 or 355-2672. Look

Slocan Village Market or Slocan Legion. More

your tickets now at Mountain Valley Station,

after weigh-in (whether you fish or not). Buy

11am-5pm at the hall. Many prizes to be won

the Slocan Legion Hall. BBQ & refreshments

Slocan Boat Launch, 4pm final weigh-in at

ages. $10 entry fee. 6am registration opens at

June 1 on Slocan Lake, a fundraiser for Slocan

14th ANNUAL FISHING DERBY

May 9, 2019   The Valley Voice

590 Laktin Road, Hills, best time is

mixed dimension

CRAFTS

WATKINS PRODUCTS, HAND

70 YEARS OF WEDDING FASHIONS:

1, 2pm. Welcome all past or future brides

showcase from 1945-2013 with stories

A vintage & trendy wedding dress

70 YEARS OF WEDDING FASHIONS:

EXPERIENCED BC REGISTERED

EXPERIENCED BC REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHER new to Vallican area

with openings for piano students, age 5 and older, at all levels in modern, classical

and jazz styles. Adults and special needs students welcome. Contact Carmen (250) 226-6951.

FOR SALE

AFFORDABLE STEEL SHIPPING CONTAINERS 20 ft. and 40 ft. sizes. Kootenay Containers Sales & Rentals, Confinqer, 250-365-2014.

WATKINS PRODUCTS, HAND

CRAGS – Bertha Williams, #11 – 217

Zacks Rd, 290-356-2503.

RIVERSIDELI raised dimension lumber and timbers up to 10" x 10". Cedar

4" x 4", 1" x 8", etc. 268 Laktin Road, Hills, BC. Call 250-358-7796. For custom milling


GARDENING

ELVENDA & FARM GREENHOUSE

Hills – Growing wide variety of veg and

flower starters.

Touchstone Museum

Marche Dollar Store,

Balfour:

Bon

Kootenay Floral,

New Denver:

Florist (corner of Hall 7 Vernon St. Nelson).

St. Saviour’s Pro-Cathedral (Anglican)

enthusiasts. Refreshments will be served.

& costume, history, drama and music

1, 2pm. Welcome all past or future brides

showcase from 1945-2013 with stories

A vintage & trendy wedding dress

70 YEARS OF WEDDING FASHIONS:

EXPERIENCED BC REGISTERED

EXPERIENCED BC REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHER new to Vallican area

with openings for piano students, age 5 and older, at all levels in modern, classical

and jazz styles. Adults and special needs students welcome. Contact Carmen (250) 226-6951.

FOR SALE

AFFORDABLE STEEL SHIPPING CONTAINERS 20 ft. and 40 ft. sizes. Kootenay Containers Sales & Rentals, Confinqer, 250-365-2014.

WATKINS PRODUCTS, HAND

CRAGS – Bertha Williams, #11 – 217

Zacks Rd, 290-356-2503.

RIVERSIDELI raised dimension lumber and timbers up to 10" x 10". Cedar

4" x 4", 1" x 8", etc. 268 Laktin Road, Hills, BC. Call 250-358-7796. For custom milling


GARDENING

ELVENDA & FARM GREENHOUSE

Hills – Growing wide variety of veg and

flower starters.

Touchstone Museum

Marche Dollar Store,

Balfour:

Bon

Kootenay Floral,

New Denver:

Florist (corner of Hall 7 Vernon St. Nelson).

St. Saviour’s Pro-Cathedral (Anglican)

enthusiasts. Refreshments will be served.

& costume, history, drama and music

1, 2pm. Welcome all past or future brides

showcase from 1945-2013 with stories

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COMMUNITY

SANDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hostpac. TV in repair; Old desk; Brown leather couch; White chair couch; RCA TV; Polaris 400 snowmobile in parts; Two plastic chairs; Large light fixture; Tent; Several Husqvarna Weedwackers in repair and parts; Memory foam; Several asphalt; Small TV; Murray weight set; Shovel; Large assortment of bicycle frames, tires, rims, tubes, handle bar grips, peddles, pedals; Small engine in repair; Several totes in repair; Dryer in repair; Jerry can; no lid; Windsurfing board; Homemade chair; Several automobile floor mats; Several plastic mats; Snowboard; About 10 bags of bedding and linen; Partial sign; Assortment of old belts, space bottles and miscellaneous bottles; Adult riding boots; Adult orange boots; Closet hangers and rack; Shower curtain 4 x 4; 10 metal raiing; Rake; Automotive metal ramps; Skateboard; longboard/parts; 2 garage boxes; 14 wooden railing; 2 half tires 155 R15; Pair of crutches; Styrofoam pieces; Snow shovel; Couple of pictures, one with broken frame; 2 end tables, one with homemade top; Bamboo curtain; Pallet; Moped engine; Adult magazines and tapes; Assortment of glasses; Tarp; 2 broken patio chairs; Scrabble board game; 2 lamp shades; Mason jars; Bedframe; Golf clubs; Homemade trailer 7 by 4.5’; Red canopy in repair; Blue canopy missing seal; Several glass plates for table tops or pictures; Queen size mattress; Mattress cover; Several pans, pots and kettle; Coffee maker; 2 partial pieces of ribwood; 2 end tables; 5’ window blind – torn; 2 garbage cans; Ironing board.

SINGING HU EACH DAY

AROUND THE CLOCK TO A BETTER DOG:

Web developers are asked to provide the following information by May 24 at 5:00 pm: an overview of your qualifications and experience; links to websites you have developed; three references from your clients; hourly rate. Email submissions to chamber@slocanlake.com.

PAINTING

Leaf Cabinetry Residential & commercial cabinet work. Winlaw, BC

HARDWOOD FLOORS WHOLESALE

SOLD 3 ½ x 5 OR ENGINEERED 2 ½ PLANK TOP WOOD FLOORING. PAINTED ALUMINIUM OXIDE, SMOOTH OR TEXTURED. 54.99 $F PLT AVAILABLE IN 5”-7” x 1-8” WIDE. INDOOR HEAT COMPATIBLE. 25 YEARS GUARANTEE, AND MUCH MORE!

AT JUAN’S 1503 HWY 3A THURMS (CASTLEGAR) BC 250-364-7466 = 250-399-6777

Mon-Sat 8:30 am - 5 pm

Next Valley Voice Deadline: May 17, 2019
May 9, 2019 The Valley Voice

‘Wheels are Welcome’ launched at LESS

by Moe Lyons

On the afternoon of Friday, May 3, the big enclosed outdoor area at Lucerne School was buzzing with folks of all shapes and sizes, from toddlers to parents, zipping around on wheels and having the time of their lives. This was the launch of ‘Wheels are Welcome,’ an initiative of the New Denver and Area Youth Network. This group has been in existence for seven years, supporting many recreational and other opportunities for youth. The new recreational space now exists because of a group of youth who wanted to have a place to skateboard in the village. The concept was expanded to include all manner of (non-motorized) wheeled recreation, including skates, bikes and scooters as well as skateboards.

Addressing the event on behalf of the Network, coordinator Paula Shandro said: “We would really like to thank Principal Graves for helping us to make it happen at Lucerne School. We would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Columbia Basin Trust and its Basin Youth Network program.

Thanks, too, to our current board of directors, Donna Hicks, Katrina Sumrall, Nick Herder, Amanda Murphy and Chris Warren and our staff, Harriet Richardson, Leda Botting, Paula Shandro, Isaac Carter and our backup staff, Rhonda Farrell and Andrea Smith. And thanks to Chris for the music! And finally, we want to acknowledge the youth who had this idea and kept it alive through many meetings and even some setbacks ~ Kell Wictorin, Devon Duerich, Gabriel Nemiroff, Matthew Driedger and Jared Jennings.”

All this zipping around creates an appetite, and pizza and cake were enjoyed by all.

The space features several low profile features as well as a new basketball hoop. Organizers ask that everyone wear their helmets, keep the space clean and tidy and look out for each other as it is a multi-age space.

With a big smile, Shandro stated it was “Really great we have this spot for the kids to have fun on their wheels in the village!”

On Friday, May 3, the big enclosed outdoor area at Lucerne School was buzzing with folks of all shapes and sizes, from toddlers to parents, zipping around on wheels and having the time of their lives.

Dear Phil,

I won’t be able to make it to your celebration of life (of course you won’t make it either), but when you get right down to it, we did more celebrating in your life time than most people could even imagine.

In the months that have passed since you left us, not a day goes by that I don’t think about you and laugh or at least smile remembering how you could bring me to tears with your sense of humour. Like you often said “What’s the f@*king point of it all if you can’t have a couple of good laughs every day”.

Whether it was hosting one of your legendary “Guy Faulks” bon fires, or just sitting in the “Men’s Room” having a beer or playing darts, your quick wit was always on. I remember one hot August evening when the air was so still and the valley so quiet you could hear every insect within a hundred yards buzz by. We were sitting on the balcony looking over New Denver having a cold one. Some where in town (over a couple of miles away) a dog bark broke the utter silence. You stood up, leaned over the railing, and screamed “SHUT UP, I can’t hear myself f@*king think”.

We were sitting on the balcony looking over New Denver having a cold one. Some where in town (over a couple of miles away) a dog bark broke the utter silence. You stood up, leaned over the railing, and screamed “SHUT UP, I can’t hear myself f@*king think”.

Classic Milburn.

Your pin number was 6969 because it was the only number you could remember.

As funny as you were, and there are hundreds of stories that I will never forget, you were equally adept at playing the straight man setting up Billy, Ken or myself to deliver the punch line making us look funnier than we ever could be on our own.

You were generous to a fault. You never saved a nickel. If you came into any cash you would share your good fortune with the ones you loved without a thought about the future. For better or worse, you truly “lived in the moment”.

I miss you buddy. You made the world a better place. Some say you died too young. I don’t know. I would say 70 Phil Milburn years is better than 100 years of most lives. And no, you didn’t outlive Kieth Richards or cockroaches as you sometimes claimed you would, but the memories you created most certainly will.

Steve
New campground and guesthouse in the south Slocan Valley

by Katrine Campbell

Valhalla Pines Campground and Guesthouse is now open for business, offering campers and guests a beautiful, quiet experience in Vallican.

Host Tom Smith describes the site as a well-forested 6.5 acres at the end of a dead end road in Vallican, near the confluence of the Slocan and Little Slocan Rivers. The site is in a generally very quiet rural residential area near the Vallican Whole. He has lived here for about 10 years. Now, he offers three rooms in his house to guests, and five tent sites and three RV sites to campers. There is an uninsulated ‘community building’ with a kitchen sink with hot and cold water, a wood stove, electricity and WiFi, a fridge, counters and tables and basic kitchen amenities such as a hot plate, a toaster, cutlery, plates, cups, and knives. The building also has an outdoor shower and outdoor flush toilet.

“The outdoor shower is the highlight,” Smith says, adding “I would love to build a sauna and sweat lodge.”

Although WiFi is available, there is no cell service in the valley, and Smith hopes to appeal to people who want a break from being available 24/7.

The campground features an area for people to gather, and a quieter area for people who prefer calm and contemplation. The area is rife with deer and wild turkeys, so the two-acre area that contains Smith’s garden is fenced off.

“Im really an environmentalist, a nature lover and hiker, and feel my mission is to take care of the land. I don’t want people to come here to drink alcohol and throw bottles in the forest.” However, it’s a cannabis-friendly campground because “people need their medicine.”

Private land logging made in Nelson

Tom Smith has opened the Valhalla Pines Campground and Guesthouse in Vallican.

Valhalla Pines is at 4011 Barbados Road, Vallican, in the Slocan Valley. For more information, call 250-226-7796 or go to http://valhallapines.com/.

Smith adds he has another business, Bio2 Engineering. He is a professional engineer specializing in the design of onsite wastewater treatment, providing septic and sewage systems.

Private land logging policy in Nelson

In order to protect local values such as clean drinking water, recreational infrastructure and wildlife habitat, local governments and residents are increasingly forced to buy land from private landowners,” Petryshen said. “In the absence of appropriate legislation that protects water, biodiversity and long-term forest management, local governments and residents will continue to be disproportionately impacted, paying the price for weak regulations.”

Amendments Petryshen said are necessary to the Private Managed Forest Act include local government authority to introduce and enforce bylaws to protect riparian areas, sensitive habitats and community watersheds; consistent and effective environment standards; cumulative effects management; oversight by the Province; public consultation; and retention of managed forests. The latter could be addressed by reinstating the Forest Land Reserve Act to ensure privately managed forests remain managed forests and are not sold for urban development.

Comments on the Private Managed Forest Act can be emailed to Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Doug Donaldson (Development-FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca), Premier John Horgan (Premier.premium@gov.bc.ca), MLA Michelle Mungall (michelle.mungall.MLA@leg.bc.ca), Nelson Mayor John Dooley (jadooley@nelson.ca), and Nicole Charlwood of the Green Party (nicole.charlwood@greenparty.ca).

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