Technology development grant for Slocan Valley’s Eagle Graphite plant

by Katrine Campbell

A company with its operating base in Passmore has been selected by the provincial government for a $290,000 grant to further develop BC’s clean energy vehicle (CEV) sector. The project has the potential to establish BC as a global leader in anode production and the production of batteries that are lighter and offer greater range for electric vehicles.

The grant will support Eagle Graphite’s planned two-year program to develop and commercialize silicon-modified battery anodes made with graphite from Eagle’s Black Crystal graphite quarry and plant in the Slocan Valley. The company intends to produce a commercialized anode with a capacity that would surpass the benchmark graphite anodes currently produced.

“Our government is supporting made-in-BC innovation that will help drive clean-vehicle technology into the future,” said Katrine Conroy, MLA for Kootenay West. “The Eagle Graphite project has the potential to bring new jobs and economic growth to the Kootenays, while positioning this region on the leading edge of clean technology.”

Eagle Graphite is partnering with UBC Okanagan and E-One Moli Energy Limited, based in Taiwan. E-One Moli’s Canadian division has a facility in Maple Ridge that is the only North American high volume manufacturer of rechargeable lithium-ion batteries.

Eagle Graphite president and CEO Jamie Deith told The Valley Voice the project has both a research component and an early commercialization component. First will come the research, then towards the end of the project the partners will focus on getting the word out to the market on their product. He hopes E-Moli will help with that effort. The total cost of the project is $733,000. Minus the government grant, Eagle Graphite will pay most of the $441,000 balance, both in cash and in kind.

Deith noted the battery project will only use a small portion of the plant’s output. The project “doesn’t rule out our participation in the markets for other products, too. There are a lot of applications for graphite.”

Electric vehicles are the big one, he said. “Every car needs so much graphite it will come to dominate the equation.”

Asked about jobs, Deith said the bulk of them would be at the facility in the Slocan Valley, not in administration. The numbers, if all goes well, will be around 30.

“If all goes very well, over five years we could see job numbers in the hundreds,” he said. These would be well-paying jobs, both for skilled workers and for “university degree people such as engineers and geologists.”

Deith is looking to the future, saying he would love to make advanced products at the plant to supply the battery manufacturing process. Very advanced graphite components made on site would mean no need for packing and transporting the raw product. Both power and water supplies are ample.

Asking why Eagle Graphite’s share price didn’t jump after the announcement of government investment, Deith said the company’s stock has suffered along with many others because of a “general lack of enthusiasm in North America for any industrial manufacturing related stocks.

“We’re going to have to make ourselves popular the old fashioned way: get customers lined up and have good deals for those companies.”

A celebration of the funding announcement for Eagle Graphite took place on June 10, attended by staff and friends of Eagle Graphite, and from right to left in the front row: RDCK Area H (Slocan Valley) Director Walter Popoff; MLA Katrine Conroy, James Deith, president and director of Eagle Graphite; Richard Toperczer, regional manager of rural development with the provincial government; Danika Hammond, executive assistant to Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Michele Mungall.

Both Lucerne and Nakusp Secondary Schools celebrated graduation recently. Details on pages 13-16. Rotary President Mayumi Van der Pol presents Maija Larder with a scholarship.
Slocan water treatment plant problems lead to Water Quality Advisory

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

Water conservation measures and a water quality advisory were the consequences of a malfunction at the Village of Slocan’s water treatment plant in early June.

Problems at the water treatment plant started arising on the weekend of June 1-2. The water filters were clogging repeatedly, reducing flow to the reservoir.

CAO Michelle Gordon said the long filter tubes were filling up with pine needles and needing to be cleaned multiple times daily – a laborious task for Public Works as there are thousands of tubes in the filter membrane.

At 4:45 pm on Sunday, June 2, the Village put out its first water alert on the Village Facebook page, asking residents to adhere to watering times and to hand-water if possible. At 7 pm, a second notice was posted: “Water consumption (gallons per minute) is still rising at a fast rate. Please folks, if you see your neighbours’ sprinklers going, kindly ask them to turn off. If we can’t get consumption down, we will have to initiate emergency action.”

At 10 pm, a third notice was posted: “Gallons per minute have started to stabilize now that we are past the peak consumption hours. We hope the reservoir can try to regenerate overnight and the proper servicing can be done.”

On Monday, June 3, the Village Facebook post advised that reservoir levels hadn’t increased, and Interior Health had been notified. On June 4, the Village put out the water quality advisory and notice of elevated conservation measures.

It took a while for the public to get word of the advisory, but once it was common knowledge, consumption decreased and the reservoir filled up to a safe level.

Low water levels in the reservoir meant water was at risk of being used before it had been treated with chlorine for the proper length of time.

At Public Works Supervisor Tim Hill’s request, Village council held an emergency meeting to tour the plant on Tuesday evening, June 4. Hill wanted to show council the source of the malfunction and also the aging plant infrastructure. Deep in the workings of the pre-filter, Public Works discovered an O-ring that had become misshapen. Originally round, the part was now slightly oblong. Pine needles and other debris in Gwillim Creek, the Village’s water source, were able to slip past the O-ring and travel on through the system until they finally blocked off the long straw-like tubes in the filter membrane. This part, like many others in the plant, is obsolete. A supplier was finally located in California. The Village ordered two parts at $15,000 each, plus shipping and tax. The parts are expected to arrive June 17 or 18.

At the June 10 council meeting, CAO Michelle Gordon said another issue was absentee owners who had automatic sprinkler systems. Gordon said if the situation had become dire, staff has the authority to go on to private property to turn the water off.

A water quality advisory is issued “when a public health threat from the water supply system is higher than considered normally acceptable but not serious enough to warrant… a Boil Water Notice.” Users with weakened immune systems and those wishing additional protection were advised to boil water rapidly for at least one minute or use an alternate, safe source of water.
Argenta-Johnson's Landing Face logging meeting brings out a crowd
by Moe Lyons

Argenta Hall overflowed with local residents on June 13, there to hear about Cooper Creek Cedar’s (CCC) plans to log the Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face. This has been an ongoing issue for some time, with 85% of local residents having signed a petition asking for the area to be included in the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Provincial Park. At a meeting, Michelle Mungall presented this petition to the BC legislature, to no avail. As the situation was expected to be volatile, Cooper Creek hired a professional facilitator, Lynne Betts from Procter, to run the meeting.

Representing CCC were Bill Kestell, woodlands manager, and Cheryl Hillier, hired by the company as a Registered Professional Forester (RFP). Two other members of the company were also present, as were two representatives of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development as well as Chief Christie Waterson, RDCK Area D director.

CCC is owned by Porcupine Wood Products from Salmo. Their logging contractor, formerly known as Sunshine Logging, is now referred to as Clinton Carlson Consulting. These two companies have been involved in various contentious logging operations throughout the West Kootenays. It is not clear whether the Sunshine, now part of Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face logging would be done by Carlson’s company, as they currently don’t do cable logging.

Over and over throughout the meeting, the question of trust arose, and the tension in the room was palpable. Although the community is not of one mind about what should happen in the Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face, it is safe to say it would be difficult to find anyone who trusts Porcupine Wood Products and the company everyone refers to as Sunshine Logging.

When asked after the meeting if there was any scenario he could imagine where the logging of the face would not take place, Kestell said only if the provincial government stepped in and made the area a park or in some other way changed its designation. Cheryl Hillier spoke first at the meeting, giving an overview of the area and its forest values. In response to audience concerns that there should be no logging near the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy, which sits to the north and the Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face on three sides, Hillier gave assurances that the logging plan included “protection of significant natural features.” She said only 44% of the 7,735-hectare area is available for harvesting. The remaining 56% is old growth management area (OGMAs), caribou habitat (8%), Gar Creek reserve (slip slide area) (4%), the local woodlot (4%), and private land (16%). When she said the company has no plans to log in the OGMAs, caribou habitat, she sounded this good but would only “just window dressing,” as the OGMAs is too steep to log anyways.

When Bill Kestell spoke, he said that at a meeting in this very hall two years ago, he heard very clearly that a lot of people did not want to have harvesting – forest development – in this area. Nonetheless, he said, “We are here to talk about managing the forest development unit.” He added, “Do not expect you to say, ‘Yes, come and do this.’”

The company plans two separate logging operations in the area – the Salisbury Creek Face (Salisbury Creek to Bulmer Creek) and the Bulmer Creek to Argenta Creek Face. At this point in time, he said, four culverts totalling 60 hectares are proposed in the Salisbury Creek Face unit. They would be in “polygon” shapes and would be modified to address “visual quality objectives” specifically in respect to the views from the provincial campgrounds at Davis Creek and Lost Ledge.

The company is working on a caribou management strategy, forest health assessment, terrain stability assessment, visual impact assessment, fire mitigation planning, and site plans for the Salisbury Creek Face area. The company hopes to finish all the assessments in September and to apply for cutting and road permits in September or October. Kestell said all the assessments would be referred to the RDCK, Ministry of Forests and to the public, and there would be notifications when they are available. He stressed that the company has not applied for or received cutting or road permits for the Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face area.

Kestell said the timeline was proposed but “not written in stone. If it takes longer to get there, it takes longer to get there. By the time the cutting permit is submitted if people are engaged there should be minimal surprises.” One audience member asked if that meant they hoped there would be no protestors. He said, “No, we can’t do anything about protestors. I am hoping we can do this together. I foresee that if there is a blockade we would get an injunction.”

Brenda Herrbison has been hired by CCC to do the caribou management strategy. She has identified an area where she found caribou tracks and scat that is not within the provincially designated caribou habitat. When asked if the company would log in this area, Kestell said yes, they would log it. He said that would “protect and identify wildlife corridors.”

Beetle infestation is one of the forest health concerns they’ll be looking at. Kestell said “the level of concern will determine” the level of harvest, at which point a voice from the back was heard to say, “Here come the clearcuts!”

Concerns were raised about logging on “karst” land – a distinctive topography characterized by features such as sink holes, sinking streams, subsurface drainage systems and caves. When residents asked for a karst study, Kestell said that would be part of the terrain stability assessment. In an interview subsequent to the meeting, he said they would investigate to determine if there is karst in the area and “we will definitely manage around karst.”

Fire mitigation was a topic that came up several times throughout the meeting, made more pressing by the fact there was a recent fire at CCC’s Balfour logging site. One audience member asked why the whole Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face was not considered wildland-urban interface. At one point in the meeting, Rik Valentine, fire warden for the area, asked if CCC was willing to commit to meeting with a group on the subject of fire mitigation before proceeding with any logging plans. Kestell said yes. “Our company is very, very concerned with fire.”

The next heated discussion was about log hauling on the narrow local road. Most of the audience agreed with the comment, “Nothing is going to make that road safe.” Eric Schindler, who lives on Johnson’s Landing Road, said, “Putting logging trucks on this road amounts to murder.” Someone asked, “Who is going to back up?” The logging truck?” CCC commits to installing signage, knowing school bus schedules, yielding to school buses, and supplying school buses with two-way radios. Kestell said there will be “zero tolerance” for unsafe truck drivers and that they will, at maximum, observe the posted speed limit. Director Watson pointed out that the road is an “unclassified rural road” and as such, the speed limit reverts to 80 km/hour. She asked that the company agree to the 40 km/hour limit posted on the classified part of the road. People also expressed concern about the driving habits of other company trucks.

Kestell says he is committed to continued community engagement. He welcomed the formation of a formal working group, said he would post updates to the Lardeau Links and CCC websites (www.cedarcreecedar.com), that he is willing to take people on field trips, and that he will receive input through CCC’s email: cooperccreek@porcupinewood.com.

With the support of the room, four community members – two from Argenta, one from Johnson’s Landing and one from Lardeau – have agreed to organize a community meeting within the next month to determine what to do from here. After that has occurred, they will request another meeting with CCC.
**Good job, Kaslo**

Good job on saying “yes” to banning one use plastic bags. I can only hope it also includes the brown plastic dog poop bags, too. This also needs to be banned. Whose crazy idea was that? To put dog poop into plastic? Poor Mother Earth. Pampers are also a huge problem for this beautiful planet.

_Terry Geche_  
_Kaslo_

**Mother Noose**

Donald, Donald, where have you been?  

“I’ve been to London to see the Queen!”

Donald, Donald, what did you there?  

“I insulted that black girl and also the Mayor!”

Donald, Donald, said the Queen then?  

“She told me, ‘Go home. And don’t come again.’”

_Kristen Jacks_  
_South Slocan_

**Open letter to FWCP**

I do appreciate receiving your FWCP newsletter, but it is not acceptable to me that it is mailed in single use plastic bags. I know I can recycle, but that is not good enough. There is absolutely no reason for adding more plastic. I see it is recyclable, FWCP newsletter, but it is not the answer.

_Sean M. Kubara_  
_Kaslo_

**Slocan Community Health Centre invaluable**

For five consecutive years since my brother’s death in 2014, my husband and I have returned to New Denver for a brief visit from Ontario – both to relieve and cherish our memories of the times.

_Rod Retzlaff_  
_Glade_

**Jobs ahead of the environment: no longer an option**

I love to give credit where credit is due, and Justin Trudeau’s decision to ban single use plastics deserves credit. No doubt it will get plenty of criticism from the likes of Andrew Scheer who thinks we should instead try to deal with the problem somewhere else in the world, and avoid any possible job loss even in the face of turning our oceans into a plastic soup. No doubt the plastics lobby is powerful.

My wife and I have been carrying cloth bags for our shopping since the 1970s, as have many people in the Kootenays who care about the environmental effect of our existence, yet still, today, when I go to some stores, most people are loading up their goods in plastic bags. Individuals can have some effect, but only government legislation will ever solve the problem. And during that nearly 50-year span, more and more of the goods that go in the plastic bags are in plastic containers – containers that are stuffing all the earth’s creatures into micro plastic. If you want your mayonnaise in glass, well, you have to pay more, and I am happy to do so for the Earth and for my own health, but it does little good if most other people still buy the cheaper product in the plastic container. We dearly need this kind of government intervention. Putting jobs ahead of the health of our planet is no longer an option.

_Daphne Fields_  
_Slocan_

**Two more considerations about idling**

Idling engines definitely waste fuel, needlessly pollute and contribute to climate change by spewing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, but there are other considerations.

The only way an engine can achieve an efficient operating temperature is to be driven. At idle, temperatures are too cool to combust efficiently. The incomplete combustion leads to condensates containing carbon and other pollutants collecting on the cylinder walls. These condensates are washed past the piston rings and into the engine oil. The pollutants dilute and contaminate the oil, reducing its lubricating qualities. Diluted oil isn’t as efficient as a protecting bearings, cylinder walls or piston rings and these parts wear out faster. So, by not idling unnecessarily you can extend the life of your engine and oil and filter. As a professional mechanic, I witnessed this first hand. Laboratory analysis of engine oil samples showed marked improvement of oil quality when idling was eliminated, to the point of more than doubling the oil and filter change cycle. So it is even quantifiable and the savings were substantial.

The second consideration of idling is air quality. As noted, idling engines are burning inefficiently. The emissions equipment that vehicle engines depend on require heat to operate efficiently. A cool catalytic converter isn’t functioning, so the dirty unburnt fuel released from an idling engine finds its way out the tailpipe and into our lungs and the lungs of our children, pets, wildlife and even our garden food.

Studies have shown the worst place to idle is where people congregate like at bus stops, schools or near homes. The contaminants in idling exhaust are proven carcinogens and contribute to respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable. So by not idling unnecessarily, you can reduce your carbon footprint, extend the life of your engine, improve air quality and the health of our community and save money! You can’t go wrong!

So if you’ll be stopped for more than 30 seconds, turn off your engine because idling gets you nowhere, man!

_Terry Lowrey_  
_Nelson_

**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 necessary the views of _The Valley Voice_.

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Convergence workshop a gem

Having just celebrated my first year as a member of the valley, I remain in awe of the immense wild blue yonder and cultural gems this area offers. The Convergence Writers Weekend is one fine example. Last year, my husband Neil and I sat in on the workshop opening session — a tantalizing appetizer for the writers’ workshop. I had no intention of jumping into the actual workshop, just enjoying the stimulating public presentation. My decade old pile of draft stories were long buried...somewhere.

With the announcement that there was an opening for a latenight workshop participant, an email landed in my head. Starting afraid, I tried to ignore him, but he’s persistent. Meanwhile, a tiny ember renewed its glow within. As a fledgling writer with dusty work, I have recently sent my proposal to a publisher. Who will publish and when, if ever? Even if I have the confidence that it might interest a publisher, who will publish and when, if ever?

This year’s Convergence Writers’ Weekend was once again bright with sparks of insights, opportunities and connections for all writers, from novice to seasoned. I was so overwhelmed by the creativity, openness and bonding of workshop presenters and participants. Their collective energy will keep me charged up for a while. I’ll be one of the first to sign up again.

Susan Dunniagan
New Denver

Scandal: Wireless tower on Kuskanax Mountain Trail, again

How is it that the board of the Nakusp Community Trails Society now supports the location of a wireless tower directly on the Kuskanax Mountain Trail? How is it that this decision was made behind closed doors without informing or asking the membership or the public? How can it be that the board, which was informed by me about the possible health risks of wireless radiation in November 2018, now ignores these risks and doesn’t apply the precautionary principle? How is it that Columbia Wireless convince you that wireless radiation from a tower directly located on the Kuskanax Mountain Trail is harmless? Wouldn’t it be reasonable to inform us hikers and concerned citizens before making such an important decision? Do you not respect the people who promoted, built, and maintained this trail for many years?

Don’t you value our volunteer time?

Once the tower is up, I will be banned from this trail, as my heart condition doesn’t allow me to be even at a short distance from a wireless communication system. The board seems incapable of standing up to industry, but hikers on the trails will stand up!

I question the actions of the board that don’t respect the clear statement of the trails society of preserving the great outdoors and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Moreover, the actions of the board increases the effects of climate change.

I ask the board of directors of the trails society: WHY?

Public, please voice your concerns to FLNORD Kootenay Boundary Region, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook BC V1C 7G1, File #4406031 Kuskanax Tower or online at http://comments. eis.gov.bc.ca Deadline: July 19

Wulf Mense
Nakusp

Water systems


Mid-summer 2018: The sheep pasture flooded. Where is the water coming from? There was a substantial dam in the creek that supplies my water. A diversion dam had been built. I have water rights on that creek. I called the Ministry of Water, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations (FLNRO). What I got was Front Counter. Nothing happened. For weeks. Months.

Finally, a friend gave me the number of the deputy of the Department of Enforcement and Enforcement for FLNRO. I called. The next day I got several phone calls, from Castlegar, from Revelstoke. A couple of weeks later, a water officer arrived and inspected the dam. He advised the culprit that a licence was required for such activities, the dam should be removed, and the diversion channel filled in. When this job was still far from complete two weeks later, I went in, removed the dam, and filled in the diversion channel. The flood subsided.

Late summer 2018: It rained. The creek flowed, flooding and buckling. Stuck to the raparian clay were white crystals interspersed with blue crystals. There was a gelatinous mass with the same crystals, at least a bucket full, just beyond the fence. Fertilizer, said the RCMP. I called Front Counter. I called FLNRO. I called the RAPP line. Nothing happened. At last, I was put through to someone else, one who dealt with water. Not FLNRO but IBA. This one dealt only with municipalities and communities, not with private citizens.

Nothing could they do.

The gelatinous mass slowly dissipated as the water flowed into the pond which replenishes my well. It is fertilizer toxic? Did the sand filter take out the chemicals? Well, I’m still alive.

So are the hikers.

I checked the creek this spring. The original dam had been partially repaired. Upstream were more, smaller dams, 10, 20 of them, obviously man made: I called a lawyer.

“They should have issued an order under section 25 of the Drinking Water Protection Act.” This covers all water systems except single family dwellings. I am the only one with water rights on this creek. The Act does not protect me, even though tampering with any source of drinking water is illegal.

If a water source is dammed or diverted, call FLNRO. If it is contaminated, call IHA, but only if your water is provided by a public source. In my case, it is the Ministry of the Environment.

No body tells you this. Great system, isn’t it.

Elise de Boer Fairauer
Kaslo

Plastic and garbage

Well, it took almost 50 years but plastic bags are close to being banned. Finally. Hate to say it but I generated this (generation after generation now) said, ”Tell you so.”

We didn’t want to change to plastic bags but the environmental groups did. Their campaign worked. After 50 years, the tree spiking, among other tactics, forced plastic bags on the environment and the people of the world. People who wrote letters and they marched in protest on weekends to stop the uses of trees to make paper. Big business caved and stopped the use of paper and switched to plastics. In the case of garbage bags, when Safeway said they would stop using plastic, we were happy with paper bags and cardboard boxes but we were told it was bad for the environment. The environmentalists won. Plastic use was just taking off.

I really hope we are not just going to stop at banning plastic grocery bags.

What would be doing little to nothing. Look at the jumbo-sized plastic bags used as garbage can liners that go into the dump, all the plastic bags used to hold garbage in almost every room in the home. All single use plastic bags.

Just tied up and tossed into the plastic bag in the garbage can. We never had plastic bags and there is no excuse to use plastic bags anywhere anymore. Are we just too lazy to take a handful of our garbage into the next room in the house to put in the house garbage can? Heck, we are using plastic bags inside plastic garbage cans! Garbage does not have to be packed in a plastic bag to dispose of it at the recycle stations. A protest at the deep sea docks stopping the unloading of plastic bags and plastic containers from China would stop hundreds of millions of dollars worth of garbage and have stopped taking it.

The Philippines are sending over 100 shipping containers back to us. Only 99% of our collected recycled plastic is recycled. Why? What is the third world doing with our recycled plastic and garbage? What can they afford to do. They get paid for plastic and garbage in the ocean to get rid of it.

William E Cuell
Kaslo

Open letter to Katrine Conroy, MLA

Today (June 6) all over BC, people are demonstrating in front of their MLA’s offices. I am writing to your office. I am particularly interested in our ancient forests. I would be coming to your office, except I can no longer make sense of driving 20k to go to an environmental protest.

I want you to do something about the logging crisis in BC. I think we are in the same position in the logging industry, especially in relation to old-growth forests and domestic watersheds, as Alberta is in with the oil industry. Within our lifetimes, things have to change, and change drastically. We can no longer afford to lose our ancient forests.

As a younger generation now (the senior generation now) said, “Told you so!” Finally. Hate to say it but my generation plastic bags are close to being banned. Well, it took almost 50 years but plastic bags are close to being banned.

I am the only one with water rights on that creek. I have the confidence that it isn’t polluting our water. I asked the board of directors of the trails society: WHY?

Public, please voice your concerns to FLNORD Kootenay Boundary Region, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook BC V1C 7G1, File #4406031 Kuskanax Tower or online at http://comments.eis.gov.bc.ca Deadline: July 19

Moe Lyons
New Denver

Do you have the right to clean water in BC?

On Monday, April 1, 2019 – April Fool’s Day – Judge McEwen chose to adhere to a legal principle that makes it difficult for public interest groups to access the legal system. Judge McEwen did this by demanding that the Glade Watershed Protection Society (GWPS) post the amount of money necessary to pay the legal costs of losing their case in order to proceed.

Glade Watershed Protection Society (GWPS) is a volunteer-based public interest group working to protect its consumptive use watershed. Their work is supported by West Coast Environmental Law and community fundraising. Judge McEwen’s requirement that GWPS raise $15,000 in 60 days to cover the potential legal costs of two corporate logging companies effectively excludes them from equal access to the legal system. If the monies cannot be raised, their application for protection under the Drinking Water Protection Act (GWPS) will be denied.

Two timber companies have tenure in Glade public forest. On Feb 4, 2019 GWPS sought a temporary injunction against Kalesnikoff Lumber Company (KLC) and Atco Wood Products (Atco) until a Forest Practices Review investigation and a judicial review of the Forest Practices Board’s decision to allow the companies to log in their watershed was complete. Both companies argued against the......continued on page 6
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...stated that if the injunction were granted, watersheds for these reasons. Victoria discontinued logging in their municipalities of Vancouver and install effective water treatment systems. This decision also ignores the additional water treatment and would “rise above the level of speculation.”...Continued from page 5

The Valley Voice
June 20, 2019

Nick Chatten
Crescent Valley

Camp set up to oppose Balfour Watershed logging

Our community watershed in Balfour, BC is currently being logged by licensee holder Cooper Creek Cedar Ltd. and independent contractor Sunshine Logging. On June 3, a human caused fire was reported in the active cutblock up the Balfour FSR. Though under investigation, it is currently speculated it was due to a spark under a stack of logs onsite. It’s been an ongoing battle between Balfour community, BC Timber Sales (BCTS), and Cooper Creek Cedar Ltd. to not have harvesting of this watershed especially since the 2011 slide above the community after BCTS logged it despite the West Arm Demonstration Forest’s warnings not to. They are soon going to rebuild the road and harvest once again above the previous slide.

Since this logging proposal was presented to Balfour community by Cooper Creek Cedar Ltd. during the initial ‘public consultation’ period in September 2017, the community has been opposed to it. However, Bill Kestell, Registered Professional Forester at Cooper Creek Cedar, told the community there was no question of the logging going to happen – he was there to inform the community about when it was going to happen. The community, through independent assessment of slope and soil stability, which indicated it is not stable and there are fish bearing lakes above. Furthermore, a reliable spring that several water licence holders have relied on since 1956 during times of drought is now dry. The top clearcut resulted on since 1956 during times of drought on several water licence holders have relied on since 1956 during times of drought.

As a community, we have sent countless pieces of correspondence to Cooper Creek Cedar, local forestry, various levels of government, and gathered over 5,000 signatures opposing the logging. A 37-day camp protest at the entrance of the Balfour logging was reported delayed the logging of this watershed. About a month ago, Bill Kestell of Cooper Creek Cedar sent out an email saying that they will begin...
Wildflowers for Pollinators presented at Argenta Hall
by Joe Lyons

“Save plants, we save ourselves.” This was the message brought to Argenta Hall on Friday, June 14 by Brenda Beckwith and Valerie Huff from the Kootenay Native Plants Society (KNP). Saturday, they took groups of people to different sites in the Argenta area to talk about creating native gardens.

“Trees are well taken care of. We hear about trees. We even have an Arbor Day! But where is the Balfour Arbor Day?” The audience needed to support all life. Climate-resistant systems require lots of plants to feed lots of insects to feed lots of birds, fish and mammals,” Beckwith said.

These days, we are experiencing an “insect apocalypse” and the number of plants that have disappeared from the wild is more than the number of all other species combined. KNP says it is important to recognize we are losing integral relationships between pollinators and plants.

In BC, there are over 600 species of bees, and over 5,000 native plant species, a phenomenal diversity with a “high degree of co-evolution and interdependence.”

The Society has officially initiated Wildflowers for Pollinators (W4P), a “citizen science meadowscaping project,” dedicated to the “creation and conservation of wildflower meadows for pollinators,” currently focusing on Kootenay Lake.

W4P hopes to “create a Kootenay Lake Wildflower Seed Library – in support of the ban. In fact, it correctly stated that ‘Kaslo looks at banning single-use plastic bags,’ inaccurately stated that ‘Kaslo looks at banning single-use plastic bags,’ inaccurately stated that ‘Kaslo looks at banning single-use plastic bags,’ inaccurately stated that ‘Kaslo looks at banning single-use plastic bags,’ inaccurately stated that ‘Kaslo looks at banning single-use plastic bags,’ inaccurately stated that ‘Kaslo looks at banning single-use plastic bags.’

The petition is posted at 1-604-309-0555.

WorkSafe BC was notified of the incident by the RCMP. Craig Fitzsimmons of WorkSafe BC reports that a WorkSafeBC officer responded and was on site on the afternoon of June 15. He says the employer is required to help to identify the cause and hazards, while finding ways to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

The property used to house a sawmill, built by the Japanese-owned Meadow Creek Cedar Ltd. Dale Kooper purchased the company in 2005, including the forest licence and was on site on the afternoon of June 15. He says the employer is required to help to identify the cause and hazards, while finding ways to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

Bill Kestell of Cooper Creek Cedar says he believed the fire was caused by the feller buncher (the machine that cuts down the trees), which was in operation until about 10 am on June 15. The fire later broke out. He says there was no sign of the fire all day, but perhaps a spark from the machine smoldered through the afternoon and then flared up in the evening. The crew stopped logging at 2 pm. The required one-hour fire watch was done, and workers were allowed until 5 pm loading logs. No sign of fire was detected.

Kestell said they were informed about the fire at about 6 pm. The owner of Sunshine Logging returned right away, and when he arrived, the Balfour Harrop Fire Department was on site. Kestell says he arrived about 7 pm, and a Sunshine Logging skidder was providing water. Other than that, the fire department, who was in charge of the fire, didn’t want them to mobilize any of their equipment.

Kestell said they were in full compliance with fire safety regulations. “I don’t know if the investigation is ongoing, but everything we’ve heard is that Compliance and Enforcement and the Southeast Fire Centre told us that we were in full compliance.”

Kestell reports that Cooper Creek Cedar and Sunshine Logging have already put stricter measures in place than are required by law. For example, the feller buncher will be shut down at one hour finishing time. Fire watch will be one hour longer than required, and the crew will have more firefighting equipment than required. “Additionally, Cooper Creek Cedar will continue to monitor the weather characteristics and if we deem shutdown is necessary, we will. We don’t want this to happen again,” Kestell said.

Medical marijuana grow building burns down in Cooper Creek
by Jan McMurray

There has been another fire at the Meadow Creek Cedar property in Cooper Creek, formerly a sawmill and now a medical marijuana production facility. On the evening of Friday, June 14, a structure on the property being used to grow medical marijuana was destroyed by fire.

Constable Lebo Turk of the Kaslo RCMP reports that the fire is not suspicious. He says the cause is unknown but was likely electrical. The RCMP was called at 6:18 pm and when Turkro arrived at the property at 7:10, he says the structure fire was nearly out. There were no injuries. The fire is not in the Kaslo fire department’s protection area. Turkro said the local fire wardens attended to ensure the fire wouldn’t spread.

WorkSafe BC was notified of the incident by the RCMP. Craig Fitzsimmons of WorkSafe BC reports that a WorkSafeBC officer responded and was on site on the afternoon of June 15. He says the employer is required to conduct an investigation, which will help to identify the cause and hazards, while finding ways to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

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There are five steps to making a meadow.

1. Site selection: sunny and open, although some shade can be fine. 2. Site preparation: six layers – cardboard, then shredded paper, then decomposed leaves, then soil, then compost, then mulch (do it now then wait for fall and remove the mulch); 3. Plant selection: remember to be conscious about what plants will want to grow where you want to put them; 4. Planting (in the early fall); and 5. Ongoing management.

Just try it, they say, “and let the meadow teach you. Watch in all seasons and with all your senses. Add more, move things, manage less. Add other natural features, such as wood, rocks, water. Remember, you are building a more resilient and healthy future for many beings.” Ultimately, you will be serving yourself, “cultivating discovery, delight and daydreaming.”

For more information, visit kootenaynativeplants.ca.

With Gratitude to Hiltrud Rohlmann
August 11, 1934 - March 2, 2013

Over the years many people in Kaslo may have learned to knit, crochet, search for herbs, make a lavender, or have been the recipient of a stitched, felted, or wild crafted art piece from Hiltrud. Kasloians enjoyed the flowers she brought to decorate concerts, church services, Langham and School events. She was a woman of many talents, with a broad knowledge of wild crafting and the traditional arts.

Hiltrud had more than a fair share of difficulties. She grew up in post-WWII Germany and after that struggled hard to study and then find work in England. Her zest for life helped her as a new immigrant and Waldorf teacher in Toronto, where she cared for children who were physically difficult and who needed help with the traditional arts. Her great knowledge of botany, medicinal plants, and trees came with her upbringing. Her father was a respected Steinarian agriculturalist (& film maker). Hiltrud offered Kaslo her determined colleague of Rodolf Steiner, and in Canada, her husband, John Rohlmann, was a respected Steinarian agriculturalist (& film maker). Hiltrud offered Kaslo her determined colleague of Rodolf Steiner, and in Canada, her husband, John Rohlmann, was a respected Steinarian agriculturalist (& film maker). Hiltrud offered Kaslo her determined colleague of Rodolf Steiner, and in Canada, her husband, John Rohlmann, was a respected Steinarian agriculturalist (& film maker). Hiltrud offered Kaslo her determined colleague of Rodolf Steiner, and in Canada, her husband, John Rohlmann, was a respected Steinarian agriculturalist (& film maker). Hiltrud offered Kaslo her determined colleague of Rodolf Steiner, and in Canada, her husband, John Rohlmann, was a respected Steinarian agriculturalist (& film maker). Hiltrud offered Kaslo her determined colleague of Rodolf Steiner, and in Canada, her husband, John Rohlmann, was a respected Steinarian agriculturalist (& film maker). Hiltrud offered Kaslo her determined colleague of Rodolf Steiner, and in Canada, her husband, John Rohlmann, was a respected Steinarian agriculturalist (& film maker). Hiltrud offered Kaslo her determined colleague of Rodolf Steiner, and in Canada, her husband, John Rohlmann, was a respected Steinarian agriculturalist (& film maker).
Two fires in Slocan caused by carelessness

by Barbara Curry Malcathy

Each of two recent fires in Slocan during the hot dry weather of early June “could have been a disaster,” said Slocan Fire Chief John Gates. Both were quickly put out thanks to immediate action by local residents and Slocan’s fire department.

“Just careless” was the cause in both cases.

On June 5, a fire at the end of Arthur Street by the power pole in the beach parking lot was possibly started, Gates said, when a cigarette butt was dropped in dry grass. Fortunately, one of the nearby residents, Jim Gordon, saw and smelled the smoke and sounded the alarm. He brought a fire extinguisher from his house. Mike Naylor, who was launching his boat, ran over with the fire extinguisher he carries in his truck. Naylor said another fellow with an RV joined them with a small extinguisher.

Naylor said it was “scary” for a while because the area was so dry. Pollen fallen from the cottonwoods was catching fire and in no time the fire was “half stomped out and still going.” Naylor said he thought perhaps some kids had started the blaze and said “it’s important that everyone knows not to fool around with that kind of stuff.”

Naylor said the three men had the fire “half stomped out and half extinguished” by the time the firefighters arrived. Gates said firefighters just had to soak the remains.

The fire chief commented that this was a close call and it was very lucky that the fire was seen and responded to so soon by people with fire extinguishers. Without that quick response, he said, the fire could have spread to the three nearby houses.

Just three days later, on June 8, a condo resident Dodie Zerr was out gardening when she noticed smoke just north of the condos, at the edge of the forest beside the campground. Her husband phoned 911 while she filled buckets and ran over to throw them on the biggest flames in the grass fire. Her husband and a neighbour tried to set up hoses to fight the fire but found their hoses didn’t reach.

Zerr said her husband had trouble getting an answer on 911 – “it rang and rang,” she said. On his third try, he got through and Slocan firefighters were soon on the scene. They put out the fire in about 15 minutes, and spent an extra hour soaking the ground.

Gates said if Zerr had not gone out to work in her garden and seen the fire and called for help, the flames could have spread to the large and forested campground. Zerr agreed that it was lucky she’d seen the smoke that afternoon. She said she doesn’t usually garden at that time of day.

“It’s not known how or by whom the fire started,” Naylor said.

About eight firefighters were called out for the condo fire and six for the beach fire. Asked if he had any advice for preventing fires, Gates said, “Just think. Don’t throw cigarette butts down. If you’re having a fire, make sure it’s out before you leave.”

Slocan started restricting water consumption on June 4 but this has not caused any problems for the firefighters. “Normally we fill from the fire hydrants” for fires in Slocan, said Gates, however when called out to Lemon Creek or Perry’s, the firefighters pump water from the river to refill their two fire trucks. Gates said Slocan’s current water restrictions just mean “we’ve been going to the lake to draw water” and getting more practice using their pumps.

The Slocan Fire Department has 26 volunteers. Work and other commitments mean not everyone is available but Gates said he “can count on 15 volunteers almost all the time. New volunteers are always welcome.” Volunteers who aren’t able to fight fires can help with administration or fundraising.

The Fire Department’s recent Fish Derby raised $3,200. The group wants to buy a rescue boat for use on the south end of Slocan Lake. At this time, the only rescue boat on the lake is based in New Denver and it takes an hour or so to travel to Slocan. The firefighters expect the boat to cost $60,000-$100,000 and is raising the money through fundraisers and grants.

COMMUNITY

New coasters at local pubs carry consent messages

by Jan McMurray

“We all have a role to play in ending sexual violence.” This message and other similar ones are printed on coasters provided to the pubs in Nakusp and New Denver by Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS).

“We hope the coasters will get the conversation going about how important consent is,” said Carlee Hughes, Stopping the Violence Outreach Worker at ASLCS, in an interview.

Hughes spearheaded the project to have coasters designed with messages such as “100% of sexual assaults are preventable” and “Intoxication is not an invitation,” and to distribute them to local pubs.

“The coasters are great because they have the phone number of the Interior crisis line on them, and people can take them home with them,” Hughes said. The crisis line workers can direct people to local contacts in Nakusp.

The project was funded with a federal grant for Victims and Survivors of Crime Week. The grant also funded May 28 workshop in Nakusp by Justin Boardman, retired detective and victim advocate from Salt Lake City, Utah. Boardman reports that 24 people attended the day of trauma-informed training with Boardman, learning how to better understand victims and the trauma they experience. This workshop followed a two-day session in April, which provided 40 local people with best practices training on how to respond to sexual assault survivors.

ASLCS is working on forming a Sexual Assault Response & Resource Team (SARRT) in Nakusp.

VALHALLA SOCIETY - 2019
BEARS & TOADS

SLOCAN VALLEY AREA “HI” RURAL BEARSMART PROGRAM

Contact Coordinator: Kim Frederiksen
250-226-6908 kimf Frederiksen8@gmail.com

Funding for cost sharing (of 50%) for electric fencing:
Gillian Sanders, Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions
250-353-1137 grizzlyfencingproject@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TOAD CONSERVATION STUDY AT FISH LAKE

Adult female western toad on Hwy. 31A at Fish Lake

Become a “Toad Ambassador” and help toads cross the road
• 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 carrying some 12,000 eggs that won’t become toadlets.
• In August, volunteer during the day at the Fish Lake rest stop to help monitor toadlet migrations and talk to the public.

Training provided and mileage costs reimbursed.

Please contact: Cindy Walker, katakwak@hotmail.com
Marcy Mahr, marcy@netidea.com 250-358-2660

Slocan Fire Chief John Gates said two recent fires in Slocan “could have been a disaster.” The fire near the condos was “quite involved,” he said.

The Valley Voice June 20, 2019
**Slocan council, June 10: Affordable housing project update given**

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

- Councillor Joel Pelletier reported that the Slocan Affordable Housing Commission met on May 30. Eric Clough had prepared preliminary plans for the proposed three two-storey triplexes on the corner of Giffin and Slocan St. The plans will be submitted with a $10,000 grant application to the Rural Dividend Fund for a feasibility analysis.

Clough advised the group to “think in terms of a $2,000,000 budget from start to finish” and he suggested the committee hire a project manager for the construction phase.

The group has decided that design and aesthetics are very important and are considering modern with industrial, timber frame, and elevation features. Councillor Pelletier pointed out that this project and the condos are the first thing visitors will see when entering Slocan.

Clough has agreed to donate his time developing design concepts and design development. Design development will provide floor plans and design development. Design development will provide floor plans and elevation drawings.Paginator Councillor Pelletier will provide preliminary heat estimating purposes. In addition, there will be enough foundation and framing details for “quite accurate estimates.” He said he would be available for hire for architectural drawings.

Eighty-five people responded to the SAHC housing survey. Pelletier called the feedback a strong indicator of the support for the proposed project. The next step is a month-long survey. In a separate conference, this year held May 29-30 by “the ugly green power box” south of the SAHC, community members have expressed concerns about the placement of the medical equipment that is currently being stored in various homes around the village. She asked council to find a space for it and ensure it is monitored. CAO Colin McClure said this would be a “beautiful initiative” and Mayor Jessica Lunn said there was a small empty room in the Wellness Centre. Council agreed that there was a list of all entrepreneurs who would like to sell medical equipment and whereabouts.

CAO McClure will put the word out for volunteers to compile the list and Eric Clough will advise the Village on his report on Wellness Centre landscaping whether sheds for medical equipment could be placed by “the ugly green power box” south of the SAHC. The project is funded.

- Mayor Lunn attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual conference, this year held May 30-June 2 in Quebec City. She was impressed with Quebec City’s waterfront reclamation (from industrial parkland) based on a 100-year flood plan.

She also attended an FCM workshop on 5G in Canadian municipalities, where smart technology was promoted. She said cities were using 5G smart tech to reduce 5G pollution and garbage pickup, to monitor urban forests for fires. In rural areas, 5G is being used for smart agriculture, drones, smart health, telehealth, “making remote less remote.” She said that when workshop leaders were questioned about 5G health issues, they responded that “5G is not new but it is that non-ionizing spectrum and must meet safety standards as prescribed by Health Canada.”

- Councillor Pelletier said that he had researched 5G and discovered that it only reaches a short distance so it would have to be put “on every power pole” to cover the Village. He said Telus could not just put it on the cell tower and would have to consult with council before introducing 5G. Pelletier said it was “relieving to me that we’re not going to get it turned on without consulting the community.” During public participation, Pelletier was asked if there was a 5G tower on the property. He said he was still looking into it.

- Slocan will join the Kootenay-Idaho Community Business Licences (ICBL) program which allows businesses licensed in their home community to also operate throughout the Kootenays. Right now, businesses are required to buy a license in each community that they serve but many don’t. CAO McClure pointed out that “with ICBL the community that they serve but many don’t.”

- Mayor Lunn attended the annual report are available at the Village Office or on Slocan’s website (under Slocan News).

- During Public Participation, new resident Neil Tirkington said he had been unable to book an appointment with nurse practitioner Donna Gibbons. New patients have been wait-listed since 2017. Mayor Lunn and Councillor Pelletier expressed concern and said they would once again request Gibbons be allowed to practice in Slocan for more days and that a doctor also visit the community.

Defne Dufayt asked about the correspondence item from Art Joyce that had been received at the meeting but not discussed. Mayor Lunn described the letter as a thank you to the Village for their response to the concern Joyce had expressed two years earlier about Round-up. No mention was made that the thanks were a one-page prelude to two pages of information about the dangers of cell towers.
Nakusp council, June 10: Council votes no to campground shelter and barbecue

by Jan McMurray

• In a close vote, council decided against applying for the CBT Outdoor Revitalization grant to develop a shelter and barbecue station at the municipal campground for large groups of other campers or locals. The original idea was to apply to the program for the next phase of the Downtown Revitalization project, but CAO Cheryl Martens told council that this wouldn’t be eligible and proposed the campground project instead. Councillors Hughes and DeSandozi voted against the proposal, both mentioning that the gazebo in the park is there for large gatherings. DeSandozi added that the gazebo isn’t used very much. Hughes said he likes the idea of supporting the campground, but cautioned against creating a project just because a grant is available. DeSandozi said she felt the timing wasn’t right, as council is looking at expanding the campground but doesn’t yet have a plan. Councillor McLaren-Caux and Mayor Zeleznik were in favour of the proposal. So, with the tie vote, the motion was defeated.

During public time, Beth McLeod, who lives near the campground, said the only major improvements she’s seen to the campground since she has lived in Nakusp is power installed at two locations on Broadway, and the seniors hall or arena. “So I think a shelter is a great idea. Will they get tired of no shelter and choose a different community to have their gatherings?” she said Burton has a “wonderful timber frame structure” in their campground, pointed out Nakusp is a “wood first community” and that NFCOR could potentially donate some logs. Dan May, campground contractor, echoed McLeod’s sentiments about power service to more sites. “We lose a tremendous amount of campers because of the power,” he said. “It’s cold in the shoulder seasons and people need heat.”

• Mayor Zeleznik, Councillor DeSandozi and Director-Mayor Betty Etzel, campground contractor, were appointed to the Campground Expansion Committee. CAO Martens will attend committee meetings as an advisor. Two more committee members are wanted. Mayor Zeleznik reported that the committee has a budget of $20,000 and they have a plan from “Music Fest days.” Councillor Hughes said that the gas tax fund may be a good source for campground expansion.

• Council approved an additional $50,000 for arena ice plant upgrades, on top of the $100,000 originally budgeted for the project. The extra $50,000 will come from the Community Revitalization (gas tax) fund. Mark Tennant, Treasurer/Deputy CAO, explained that after the company hired to do the work (Startec) provided their quote, the second compressor at the plant went down—and while looking into that, they’ve discovered more problems. He confirmed that without spending a further $50,000, there would be no ice. Tennant said there has been “nothing but problems” with the ice plant and compressors since the system was installed in 2009.

Councillor McLaren-Caux asked about number of users of the arena. Arena Parks Foreman Richard Carr said there were 63 kids in the minor hockey program (some from Kaslo), about 20 people on the commercial league, 15 on the ladies’ league, and 20 Old Timers.

• The RDCK provided information on proposed zoning amendments to Arca K properties, and invited council’s comments. One proposed amendment is a change from residential to agricultural at 623 Nakusp East Road to accommodate a cannabis production operation. The property is connected to the Nakusp water system and is approved for residential use. The property owner has indicated a preference to irrigate with Village water, but would be willing to truck water in. CAO Cheryl Martens explained that there is no provision for agricultural use in the Village’s water rate bylaw, so the bylaw would have to be amended in order to accommodate the property owner. Mayor Zeleznik said Nakusp’s water system is “probably close to our maximum [capacity] right now.” He said he supports “anything that creates employment” but “we have to be very careful” when it comes to putting pressure on the water system. He said the Village will have to start looking for new sources of ground water. Council agreed to inform the RDCK that they had no concerns with the zoning changes, but added a reminder that any change in water use at 623 Nakusp East Road would require approval from the Village.

• Information on bike racks to be installed at two locations on Broadway, each taking up one parking space, was presented to council. Council referred this back to staff. Mayor Zeleznik and Councillors Hughes and DeSandozi were concerned about the racks taking up parking spots, and wondered about alternative locations. Councillor McLaren-Caux indicated that he is in favour of the racks as presented, encouraging pedestrian traffic downtown. CAO Cheryl Martens said bike racks are not supposed to be on sidewalks according to the Motor Vehicle Act and the Village’s bylaws. Staff was asked to bring more information to the next council meeting.

• Mayor Zeleznik reported that the Public Art Committee has chosen a proposal from Hugh Egner to create a bronze grizzly bear statue as the second (and last) piece of public art to be purchased with the CBT Public Art grant of $20,000 received last year. The statue will be located on Broadway, in front of the CBT building, mounted on a cement stand and looking toward Saddle Mountain. The piece will be titled, “Searching for Saddle Mountain” and will cost $7,800. It is expected to be installed in spring 2020. Egner, whose first career was in the military, displays his artwork at Heritage Nursery and his shopting, “BnBs in rural areas, so I think we have to look at it,” he said. Hughes will bring a report on the committee at the next meeting.

• Mayor Zeleznik reported on the Business Walk, which was conducted mainly with downtown storefront businesses. He said he and Cedra Eichenauer from the Chamber were planning to visit businesses in the industry and forestry sectors to get their perspectives.

Nakusp & the Arrow Lakes

Kusch and Rohn receive history awards

The British Columbia Historical Federation (BCHF) presented Arrow Lakes Historical Society archives archivist Tony Kusch with an award of recognition, presented at the Federation’s annual conference awards night in Courtenay on June 8.

Kusch was described as a bright, untappable “doer” with a passion for local history and a brain full of historical facts and stories that he can call forth at will. In his time with the Arrow Lakes Historical Society, Kusch has provided exceptional service to the community of Nakusp through two major projects: the digitization of more than 15,000 images, and the production of a 90 minute presentation called Our Coloured Past: The Arrow Lakes in Colour, 1940-1980.

Over the course of two years (2016-2017), Kusch digitized some 15,000 slides, negatives and old photographs of Nakusp and area. He created an online, searchable database of the images on the Arrow Lakes Historical Society website, thus making thousands of rare photos accessible to the community. Our Coloured Past combines more than 150 colour photos from the ALHS collection with rare colour Super-8 film footage of Nakusp taken during the 1950s/60s. The presentation helps reframe ideas about both archival holdings and Nakusp’s history.

The BCHF also holds an annual historical writing competition, to celebrate books that make significant contributions to the historical literature of British Columbia. The federation says that “Local and community history often provides the most sought-after information by historians researching a particular area.” This year Bruce Rohn received $500 for his book S.S. Minto: The Arrow Lakes’ Longest Serving Spernal Wheel.
by Moe Lyons

• Council chambers were crammed to the gills with people out to support the presentation by Montana Burgess from the West Kootenay EcoSociety, promoting the society's Renewable Kootenays Campaign. She asked the Village to join with other Kootenay municipalities to cooperate in declaring us carbon neutral, and the RDCK, as well as five faith groups. The EcoSociety has been working on this for three years and it is the biggest campaign in the entire country. Burgess says the society has done the research to prove their goal is possible, and that the benefits includes health benefits for all and opportunities for local innovation.

She pointed out that currently there is funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for the EcoSociety to help municipalities do the necessary work, and that the society has hired an Energy Planning Director, to help the RDCK, as well as five faith groups. The EcoSociety has been working on this for three years and it is the biggest campaign in the entire country. Burgess says the society has done the research to prove their goal is possible, and that the benefits includes health benefits for all and opportunities for local innovation.

Asked if New Denver was applying, Councillor John Fyke asked for clarification and was told that New Denver does not have a FCM membership for $50. Councillor Main reported that the RDCK is the biggest campaign in the entire country. Burgess says the society has done the research to prove their goal is possible, and that the benefits includes health benefits for all and opportunities for local innovation.

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The Langham’s Landscapes of Climate Change speaker and film series continues with a multi-media presentation by professional mountain guide and explorer Laura Adams. "The Arctic: A Delicate Balance of Strength and Fragility" examines this unique polar climate that holds some of the most diverse and pristine ecosystems on our planet, while discussing the unprecedented rate of change taking place there and the implications for the region and for global civilization. Adams is internationally recognized as an accomplished explorer, leader and presenter and has held senior leadership roles in the international outdoor sector. She feels we have reached the tipping point, and the consequences to our environment, peoples and Earth systems are more significant than at any time in our human history.

Friday, June 28, 7 pm; $10 suggested donation, students and youth free – everyone welcome!

Climate Change and The Arctic at the Langham submitted

A dozen Nakusp residents, including Wells and Karen Marshall, are taking the Great Cycle Challenge to fight childhood cancer – the largest killer of children from disease in Canada. During the month of June, Wells and Karen have a goal to ride a combined total of 600 kilometres in the challenge, a national SickKids Foundation fundraising initiative. Donations can be made through Wells' fundraising page at greatcyclechallenge.ca/Riders/WellsMarshall or the Nakusp team page at greatcyclechallenge.ca/Teams/Nakusp.

Tasia, Dawn and Maddy from the English 7/8 class at Lucerne School held Dog Washes at the school to raise funds for PALS (Protecting Animal Life Society) on June 6 and June 11. Here, Lisa brings her dog, Wild Bill, to the event for a good scrub.

WE Graham’s Outdoor Education Leadership Program (OELP) class can now buy three bikes for students in Africa after a successful biking and baking fundraiser. The students got pledges to ride up to the top of Ponderosa Forest Service Road and back down again at a penny per vertical foot. At the bottom, students set up a bake sale. The fundraiser brought in $600, which buys three bikes for African students through World Bicycle Relief. Signy Fredrickson and Ben Potestus co-teach the OELP program.

Slocan Valley Co-operative Bursaries for 2019

The Slocan Valley Co-operative has awarded bursaries to high school graduates from Mount Sentinel Secondary and Stanley Humphries Secondary. The 2019 recipients from SHSS are Dakota Doherty and Hanna Zappavigna. MSSS recipients will be announced on June 21st. Each has received a bursary of $500 to go toward post-secondary education. Congratulations to this year’s recipients, and to all graduates in the Class of 2019!

June 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

Prices effective June 21 - 27, 2019 - While supplies last

Slocan Valley Co-op
3024, Hwy 6, Slocan Park
Ph: 250-226-7433

The Langham’s Landscapes of Climate Change speaker and film series continues with a multi-media presentation by professional mountain guide and explorer Laura Adams.
Nakusp Secondary School Valedictory Address

by Jan McMurray

The graduation ceremony for Nakusp Secondary School’s Class of 2019 took place June 15 at the arena.

After principal Peter Gajda’s welcome, he shared a bit of wisdom from each of the grads as they filed onto the stage one by one, stopping to put a toonie into the piggy bank for next year’s grad class and to shake hands with Constable Lee Bellamy. Gajda thanked Sonja Petterson for representing this year’s grade 11 class and Constable Bellamy for attending every graduation ceremony in his red serge during his Nakusp posting.

Bellamy will be transferring to Bella Bella in the fall.

Mayor Mike Zelenak congratulated the grads on behalf of Village council and the community. He advised them to make every day count.

“If you live each day as if it’s your last day, one day you will most certainly be right,” he said. He promised them that the community would welcome them back with open arms after they’d been away to get their education.

“And don’t worry, you can probably run for mayor,” he quipped.

MLA Katrine Conroy sent her regrets and a written message that Gajda read aloud. “Life brings many challenges, but here you are, ready for what comes next. Congratulations!”

Melissa Teindl, School District 10 board of education chairperson, told the grads, “Go out into the world with your eyes and minds wide open. You may be surprised by what you find.”

She concluded, “I know you will all go on to great things that will make us proud.”

Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer of School District 10 Terry Taylor gave the class a hearty congratulations.

“Like the Raptors, the whole town is celebrating your accomplishments today. You rock!” she said. Taylor spoke about the importance of failure, and of recognizing that failure underlies success. She gave examples of famous inventors, like Thomas Edison, who tried and failed thousands of times before succeeding to invent something.

On a better note, I think we can all agree that our teachers have had far from the easiest job teaching as over the years. Personally, I’ve done my best to try and talk almost every minute of class, and I’ve also done a pretty good job of procrastinating for every project I’ve had throughout high school including this one, as I’m sure Tasha will be glad to tell you about. I know I’m not the only procrastinator in the class, so it really is amazing that all of us made it to the stage today.

I think we were all a little nervous walking through the big doors of the high school on the first day of grade 8 almost five years ago. We looked at the grade 12s like they were adults who had everything figured out. But really, it’s a lot of stress and not knowing anything, and maybe a couple of parties thrown in to keep things interesting.

Tasha: As a lot of you may know, most of us have known each other since the days of spending lunch hours hanging upside down on the monkey bars and accidentally flashing the whole playground (Taylor, I think we can all laugh about it now). Together we’ve gone through braces, mullet phases, failed driver’s tests, passed driver’s tests, or maybe even no driver’s tests at all.

NACFOR and the Nakusp and Area Community Forest wishes to congratulate the graduates of 2019. NACFOR is proud to support $2000 in bursaries to the NSS 2019 graduating class.

Along with some embarrassing phases, we’ve also witnessed another grow into the kind and hard-working graduates that are here today. As ridiculous as we are sometimes, this class has so much to offer, and we’ve all been working hard in pursuit of our goals. We’ve crammed for tests, finished projects the night before they were due, and excitedly handed in our scholarship applications that were stapled, not paperclipped.

Despite our hard work, this class kind of got the short end of the stick in some ways. We never got to go on our grade 7 camping trip, and we were the last class to ever write the English 12 provincial exam. But I know we’ve all had our fun on sports trips, band trips, and boat shows. And although some of us aren’t brave enough to go into Tim Hortons in our underwear, of course, we all got up to our own shenanigans because we had to give our coaches some sort of challenge.

And what would a grad speech be without a little bit of the corny stuff? As we make our transition into young adulthood and beyond, I hope we can all look back on our days at NSS as a chapter in our lives full of learning, laughs, and a little bit of sass that our teachers will undoubtedly miss (maybe some more than others). We owe so many thank yous to so many of you here today that it’d be impossible for me to get to everyone. So I’d like to give one big thank you to anyone who has given us guidance, inspiration, or maybe just the little push we needed. It wouldn’t have been the same without you.

Of course, Kiernan and I spent probably too much time arguing over who was going to get to say the last word of the speech, so I decided to humour him and let him pick a quote to end our speech with. Get ready, it’s a good one.

Kiernan: I’d like to end our speech with a motivational quote from my favorite street poet philosopher, Drake: “I guess you win some and lose some, as long as the outcome is income.”

Congratulations to the Class of 2019! Check out employment opportunities at www.kaltire.com/careers.
NSS GRAD

Congratulations to
the Class of 2019

Shaggyz

Haircare

Amy & Staff would like to congratulate
the 2019 graduates!
Best Wishes!
92 Broadway  Nakusp

NSS Scholarships & Bursaries


Congratulations to the Grads of 2019!

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Lucerne School’s Class of 2019 graduation ceremony

by Jan McMurray

New Denver’s Lucerne School Class of 2019 took to the stage on June 8 for the graduation ceremony. The five graduates were introduced by Richelle Johnson, teacher and grad advisor, who clearly knows the students very well. Ezra Barker knows what he wants and works hard to accomplish it. He’s a problem solver. He likes music, and he has sass! He will be attending University of Alberta for a Bachelor of Engineering, specializing in mechanical engineering.

Jude Nicholson-Chodat is confident and inclusive. She’s an avid reader, a leader in social justice and equity for all, and an advocate for honouring diversity. She will be pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with a major in English at Thompson Rivers University. Matthew Driedger is “our resident sweetheart.” He’s kind to everyone and has a knack for making others feel comfortable. He loves the outdoors. He plans to take a year off; welding and blacksmithing are in his future. Meran Dutrisac is creative, motivated, positive, and recognizes the good in everyone. She’s a leader who others want to follow because she will inspire them. Her long-term plan is to get a BA in Fine Arts.

Kell Wictorin is thoughtful, generous, and he tries everything once – he plays hard. He loves to ski and was an advocate for the skateboard park. He will go on to post-secondary in Adventure Tourism and has plans to travel and work in Europe.

Principal Nick Graves’ speech got some giggles from the crowd because he told the grads that although it was a day to take stock of their accomplishments, they should also spend some time reflecting on their failures. “Your triumphs are what you did, but your failures are who you are,” he said. “… Failure is nature’s best teacher. It will make you into a kick-ass individual. Without failure, we would be less likely to reach for the moon and the stars.”

Melissa Teindl, School District 10 board chair, said high school graduation is one of the greatest accomplishments for the students and their parents. It’s the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, which “you will write all on your own. Up to today, your parents and teachers guided you. Now you have choices and these choices are yours to make… Wherever your next chapter takes you, the choice is yours.” She concluded with a quote from Henry Stanley Haskins: “What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.”

Superintendent Terry Taylor spoke about the power of this generation, using Greta Thunberg, Autumn Pelletier, David Hogg and Emma Gonzales as examples. “You are a generation of young people inspiring adults with your hope, optimism and change… we desperately need change. We need your voice and leadership.”

Guest speaker Zave Reinhart spoke about choices. “Never shy away from choices. If you’re afraid of failure, that stops you from making choices. All freedom is dependent upon choices. When you say you are free, you are free to choose is what it means… the worst thing to do is to not make a choice. Be bold and make choices.”

Grad student Jude Nicholson-Chodat gave acknowledgement and thanks on behalf of the class to teachers, education assistants, peers, family, friends, and every member of the community “because we’re so close knit here. We’re just basically a big family,” she said. She gave special thanks to Richelle Johnson, “an amazing woman who is doing her masters degree, is pregnant and our advisor all at the same time” and presented her with a beautiful hanging basket of flowers.
Today is a special day for all of us graduates, a moment that will show us our hard work and all the nights of staying up late to finish those assignments we put off after ages of debilitating procrastination has finally paid off. I think all of us should feel proud to be here today, not only us grads but those of you who have worked hard alongside us through the years.

Without your help, I don’t believe any of us would be the people we are today, moulded by the voices of irritating friends, family and, most importantly, our teachers and staff.

Before I begin this speech, I’d like to be a voice for my graduating class and thank the people who have spoken before me. I’d like to thank those of you who have gathered here today for our graduation ceremony, those who have worked hard to bring us to this point – friends, family and, most importantly, our helpful – and certainly exhausted – parents, and even those who come into our lives not to stay, or even to be kind, but to cross our paths as experiences and remind us of who we really are. I can’t think of a story that I can tell, but I’ve asked my lovely girlfriend Meran if she had a story that she might be able to share, and she did.

It begins in 2005, the protagonist of this story being a tiny brown-skinned, chapped-lipped and doe-eyed four-year-old Meran, sitting in a room similar to the ones that surround us now. A preschool classroom, with all-American – I mean all-Canadian students sitting around on a mat. After the routine that follows often enough for her to remember, she goes home.

In front of a mirror, the person that looks back at her is different from the one she had seen yesterday. Today, she doesn’t want brown hair, brown eyes, dark skin and chapped lips. She wants to be like the girls she sits with at school, with long blonde hair, bright blue eyes, and mums and dads who look the same.

It’s not long before this moment ends, though; apparently standing tippy-toed on a wobbly stool at an already wobbly-old Meran, sitting in a room similar to the ones that surround us now. A preschool classroom, with all-American – I mean all-Canadian students sitting around on a mat. After the routine that follows often enough for her to remember, she goes home.

You might wonder why such a story might be important enough for one to mention at such a time as this, but the story hasn’t ended yet. A year later, the same girl finds herself surrounded by something she had never seen before: a world that recognized her as no outcast.

Seven years later, she lives here again, in a place where she can be different but no longer feels like an outcast. It is of no harm to others and, in that manner at least, you will make the world a better place.

And finally: strive to create the most value for society you possibly can, and be of service.

Like he also says, the only way to fix the world is not to fix the world itself but yourself. It is of no harm to others and, in that manner at least, you will make the world a better place.
Lucerne students featured in art exhibition Share the Joy

by Art Joyce

‘Share the Joy’ was an apt title for an exhibition held at New Denver’s Hidden Garden Gallery the week of June 10. It celebrated a months-long project featuring artwork and music created by students of Lucerne school, grades K-12, including felting, pottery, oils, Matisse cutouts, tie-dyes, fabric art flags, sketches and original music. The Friday opening was marked by a kids’ parade led by Glen Jordan that wound up at the gallery, followed by youth choir performances led by Kelly Coubrough. About 60 students – nearly the entire school – created artwork for the show.

Art instructor Donna Hicks helped bring students’ ideas to fruition, including a series of pottery totem poles fired in the school’s brand new kiln. Hicks, Patti Sebben and Katrina Sumrall coordinated the various art classes required to instruct students in technique, while music instructor Noel Fudge taught students music and spoken word composition and production. Hicks hosted three senior students, Raven, Jude and Meran – grades 11 and 12 – in a studio arts class for advanced work. She also established a new ceramics department at the school.

“It sounds like winning the lottery for an artist to be able to teach kids art,” said Hicks. “I’m particularly excited about the clay project, because it’s our first kiln, and we wanted to honour First Nations peoples with the totem poles. And nothing blew up!”

Nonie Jackson instructed students on the tie-dye technique, and many of the attendees at the opening on Friday afternoon proudly wore their original t-shirt designs. Younger students created artwork to submit to the Kootenay Savings Credit Union 2019 calendar competition, also on display at the exhibition. A felted wool rug with an original design was created from sheep’s wool donated by Donna and Kerry Heichert, carded at the Lucerne Harvest Festival last fall.

The exhibition also had an ecological component – a 3D model of the Box Lake watershed. This was produced by MIDAS Labs in Trail, using special signboard foam and a laser to create an extremely realistic scale model based on actual lidar data. Richard Johnson suggested the project and donated an airbrush and compressor so students could paint the model. Students were instructed in airbrush technique by School District 10 IT technician Patrick Martin. The model was sponsored by NACFOR, Selkirk College Geospatial Research, and the Columbia Basin Watershed Network.

Contributions to the project totaled about $700.

The sheer range and competency of the artwork on display suggests that this community is fostering some very talented young people of all ages. To mention only one, Meran Dutrisac is a Lucerne grad this year and won several art scholarships. She hopes to pursue a career in art. The advanced students in Hicks’ studio class show great promise as artists, already skilled beyond their years.

‘Share the Joy’ was sponsored by a $1,090 grant from the Slocan Lake Arts Council through the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance.
Joy Kogawa speaks on forgiveness in two New Denver presentations

by Moe Lyons

On Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8, as part of the Convergence Writers’ Weekend, well known and beloved Canadian author Joy Kogawa returned to the Slocan Valley with a message about forgiveness. This is a theme that runs through almost all Kogawa’s work, whether dealing with Japanese internment in life with her father, a minister who was exposed and vilified as a sexual predator.

Introducing her at the Silverton Gallery, Therese DesCamp said, “Joy has not and does not stand still.” She described Kogawa and her work as “so profound and so thorough and so passionate.”

Kogawa is the author of the 1981 Canadian classic novel Obasan, included in the Literary Review of Canada’s 100 Most Important Canadian Books. The story is drawn from her internment at Slocan during World War II. Kogawa has been the Order of Canada, and the Order of British Columbia. In 2010, she was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by the Japanese government for her contribution to preserving Japanese-Canadian history.

Her most recent work is her 2016 memoir Gently to Nagasaki. The Vancouver Sun called it “a mature work of history and insight.” She spoke of forgiveness in generalized and philosophical terms, rather than addressing particular circumstances.

One recurrent theme was surprise: “You never know what is going to happen. Which really is a most hopeful thing. That’s why I’m here, to learn, and to be surprised.”

Kogawa, who is 84 years old, says, “These are the best years of my life because of these notions that just keep on coming, the wonders that keep arriving. I am walking on eternity’s road and the name of that road is forgiveness.”

Sometimes we just can’t do it, we can’t forgive,” she says. “But that’s OK. Sometimes it is enough to have the intent of forgiveness.”

She is critical of much of what passes for political discourse. “A lot of our justice work is really retributive work,” meaning the offender must be punished. “What if we spent all of our energy in trying to heal it?”

Holding a peony in her hand, she likens human interconnectedness to a flower: “If we know how incredibly interconnected we are, then everything we have ever done is not they, it is us.”

This realization must include “not just the people you love, but maybe particularly the ones who are your enemies.” This realization leads to forgiveness. “If it doesn’t change it’s called death.”

She did, however, say, “My mother was a truth teller. That was the best thing she gave me.”

Where she came to out of this was she never felt safe in the world, so she decided, “I could be private and write.”

Kogawa has a profound understanding of suffering. “As a child, I was set on the path of alleviating the suffering in the world and in order to do that I had to understand the suffering.”

“Everyone’s suffering is completely known to be completely loved.” It is, she says, “from that divine power that comes forgiveness.”

Speaking once more of forgiveness, she says, “All we need to do is become aware that it is on the way; Forgiveness is “being committed to love even if you can’t.”

She concluded, “Holding things makes us feel separate.”

Joy Kogawa speaks about forgiveness at the Silverton Gallery June 7 as part of the Convergence Writers’ weekend.

The British Columbia Historical Federation (BCHF) has chosen New Denver’s Silvery Slocan Historical Society as the recipient of its 2018 Best News and Media Award.

Each year, the BCHF offers a book awards gala held June 8 at the Native Sons Hall in Courtenay.

The prize was awarded June 8 at the book awards gala event in Courtenay as part of the BCHF annual conference.

The British Columbia Historical Federation (BCHF) encourages interest in the history of BC through research, presentation, and support in its role as an umbrella organization for provincial historical societies. Established in 1922, the federation currently provides a collective voice for more than 100 member societies and 24,000 individuals in the provincial not-for-profit historical sector.
by Ron Lalonde

The climate crisis is real, we are in unchartered territory living with the environmental consequences of our choices, and we are in the midst of the planet’s sixth mass species extinction. My position as Slocan Valley Economic Development Coordinator asks me to do many things, and now that I have your attention, you might just wonder what the connection is here. I think it’s important for us to look at the big picture and view matters in context, and having this kind of awareness helps put the ‘Slocan Valley’ into ‘Slocan Valley Economic Development.’ Without wanting to seem cliché, but also owning it, I think by having this perspective we in the Slocan Valley can play a role for a brighter future, tapping into our collective wisdom to help shape our creative, earth-friendly ideas and practices. At the same time, there’s work that needs to happen in order for us to build capacity here in the valley, for our community to be more resilient and forward-facing.

Slocan Valley Legacy Fund announces grant recipients

submitted

The Slocan Valley’s diversity, creativity, resiliency and volunteer spirit were on full display at the Langham on July 16, when the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund announced its 2019-2020 grant recipients. Those of you who caught the evening of warm rootsy music and toasty guitar enrich original songs that are clever, intimate and highly accessible. The award-winning singer-songwriter Connolly. The climate crisis is real, we are in unchartered territory living with the environmental consequences of our choices, and we are in the midst of the planet’s sixth mass species extinction. My position as Slocan Valley Economic Development Coordinator asks me to do many things, and now that I have your attention, you might just wonder what the connection is here. I think it’s important for us to look at the big picture and view matters in context, and having this kind of awareness helps put the ‘Slocan Valley’ into ‘Slocan Valley Economic Development.’ Without wanting to seem cliché, but also owning it, I think by having this perspective we in the Slocan Valley can play a role for a brighter future, tapping into our collective wisdom to help shape our creative, earth-friendly ideas and practices. At the same time, there’s work that needs to happen in order for us to build capacity here in the valley, for our community to be more resilient and forward-facing.

In the meantime, I’d like to celebrate the successes of community economic development in the valley, and indeed important progress is being made on many fronts. For example, the storefront businesses of downtown Winlaw have met on several occasions to discuss what common interests they may share, if it would make sense to pool resources. We go – so what form would that take? As a result, a Winlaw Business Committee has formed and is exploring the possibility of becoming a committee of the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce. This move would allow Winlaw businesses to support each other, to freely form working groups on distinct projects, apply for grants as they become available, support the Chamber of Commerce and benefit from membership and efficiencies from its organizational structure. For now, downtown storefront Winlaw businesses are invited to contact Colleen Emery at Emery Herbals for information on how to join the committee.

The new Arrow and Slocan Valley Tourism Association (ASTA) had its inaugural AGM and selected its board of directors. There is representation from accommodators; arts, culture and heritage; backcountry lodges, outdoor recreation and activities; food, beverage and retail; Chamber of Commerce and local government. A provincially-sanctioned increase in the provincial room tax and a change to the Regional & Destination Taxation Plan will be paid by visitors staying in hotels or B&Bs in the area, and that money will go to ASTA to fund tourism initiatives for the Slocan and Arrow Lakes Valleys.

Recently there was a Kootenay Cannabis Symposium held in Nelson. Many of the organizers hailed from the Slocan Valley, as members of the Kootenay United Cannabis Association (KUCA), with support from my position at the Regional District of Central Kootenay, as well as others from the RDCK, Selkirk College, City of Nelson and industry. The goal was to identify barriers and brainstorm solutions for those trying to enter the legal cannabis licensing process. The Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society: one to upgrade the food bank garden, and one on behalf of the Slocan Valley Youth Network for a project to teach youth how to build and control a robot through coding techniques, providing skills that may be useful in future employment and promoting working together.

The Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society received a grant to support Passmore Lodge’s 20th Anniversary Celebration which will take place on July 27. The Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society (RARTS) received a grant on behalf of the Valley Gems Community Theatre to help cover the costs of set building materials, costumes, etc. for the production of the very successful play ‘Peter Pan.’

Songwriting Competition winner is joined this time by duo partner Jack Connoly. Soulful harmonies and skillful guitar playing Bluegrass rhythms, traditional Folk, Americana and pop! www. heartwoodmusic.ca Advance tickets are $15 at Sunside Naturals and Willow Home Gallery in Kaslo.

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Slocan Valley Synopsis – The Business of Transition”, that can be found online on the RDCK website. The report attempts to dissect the local industry to have a look at how the transition to the legal market may affect different groups in the industry, and again, identifying barriers and looking at solutions. Coming soon – a page on resources for the cannabis sector on the RDCK website. The new Agriculture Land Commission recently issued a bulletin declaring that all cannabis production in the Agriculture Land Reserve is now considered farm use, a reversal of its previous position.

In spite of my big picture start to this column, this community economic work is still important and I look forward to where we are at today. As our world shifts, we need to have eyes wide open to respond to new versions of normal. That can mean change, stretching and at times stepping out of our bubble. With this role in community economic development to support and strengthen our community, together with the Village, the Regional District and partners, we ask you to meet us part way, to show up, get involved, to join the conversation. We in the Slocan Valley should cherish and celebrate our culture, our past, and with that foundation move forward to a future that holds our environment precious and brings community and compassion to the forefront.

Correction

In ‘Restoration work to begin on Sln’mp Marsh this summer’ in our last issue, it was incorrectly reported that the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS) had received a grant under the CBT Ecosystem Enhancement Program. In fact, SLSS has qualified for grant funding under the program but has not yet heard whether or not the grant will be awarded.

Helga Marie Dummerauf

Dummerauf (Ayi), Helga Marie passed away on June 6, 2019 at the Arrow Lakes Hospital. Survived by her grandchildren Toni and Tristan as well as her daughter-in-law Dawn, family in AB and Germany. Memorial donations may be made to the Arrow Lakes Hospital. Private ceremony to follow at a later date.

If you wish to leave a message of personal condolence you can visit the family’s online register at www.valleyfh.ca
submitted

Siera Club BC and forest expert Herb Hammond have called for immediate steps to reduce the danger of worsening droughts, floods and fires caused by forest degradation and climate breakdown. They are calling on the BC government to declare a forest and climate emergency and take immediate action to protect and restore resilient forests in order to reduce the growing risk of unmanageable climate impacts for ecosystems and communities.

“We are in a climate emergency and it’s the time the government acted like it. Defending our communities from floods and fires requires immediate action to reduce climate pollution and save intact forests,” said Jens Wieting, senior forest and climate campaigner with Siera Club BC.

“Trees are essential for clean water, long-term forestry jobs, storing carbon and protecting communities from floods and disasters. As the climate shifts into uncharted territory, only intact forests can buffer the impacts — not clearcuts, young forests and tree plantations. We need action today because in 10 or 20 years we’ll need these forests for survival.”

Destructive industrial logging is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the province, causing forests to shift from carbon sinks to carbon pollution sources as global heating continues.

“The climate emergency means we must move from protection of resilient forests like old-growth forests and intact natural forests across the province,” said Winlaw forester and ecologist Herb Hammond. “In some parts of the forest landscape, cautious intervention like thinning to build resiliency to the climate disruption and controlled burns will be necessary. Clearcutting is never the right answer — we have to reduce our losses, not make them worse.”

Meteorologists warned at the end of May that Western Canada should be ready for a particularly hot and dry summer, after an abnormally dry spring in many regions.

In October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projected that without unprecedented action, by 2030 the world was likely to warm by about 1.5 degrees Celsius beyond pre-industrial times. As a consequence of warming of just one degree, water availability would be reduced by 20 percent and by 7 percent if increased by 7% and changes in the jet stream have resulted in weather patterns becoming more stationary, causing some areas to experience more extreme flooding and droughts.

These trends will only stop once the world economy has completely decarbonized, but can be significantly slowed by protecting intact natural forests, particularly old forests, that are large enough to moderate local climates and stave off the worst impacts of the climate disruption.

Moving away from destructive practices must be part of provincial climate action to increase the amount of carbon stored in forests. This will translate into more jobs and less ecosystem damage per cubic metre of wood. Solutions like increased protection, Peter and improved forest management must fully respect the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Two immediate first steps for the BC government are to:

- Develop and implement an immediate “climate impact test” for logging plans. Every hectare of newly clearcut forest leaves communities more vulnerable to flooding, wildfires and loss of clean water. Logging plans must be adjusted or cancelled as needed to address the climate emergency.

- Overhaul BC’s legislation and regulations governing forestry. The review currently underway needs to be significantly expanded to correct the existing corporate control of public forests. The Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA) and associated legislation and policy need a paradigm shift from a timber-based approach to a principled ecosystem-based approach to save and restore the carbon storage function and life support systems provided by BC’s forests, give species and ecosystems a chance to adapt to the changing climate, and reduce deadly dangers for communities.

Big community party at Lardeau museum

submitted

Mark your calendar now for the June community-wide party to celebrate the 100th birthday of Lardeau Valley Museum’s beautifully restored pioneer cabin.

“While the cabin will eventually need to be restored, but the spirit of pioneering is as solid and alive as ever in the north end of Kootenay Lake,” said Peter Jonker, Lardeau Valley Historical Society president. “And we are going to celebrate this spirit.”

The truth is that the cabin has survived much. After Billy Clark built it on the banks of Duncan Lake in Howser, he lived happily with his family for going on 50 years. He built, flooding out most of Howser. It made no difference that he was far into his seventies, or that he had lived the world over but about that.

No, he would be forced to move and his cabin would be burned to the ground before the new reservoir water level could drown it. It was a sad day. As skilled and resourceful as he was, his was the most trim and solid cabin that stood proudly overlooking the original lake.

So, he moved the cabin. It was not only skillful, but also a gentle and sensible sort of pioneer – a local legend who had accumulated many friends. They helped Billy settle in Six-Mile, west of Nelson, and carefully relocated his cabin to the upland overlooking the clay pit in Meadow Creek.

Eventually, it was brought to the museum grounds. Here, it is being restored by local craftsman Chris Ferguson, with core funding support from Columbia Basin Trust and Heritage BC through the Built Heritage Grants Program.

“It is perfectly fitting,” says Jonker. “It’s a beautiful restoration and birthday happen to occur in the same year.”

No doubt, if Billy were alive today, he would be over-the-top thrilled.

The party is expected to draw more than 250 people. It will be an all-ages, family-friendly event that includes free barbecue, birthday cake, face-painting, kids’ games, displays of historic relics and collections, live music, demonstration of some heritage craftsmanship, the Lardeau Valley Sunday Market, and more!

Oh, yes: a pioneer fashion contest too, which means that people are encouraged to come dressed up like a pioneer.

Inviting location welcomes you at 112 Slocan Ave, behind Sweet Dreams Guest House. Any and all donations to assist with the ongoing work of the Hidden Garden Gallery are greatly appreciated. For more information please visit hiddengardengallery.ca.

Twelve artists prepare to exhibit at Hidden Garden Gallery

submitted

The Hidden Garden Gallery has officially launched its Summer 2019 lineup. Its tagline of “helping artists find their art” perfectly reflects the gallery’s unwavering commitment to supporting novice and seasoned artists, by providing a welcoming venue to showcase many art forms. This non-profit organization, run by a volunteer working board does not take any commission from artists’ sales. Artists flourish as they receive a 25% discount on gallery's unwavering commitment to supporting novice and seasoned artists, by providing a welcoming venue to showcase many art forms. This non-profit organization, run by a volunteer working board does not take any commission from artists’ sales. Artists flourish as they receive a 25% discount on artists’ sales. Artists flourish as they receive a 25% discount on.

The 2019 season which runs until September 8, includes shows by new and returning artists. Look for the bookmark insert in this edition of The Valley Voice, for names of all featured artists and dates of their shows.

The first show, Burgers and Birth, is inspired by play, fun and laughter – a staple for the duo of Richard Burton and Dream Guest House. Any and all donations to assist with the ongoing work of the Hidden Garden Gallery are greatly appreciated. For more information please visit hiddengardengallery.ca.

Local priorities take centre stage at national conference

submitted

Silverton Councillor Leah Main joined municipal leaders from across the country at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ 2019 Annual Conference to deliver a united message to the federal government: support for local governments is critical to delivering results for Canadians.

This conference is also an opportunity to highlight local government representatives get a green light to serve on the FCM Board of Directors. Main was re-elected to serve a fifth consecutive year in this capacity, and was elected by the BC Caucus to serve as their chair. She will participate in FCM Executive Committee meetings, bringing a large voice for a very small town and rural areas to national discussions.

Whether it’s better roads, transit, housing or water systems, local governments are building better lives, says FCM. However, without the tools available, but the upcoming federal election needs to empower us to get even more done for Canadians across the country.”

The BC Caucus of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Leah Main, representing Silverton Regional District of Central Kootenay stands at centre.

inviting location welcomes you at 112 Slocan Ave, behind Sweet Dreams Guest House. Any and all donations to assist with the ongoing work of the Hidden Garden Gallery are greatly appreciated. For more information please visit hiddengardengallery.ca.
A Columbia Wireless tower to be located near Kuskanax Mountain Trail in the Nakusp area

Two bridge on Hwy 31A to be replaced

The Nakusp RCMP is requesting help from the citizens of Nakusp and Silverton to rebrand the Lyle Creek bridge on Hwy 31A.

Hospice launches new look and new services

Columbia Wireless tower may be installed near Kuskanax Mountain Trail in Nakusp

Land Act: Notice of Application for a Disposition of Crown Land

Support the Valley with a voluntary donation:

FLNRORD invites comments on this application, the Lands File is 4406031. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to Authorization Specialist, FLNRORD, Kootenay Boundary Region, for a Licence of Occupation for Communication Disposition of Crown Land.

Take notice that We, Columbia Wireless Inc., from Nelson, BC, have applied to the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), Kootenay Boundary Region, for a Licence of Occupation for Communication Disposition of Crown Land.

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Support the Valley with a voluntary donation:
Rebuilding Procter Village Bakery, the heart of the village

Submitted by Goody Niosi

The village of Procter in the West Kootenays has taken on the big challenge of rebuilding its bakery café – its meeting place and heart. But to do that it needs help.

For at least two decades, the café, tucked into the old schoolhouse, has served as the town’s meeting place, eating place, discussion forum and social heartbeat.

In the fall of 2018, the Village Bakery shut its doors and the community rallied. No Village Bakery? Unthinkable! Was the question, how to re-open? How to keep it going?

Lisa Norris, vice president of the Procter Community Society (PCS) explains that in order to re-open, upgrades and new equipment are required. Those upgrades include electrical, plumbing, installing an accessible front door and so much more. In fact, PCS estimates it will cost $75,000 – $100,000 to renovate the Village Bakery. With a population of 800, that might seem like a daunting task. But when the local population was presented with the facts, there was no hesitation. “Let’s do it!” they said. “There was lots of socializing. I hope it’s successful. There’s lots of enthusiasm. It’s a nice community and a very community-oriented place.”

Michael Martin was the next person to operate the Village Bakery. He purchased it from Foot in 2007 and began opening it five days a week. He also introduced an espresso machine. After almost 10 years of serving the community, Martin sold the bakery.

“The Village Bakery became a place to meet,” he said. “There was lots of socializing. I hope it’s successful. There’s lots of enthusiasm. It’s a nice community and a very community-oriented place.”

When Foot ran the bakery, it was open Monday, Wednesday and Friday. “We had tons of fun,” she said. “I comforted a few of the local kids through their own summer jobs.”

She also recalled the storytelling festival that got the entire community involved and that once again focused on the history of the ‘new’ Village Bakery. The vision for the ‘new’ Village Bakery isn’t a grand one but it captures the heart of a small community.

Norris said she imagines a place full of warmth that celebrates the community’s roots while it creates fresh memories.

“We want to create warmth in the newness. We might incorporate photos of community members and maybe local artists on one wall and maybe a chalkboard wall that changes – a place where the history is honoured and the warmth is engaged and where the community can gather for whatever shows ups. We’ll create it together.”

To give to this project, visit gofundme.com/every-village-needs-a-kitchen.
GALLERIES

The Langham Cultural Centre - walk
[Location and address]

Visitors can enjoy a variety of cultural displays and exhibitions at the Langham Cultural Centre. The centre is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM, and entrance is free for all visitors.

The Valley Voice - June 20, 2019

Alfa Art Walk - walk
[Location and address]

Located in the heart of downtown, the Alfa Art Walk is a vibrant and diverse neighborhood known for its thriving art scene. Visitors can explore a variety of galleries, studios, and public art installations throughout the area.

Chioscuro Photography Gallery - walk
[Location and address]

Chioscuro Photography Gallery is an established art venue that specializes in showcasing contemporary photography. The gallery offers a range of exhibitions featuring works by both established and emerging photographers.

Hidden Garden Gallery - New Denver
[Location and address]

Hidden Garden Gallery is a well-known art gallery located in the heart of New Denver. The gallery features a diverse range of original artwork, including paintings, sculptures, and mixed media pieces. Visitors can also enjoy the peaceful garden setting surrounding the gallery.

West End Route - June 20, 2019 - The Valley Voice

West End Route - June 20, 2019 - The Valley Voice

Visitor Information

A Wanderer’s Paradise.
Where the journey is the destination.

West End Route - June 20, 2019 - The Valley Voice

West End Route - June 20, 2019 - The Valley Voice

RESTAURANTS & ACCOMMODATIONS

The Paddy Shack - New Denver
[Location and address]

The Paddy Shack is a cozy Irish-themed restaurant located on Highway 6. Visit the Paddy Shack for its delicious Irish-style dishes and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. The restaurant is open daily from 11 AM to 10 PM.

Murphy’s Landing - New Denver
[Location and address]

Murphy’s Landing is a picturesque restaurant and bar located on the shores of Lake Roscommon. Enjoy a meal with breathtaking lake views or relax in their comfortable lounge area. The restaurant is open daily from 11 AM to 10 PM.

The Lodge at Arrow Lakes - New Denver
[Location and address]

The Lodge at Arrow Lakes is a luxurious resort that offers stunning Lakeview rooms and suites. The property features a full-service spa, outdoor pool, and a variety of dining options. The Lodge is open daily from 8 AM to 10 PM.

Dragon’s Loft - New Denver
[Location and address]

Dragon’s Loft is a cozy, intimate restaurant located in downtown New Denver. Offering a creative menu of local and seasonal dishes, the restaurant is open daily from 11 AM to 9 PM.

Valhalla Inn - New Denver
[Location and address]

Valhalla Inn is a historic hotel located in the heart of New Denver. The inn offers comfortable accommodations, delicious dining options, and a variety of activities and amenities. Valhalla Inn is the perfect place to base your Arrow Lakes adventure.

West End Route - June 20, 2019 - The Valley Voice

West End Route - June 20, 2019 - The Valley Voice

Paradise Valley Lodge - New Denver
[Location and address]

Paradise Valley Lodge is a cozy inn located in the heart of Arrow Lakes. The lodge offers comfortable accommodations, a full-service spa, and a variety of dining options. Paradise Valley Lodge is the perfect place to relax and rejuvenate. The lodge is open daily from 8 AM to 10 PM.

Karibú Park Cottages & Campground - New Denver
[Location and address]

Karibú Park Cottages & Campground is a peaceful and relaxing destination located in the heart of Arrow Lakes. The camp offers a variety of accommodations, including cabins, RV sites, and tent sites. Karibú Park is the perfect place to connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of the Arrow Lakes region.

Woodbury Resort & JB’s Restaurant - New Denver
[Location and address]

Woodbury Resort & JB’s Restaurant is a luxurious retreat located in the heart of Arrow Lakes. The resort offers a variety of accommodations, including cabins, RV sites, and tent sites. JB’s Restaurant is a popular dining destination offering seasonal and local cuisine. Woodbury Resort & JB’s Restaurant is open daily from 11 AM to 10 PM.

McDonald Creek Provincial Park - New Denver
[Location and address]

McDonald Creek Provincial Park is a beautiful natural area located in the heart of Arrow Lakes. The park offers a variety of activities, including hiking, fishing, and birdwatching. McDonald Creek Provincial Park is open daily from 8 AM to 10 PM.

Rosebery Provincial Park - New Denver
[Location and address]

Rosebery Provincial Park is a beautiful natural area located in the heart of Arrow Lakes. The park offers a variety of activities, including hiking, birdwatching, and picnicking. Rosebery Provincial Park is open daily from 8 AM to 10 PM.

Summit Lake Provincial Park - New Denver
[Location and address]

Summit Lake Provincial Park is a beautiful natural area located in the heart of Arrow Lakes. The park offers a variety of activities, including hiking, birdwatching, and picnicking. Summit Lake Provincial Park is open daily from 8 AM to 10 PM.

Visitor Information

For more information on the places mentioned, please visit westrootroute.ca. To contact us, call 250-276-0038 or visit us at the visitor information centre located at the west end of New Denver.
GARDENING

7030 Powell Road, Winlaw
250-220-7334
1-800-961-4461
Grow Your Own
Indoor & Outdoor Garden Supplies, Knowledgeable Staff, Regular Hours
Mon – Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
**Hidden Garden Gallery**

**Helping artists grow AT THE HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY - Burgers & Birds**

Blending humour with seriousness, the collaborative work of Roni Jurgensen and Beth Burton. The Hidden Garden Gallery is located at 112 Slocan Ave, New Denver, behind Sweet Dreams Guesthouse. The gallery is open 10 am-3 pm, Tuesday-Sunday. For more information please visit hiddengardengallery.ca.

**GALLERY - AT THE HIDDEN GARDEN**

hiddengardengallery.ca. Sunday. For more information please visit gallery is open 10 am-3 pm, Tuesday-located at 112 Slocan Ave, New Denver, Burton. The Hidden Garden Gallery is July 2, 7-9 pm, with music by Richard Blending humour with seriousness, the collaborative work of Roni Jurgensen and Beth Burton. The Hidden Garden Gallery is located at 112 Slocan Ave, New Denver, behind Sweet Dreams Guesthouse. The gallery is open 10 am-3 pm, Tuesday-Sunday. For more information please visit hiddengardengallery.ca.

**July 2-7, 10 am-3 pm. Reception on artwork, in acrylic. The show runs range of Leela Kapel's mixed media and Large:**

**Happiness:**

**Artwork, in acrylic. The show runs**

**The title reflects the wide range of Leela Kapel’s mixed media artwork, in acrylic. The show runs**

**The Hidden Garden Gallery**

**July 2, 7-9 pm, with music by Richard and Beth Gallup is featured June 25**

**Blending humour with seriousness, the collaborative work of Roni Jurgensen and Beth Burton. The Hidden Garden Gallery is located at 112 Slocan Ave, New Denver, behind Sweet Dreams Guesthouse. The gallery is open 10 am-3 pm, Tuesday-Sunday. For more information please visit hiddengardengallery.ca.**

**JUNE 29, 7-9 pm, with music by Richard and Beth Gallup is featured June 25**

**Blending humour with seriousness, the collaborative work of Roni Jurgensen and Beth Burton. The Hidden Garden Gallery is located at 112 Slocan Ave, New Denver, behind Sweet Dreams Guesthouse. The gallery is open 10 am-3 pm, Tuesday-Sunday. For more information please visit hiddengardengallery.ca.**

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Nakusp byelection: candidate interviews

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp residents go to the polls at the Legion Hall on Saturday, July 13 (advance voting July 3) to vote in their byelection. Reny Kito and Ken Miller are the two candidates running for the one councillor seat left vacant when Janis Neufeld resigned for health reasons.

Reny Kito grew up in Vernon, graduated from high school in Kelowna, and then lived in Nakusp for five years. His two boys were born here. Then he and his family moved to Manitoba, returning to Nakusp three years ago. He runs Arey Computers/ The Source on royalолько.ca.

Why do you want to be on council?
A lot of people of want to be on council because my voice is heard. When I post a comment on Facebook, I get instant results. I let people who approach me and want to talk to me about these issues. I think we need a very active voice at the table to help speak for the local businesses and have a great rapport with a lot of the businesses. I have a drive to get in there and sit at the table and have some good heart-to-heart discussions on policies and how the system needs to evolve in some areas so we can help the town grow in the right direction.

What are your top issues?
The business core is key, but that is only the tip of the iceberg. We have lots of work but we’re missing the workers. And there are only so many old beds in this town for people, so we have to come up with a game plan on how to change so we can have more housing, then more jobs. Larger companies want to come but there’s no land and no services to the land. We need to pull everything back to the beginning and redevelop the town so it has the ability to grow in the right areas. We want to grow, not keep the same footprint, but the downtown is surrounded by residential and residential is landlocked, so how do we grow? It’s going to take a lot of planning.

What do you love about Nakusp?
If you move here, you’re going to live longer because of the clean air and the clean water. That is only 1% of the beauty of Nakusp. The scenery, the beauty is irreplaceable. I have never been in such a nice, close-knit community. I hear comments from tourists about how friendly we are here. If you’re elected, do you think you’ll want to continue for the long term?
That depends on how positive of a momentum we get going. If we can come up with some fantastic ideas for positive changes, then I’m for the long haul. Councillors tend to be overwhelmed by policy and procedure and how the system handcuffs you and I think that’s where I can shine, by pushing those policy walls down. I’m the guy who will question just about anything. I don’t care if it’s always been done like that, I need a logical explanation why.

Are you comfortable with the structure and formality of council meetings?
I’m all for structure. There has to be structure and formality. I’ve been on boards before and I’ve helped organize boards before. It’s not going to be shell shock for me.

Ken Miller was a maintenance person at the Arrow Lakes Hospital for roughly 25 years. He was on council in 1993 for a three-year term, and then again 2001-02 when a councillor moved away. He has lived in Nakusp since 1975, and was here before that, too.

Why do you want to be on council?
I was approached by a few people to run. I decided I should because I’m retired. It’s something different to do for a while. I’m sort of going into it like the perfect jurore, with no views one way or the other.

What are your top issues?
Housing is obviously a problem. I am an ex hospital employee and am on the hospital foundation executive, and they are having trouble getting nurses because there’s no place to live. The trouble with low cost housing is there’s no such thing as low cost construction. What do you love about Nakusp?

Everything! When I was on council back then, I was a little selfish. I wanted to keep Nakusp small and for myself but it’s just not going to happen. It’s grown to be very nice. More wonderful people have moved into town and it’s still a great place to be. I can’t think of any better place.

If you’re elected, do you think you’ll want to continue for the long term?
It depends on which committees I decide to join and how involved I get on them.

Are you comfortable with the structure and formality of council meetings?
Yes, I’m very comfortable with it. I want to council last Monday and I was quite impressed with how well run the meeting was.

Nakusp's main street.


doesn’t care if it’s always been done like that, I need a logical explanation why.
Category 3 fires prohibited submitted

Category 3 open fires are now prohibited in this region. The BC Wildfire Service implemented the ban to help prevent wildfires caused by Category 3 burning and to protect public safety.

Specifically, prohibited activities include:

- any fire larger than two metres high by three metres wide;
- three or more concurrently burning piles no larger than two metres high by three metres wide;
- burning of one or more windows; and
- burning of stubble or grass over an area greater than 0.2 hectares (2,150 sq ft).

This prohibition will remain in place until the public is otherwise notified. It applies to all public and private land outside municipal boundaries. Check with local government authorities for any other restrictions before lighting any fire.

This prohibition does not ban campfires that are a half-metre high by a half-metre wide or smaller, and does not apply to cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes.

A poster explaining the different categories of open burning is available online: http://ow.ly/wny309kJv5

Anyone found in contravention of an open burning prohibition may be issued a violation ticket for $1,150, required to pay an administrative penalty of up to $100,000 and/or sentenced to up to one year in jail. If the contravention causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs, as well as the value of the resources damaged or destroyed by the wildfire.

To report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open burning violation, call 1 800 663-5555 toll-free or *5555 on a cellphone.

For the latest information on current wildfire activity, burning restrictions, road closures and air quality advisories, visit: www.bcwildfire.ca, twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo or facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo.

Langham screens The Radicals tomorrow night submitted

The Radicals is a breathtaking documentary that follows four snowboarders and surfers driven to become social and environmental activists through their intimate connection with the land.

As we journey across BC’s West Coast, the film weaves a story of learning, inspiration and resistance from the First Nations communities: from the Tahltan fight for the Iskut headwaters, art as resilience on Haida Gwaii, to an uprising against fish farms, each experience teaches what it means to be a true radical. The Radicals inspires us to shift our perspectives and dig into our roots to create radical waves of change, while still enjoying the thrill of nature and a sense of real purpose.

Admission is $10 at the door, youth and students free.

The Valley Voice
The Valley Voice
June 20, 2019

COMMUNITY

Vallican landmark restoration project completed

submitted

The Vallican Heritage Hall, known to many locals as the ‘Little Red Schoolhouse’, has undergone a significant restoration and revitalization over the past few years. The Vallican Heritage Hall Society (VHHS) has been actively coordinating the efforts.

With primary support coming from the Columbia Basin Trust, several sub-projects have been completed. These include replacing the roof, stabilizing the foundation, insulating the floor, installing new lighting, replacing damaged siding, upgrading the kitchen and appliances, and finally, repainting this notable historic building and community heirloom.

The Trust provided funds through two sources, a ‘Built Heritage Grant’ – administered and managed by Heritage BC – which “supports the preservation, rehabilitation, and/or restoration of built heritage resources in the Columbia Basin Trust region,” and its ‘Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs (CI/ AAP)’, which supports “local projects that provide additional value to Basin communities, and that benefit the broad community and public good.”

Chris Swetland of Swetland Enterprises Ltd. carried out most of the major upgrades, with VHHS board members and local volunteers doing the related planning, purchasing, coordination of contractors, and painting. The Heritage Conservation Plan, a July 2018 report prepared by Elana Zysblat of Ance Building Services and John Atkin, who did the research and compiled the history of the building and area, provides written and illustrated details of the changes made. The excerpts below are from this report.

The hall is a “single storey decommissioned vernacular school house set on a large lot facing Slocan River Road, situated in the Slocan Valley community of Vallican … on the traditional territory of the Sinixt people.” It was built in 1930 and is “representative of the … schoolhouses designed by the Department of Public Works and built throughout British Columbia until the advent of World War II.

The hall “is valued as one of the last vestiges of the original non-native settlement established in the early 1900s … Originally known as Barker’s Siding, the settlement was situated close to Brown’s Hotel, a halfway house providing the only stopping place on the Slocan River between Nelson and Slocan City.

“The Vallican Heritage Hall served the area as a school until 1968 and is valued as a reminder of the importance small communities placed on education … That community focus continued with the Nelson School Board transfer of the property to the Vallican Heritage Hall Society in the 1980s on the condition that the building operate as a public community hall. It fulfills that role as a community-led and maintained venue for events and the arts …

Originally, students attended a school at Winlaw but the population was soon large enough to qualify for their own school.

A public celebration of this restoration will take place on Sunday June 23 from 1 to 4 pm at 4192 Slocan River Road. Community members are invited to attend; building tours, hamburgers and refreshments will be provided.

The society welcomes stories and photographs of Vallican Heritage Hall’s past – please send them to vhhs4192@gmail.com or bring them to the event.