A 28-year-old man is in custody following a standoff near Argenta that resulted in an RCMP officer being shot and seriously injured. Harry Richardson is facing charges of attempted murder with a firearm, unlawfully discharging a firearm, careless use or storage of a firearm, and being in a dwelling-house without lawful excuse. He is scheduled to appear in Castlegar Provincial Court on November 14.

The incident began October 10 at approximately 7 pm when Kaslo RCMP officers attended to a rural property in the Argenta area in order to execute arrest warrants on the suspect, who was known to police. When confronted, the wanted male suspect fled from officers and retreated inside a nearby cabin. Given the remote location, no other properties or members of the public had to be evacuated.

The suspect barricaded himself in the cabin and allegedly fired shots. The RCMP Southeast District Emergency Response Team, along with crisis negotiators were deployed to the area and following lengthy and exhaustive negotiations with the barricaded man, he exited the residence and was arrested without further incident.

Police confirmed that an RCMP officer suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries after being shot during the incident. The injured officer was transported to a local area hospital and is expected to recover.

RCMP resources including the Emergency Response Team, Tactical Troop and General Investigations were deployed from across the province to support the ongoing investigation.

“It’s important to note that the situation is still an active investigation and we continue to work with our fellow law enforcement partners,” said C/Supt. Brad Haugli, Officer-in-Charge of the Southeast District RCMP.

“While we always hope that situations such as this come to a swift and safe resolution, we are thankful that our officer is expected to fully recover and no one else has been injured,” said C/Supt. Brad Haugli, Officer-in-Charge of the Southeast District RCMP.

Federal election results

by Jan McMurray

The October 21 federal election has returned Richard Cannings as the NDP MP for South Okanagan-West Kootenay (which includes Nakusp and area, Slocan Valley, Castlegar), and Mel Arnold as the Conservative MP for North Okanagan Shuswap (which includes Edgewood and West Arrow Park).

The surprise is in the Kootenay-Columbia riding (which includes Kaslo and area, Nelson), where Conservative candidate Rob Morrison has beat out incumbent Wayne Stetski (NDP) by a long shot. In the 2015 election, it was a very close race between the NDP’s Stetski and the Conservative’s David Wilks in this riding, and Morrison garnered over 5,000 votes more than Stetski.

Stetski came out ahead by just 282 votes. In this election, Morrison

Thanksgiving Monday marked the fifth anniversary of Peter de Groot’s death. See the statement issued by his sister, Danna de Groot, on page 3. Peter de Groot was shot by police in a cabin near Slocan on October 13, 2014.

The Turkish people are celebrating the 96th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey on October 29, 2019 to honour the memory of the founders of the republic, most notably the respectful Great Atatürk. The Republic of Turkey is a pluralistic, secular, vibrant democracy and is a member or founding member of several international organizations such as NATO, OSCE, OECD and the Council of Europe. It proudly assumes leading roles in several UN agencies. Turkey was one of the first countries in the world to uplift the status of women to that of men. Turkish women were granted the right to vote as early as the 1930s. Turkey may not be the richest country in world but thanks to its enterprisal and humanitarian foreign policy, it is recognized as the most generous one by allocating 1.1% of it’s GDP (8.6 billion USD) in 2018 for Official Development Assistance. Turkey hosts more than 4 million displaced people – mostly Syrian – due to the ongoing violence in their country. Turkey spearheads the efforts for a political solution in Syria in line with the UN parameters where it is the guarantor state of the Syrian opposition in Astana process and also is an active member of Defeat ISIS Global Coalition, being the only Coalition member which has put its troops in harm’s way to defeat ISIS. Turkey promises to continue to fight against all forms of terror unabated. We, the Turkish Canadians join with joy and pride, Turks all over the world, in celebrating the 96th anniversary of our modern Republic and extend our heartfelt best wishes to them from Canada.

Kamil Aksoylu, New Denver
SLSS awarded funding for Bonanza Wetlands remediation

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS) has just received funding for a three-year project to remediate and restore three wetland complexes in the Bonanza corridor between Slocan and Summit Lakes.

The wetlands and riparian areas in the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (BBC) are sensitive ecosystems with high biodiversity values. These wetlands support a wide range of critical aquatic and terrestrial habitats that contribute significantly to the hydrologic functioning of the Slocan Watershed. The historic Canadian Pacific Railway berm that runs the length of the valley bottom acts as a linear dam and over time has negatively impacted the dynamic wetland-riparian-floodplain system of Bonanza Creek and its tributaries.

Over the years, SLSS has supported and obtained grant funding for a wide range of science-based research, assessments and studies within the Slocan Watershed. Wetland assessments completed between 2013 and 2016 by the Slocan Wetlands Assessment & Monitoring Project (SWAMP) provided a clear understanding of the ecologically rich and unique nature of the BBC.

In 2018, SLSS established the BBC Working Group to develop specific conservation actions to preserve the BBC’s unique ecosystems. This group recommended and assisted in preparing the initial project proposal for three priority areas requiring remediation to restore hydrologic connectivity, improve habitat and native vegetation in the riparian zone.

Under the Columbia Basin Trust Ecosystem Enhancement Program (CBT-EEP), SLSS has been awarded funding for this three-year project. Partnering with KCP through the Kootenay Connect conservation initiative, additional funding is being provided under Environment & Climate Change Canada’s Fund for Nature. Other SLSS partners in the project include the Okanagan Nation Alliance, SWAMP and the North Slocan Trails Society.

Each of the targeted areas for restoration (Upper Bonanza Creek Complex, Hunter Siding and Summit Lake Wetland) has its own unique set of requirements and remediation needs. The project team has a wide range of skill sets and disciplines, ranging from ecologists, biologists, hydrologists, traditional ecological knowledge holders to site supervisors, field crews and machine operators. The project includes the identification and improvement of Species At Risk (SAR) habitats and fisheries spawning features in the corridor.

The first phase of the project will focus on planning and detailed design, which includes permits, approvals and site-specific plans. On-site restoration and construction activities are not expected to commence until the fall of 2020. SLSS will provide information and updates to the community as the project progresses.

To embark on a project of this nature is a turning point for SLSS and is based on the dedication and commitment of those who contributed in the past. In particular, SLSS is grateful for the vision and persistence of Marcy Mueh, Margaret Hartley and Richard Johnson who focused on the ecological values of the BBC. SLSS continues its conservation focus in the Slocan Lake Watershed through science, education and advocacy.

For those seeking more information on the SLSS or this project, the public is welcome to attend the SLSS AGM on Sunday, November 10 at 2 pm, Zion United Church in Silverton.

BC government provides $6.5 million for caribou habitat restoration

The Province is providing $6.5 million over three years for caribou habitat restoration in British Columbia. The funding will be administered to qualifying organizations through the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation’s (HCTF) Caribou Habitat Restoration Fund.

Human influence on the landscape — including forestry, mining and roadbuilding — has altered caribou habitat, says the ministry. Projects pursued under the fund will focus on restoring habitat through both functional and ecological approaches. Examples of functional restoration activities include planting trees, spreading coarse woody debris and installing fences to disrupt linear thoroughfares that advantage predators.

Ecological restoration activities include encouraging native plants and trees that support the return of caribou habitat to its undisturbed state.

According to the Wilderness Committee, habitat destruction has been identified by leading caribou biologists as the ultimate cause of caribou decline. Restoration is good but “protecting habitat from logging and other industrial activity is not mentioned, not even once. All the money is going to habitat restoration with no mention of halting further habitat destruction,” the committee says.

Industry has left a disastrous mess in the province; the government is cleaning up a sliver of the mess with taxpayer money while letting industry off the hook, said Conservation and Policy Campaigner Charlotte Dawe. “Sadly this restoration will simultaneously happen as industry continues to destroy habitat in the form of industrial roads, seismic lines and logging cutblocks.”

The committee says government is also increasing the wolf cull by up to 80 per cent in some areas to protect caribou. They are doubling down on this controversial and questionable short-term strategy while ignoring the elephant in the room — habitat destruction.

The Province granted an initial $2 million to HCTF in April 2018 to implement a caribou habitat restoration program, which aims to rehabilitate habitat in areas prioritized for recovery efforts. During its first intake, HCTF provided funding to 11 projects led by First Nations, government, industry and not-for-profit societies.

Applications are being accepted by HCTF to fund the second round of habitat restoration projects. This intake closes Friday, November 1, at 4:30 pm.

To apply for funds through the HCTF, or for more information, visit hctf.ca/.

FOOD SPECIALS

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TRICK-OR-TREAT!

If your little ghosts n’ goblins will be dressing up for Halloween, we want to see them! Bring your trick-or-treaters to the Co-op on Friday, October 31st for a treat! We wish you all a safe and Happy Halloween!
On behalf of Peter’s family, I want to touch base in order to keep people informed as we said we would do at the initial press conference that we held on October 21, 2014. It is now five years to the day that our brother was, in our opinion, wrongly killed in Slocan, BC following a manhunt involving three RCMP officers. We cannot believe that it has been five years. As in our last correspondence, we feel that the IIO report fails to provide any evidence to support the struggle which resulted in Peter’s death.

We have been advised, in just this last week, that the witnesses who were or were not participating in the IIO inquest, which is being scheduled to take place in the spring of 2020 in Nelson. We do intend to participate and will continue to be represented by our counsel, Donald Sorochan, QC. There are still many outstanding questions for us that have not been answered in the last five years, including all of the items I mentioned in the first news conference, as well as some new issues that arise out of the IIO report. We are also concerned about how the investigation of this case has been and is being managed, as it is illustrated by the inordinate amount of time and money spent under the supervision of the IIO. Peter’s death and the lack of clarity there is to show for the investigations to date.

Because of legal constraints on the use of the information, we are unable to discuss any of the evidentiary details of the investigation that have been disclosed to us, until the evidence is made public at the inquest. We do, however, hope to have the following questions answered at the upcoming inquest if people of interest have an interest to follow the proceedings.

We hope to learn:

• Why RCMP officers attended Peter’s home in the first place, let alone acted in such a confrontational and offensive manner in approaching Peter at his home.
• What orders of police authorities were made which resulted in Peter’s demise and why they were made.
• What the two officers whose confrontation with Peter resulted in his death actually did, along with a detailed and realistic timeline of what happened.
• Why the IIO report fails to consider the initial police confrontation with Peter at his home and its bearing on and the consequences of the confrontation at the cabin when our brother was killed.
• Why the IIO did not take steps to legally require the RCMP officer who shot Peter to cooperate fully with the IIO investigation as required by the Police Act, especially since the Police Act specifically provides that a statement provided or an answer given by an officer during an IIO investigation is inadmissible in evidence in court proceedings against the officer.
• Why the IIO report was released, in our opinion, prematurely and without considering or addressing numerous relevant items.
• Why, as the officer who shot Peter, has alleged in a legal proceeding against the IIO, the officer was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) related to his police work in 2010, required treatment from a psychologist, and yet was assigned the stressful duty of participating in the manhunt for Peter.

The complete and utter violation of his human rights that our brother’s death entails has caused great suffering and damage to the people that loved and cared for him. Unfortunately, there is nothing that will change what has happened. The civil lawsuit that we have filed has been deferred until the conclusion of the inquest, when we will continue to work towards creating change in order to help those affected here and those who may be affected by a similar situation in the future. I’d like to thank everyone who has taken the time to offer their support over these last years. I have read and appreciated all of your messages and will continue to do so. To those who have offered more direct help, that we have deferred, now would be the time. We will not be making any further public comment at this time but are easily reached through our counsel, Mr. Sorochan.

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**Optimism surrounds Arrow Lakes ferries bargaining**

**by Jan McMurray**

There have not yet been any disruptions to Arrow Lakes ferry service due to the labour dispute and there is hope that there won’t be.

According to the union, in the latest round of bargaining, “Progress was made and both sides made significant moves in order to reach an agreement. We now await a response from WaterBridge to our latest proposal.” This update was posted on the union’s website.

Meanwhile, the Labour Relations Board issued an essential services order for the Arrow Lakes ferries on October 15. The order won’t come into play unless the union decides to serve 72-hour strike notice and take job action.

The iFEDC designates no specific sailings on the Arrow Lakes as essential, but says passage must be permitted “when they arrive at the ferry crossing” to allow passengers and vehicles to enter any community, any RCMP vehicle, any emergency dispatch, any professional health for work purposes, anyone attending a regular appointment, anyone in or responding to a mental or physical health emergency, or for any other emergency purposes. The order also directs the union to have qualified ferry operators on the picket line for emergencies during the Arrow Lakes ferries’ normal operating hours.

On Kootenay Lake, there is no signature of negotiations resuming between Western Pacific Marine and the union. “I have heard that a meeting has been set but haven’t been able to verify anything,” said one union member. “I am encouraged by the potential negotiations with WaterBridge at Arrow Lakes. Perhaps it indicates a willingness on their part to listen in regard to issues that we would like to express.”

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**Forest Summit and Convergence to be held October 26-27 in Nelson**

submitted

**Hart Hall in Nelson will be the venue for the ‘Forest Summit and Convergence’ on October 26 and 27. All interested citizens, including members of local watershed groups and youth who are organizing for change and want guidance on direct action, are encouraged to attend.**

The event aims to bring together the diverse interests whose common goal is to restore and protect the ecosystems of BC: environmental groups, citizen groups, hunters, fishers, farmers, forest workers, First Nations, community groups, Indigenous groups, recreation groups, plus scientists and other concerned individuals.

The website promoting the event says, “It has never been more critical to build a broad, united movement in British Columbia to take action to restore and protect our ecosystems. It is up to the people of BC to decide where we want to go and how we want our ecosystems treated. We know what the problems are: climate crisis, deforestation, species extinction, imminent ecological collapse, threats to water and food supply, job loss, and governments that complacently support corporate agribusiness and clearcutting. That is, there is nothing to be gained from more discussion about the problems. Now is the time to generate and build a political will and the public will to act from the ground up. It is time for broad-based, citizen action.”

The event is being organized by volunteers from a number of groups in southern BC, including people from the Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society, Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance, BC Coalition for Forestry Reform, Kootenay Water is Life, Ymir Community Watershed Society, Public and Private Workers of Canada, West Kootenay EcoSociety, as well as other concerned and dedicated individuals. The event will be funded by attendance revenues and sponsors.

Tickets are available online through the website and at the door. For more information, visit www.boundaryforest.org/forest-summit-convergence

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**Brenda Lynn Penner**

April 29, 1948 - October 2, 2019

Certain people in this world make us want to become better versions of ourselves. That was our Brenda. Despite years of suffering from COPD, barely able to breathe or get around, she would always greet others with a smile and ask after their well-being. Even in her darkest moments, her caring heart and sense of humour still shone through and reminded us all of her strength and perseverance in the face of her illness.

Brenda’s love of baking and extreme generosity were well known throughout the valley and we are certain that many people besides us will miss her famous banana bread and cinnamon buns.

In her earlier years, Brenda spent a great deal of her time taking care of many people who were unwell or ageing. She was always happiest helping others and she will forever be remembered for her kindness and willingness to help anyone in need without asking for anything in return. In her downtime, she enjoyed riding horses on the family farm, exploring the entire valley on foot (she was an avid walker and we heard she once walked all the way from Vernon to Edgewood), and working on creative projects such as knitting and cross-stitching and dining at the all-you-can-eat Chinese buffet (her favourite food) in Vernon.

Brenda had a beautiful smile, a mischievous streak, and a hearty laugh that was contagious to everyone around her. She loved fiercely—especially her family — and showed her love by keeping in touch with everyone on a regular basis (every night starting around 5 pm). We all miss her nightly phone calls already.

Brenda was survived by her sons, Greg (Jo) and Brad (Marsha), her sisters Debbie (James) and Cheryl (Dave), her uncles Bill Penny, Gerry (Marlene, and Terry (Carol), as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents (Don and Jacqueline Penny), her sister Karen (aka Fluff) Settle, her brother Ken (aka Sonny) Penner, and her Grandparents.

Brenda left us in the wee hours of October 2nd after a few very hard days in the hospital surrounded by all the people she loved the most. She was 71. Even though we all knew it was coming, her passing was still a shock as no one is ever truly prepared to lose a loved one. In her happy spirit that she is finally at peace, our family is taking some time to grieve her loss before hosting a memorial tea (in Edgewood) sometime in November. We will announce the date when we finalize the details and all who knew and loved her are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that anyone who wishes to can make a $5 donation to the BC SPCA in memory of Brenda and her favourite cat, Bobby.
Fishing
Hate vs hate equals war. Hate vs love equals love (and much better fishing).

Janet Ott
Rosebery

Spain, a fascist-fake democracy
The nine Catalan politicians in preventive prison for two years have been condemned from 9 to 13 years in prison for ‘sedition.’ Included among the jailed leaders are the President of the Catalan Parliament, Carme Forcadell, and two social leaders, Carles Puigdemont and Jordi Sánchez. Carme Forcadell has been condemned for permitting the discussion at the Catalan Parliament regarding carrying out a referendum of independence. The two social leaders are being condemned for carrying out street protests demanding an independence referendum.

Most people, including myself, have been out en mass in the streets protesting these prison sentences since they came out. Most people, including myself, expected this kind of justice from the Spanish courts, influenced by Francoist followers. Even though the Spanish courts, influenced by Francoists, have been condemning Catalans for以下简称 the street protests demanding an independence referendum. Catalans have been out en mass in the streets protesting these prison sentences since they came out.

Immigration and overpopulation
I recently heard a panel discussion on CBC Radio, which was addressing the new secularism law in Quebec that forbids the wearing of religious clothing and hardware by provincial public servants on the job. Three political analysts were there to comment, and all spoke against the law. One said it raced and claiming that it was particularly aimed at Muslims. One of them even suggested that the people had no problem with someone wearing a turban, or a cross, but only with Muslim religious garb.
The moderator pointed out that the new law was not only in Quebec, which I have to assume means at least half of the people are in favour of it, and the participants were amazed to know that a minimum one-third of Canadians in the all rest of the country were also in favour of the law. There was no one on that panel who spoke for that constituency.

I also recently sent a letter to the editor of a local paper in which I stated my opinion that Canada has enough people already, and that the number of immigrants being welcomed was too high. I am of the opinion that overpopulation is the biggest problem we face, and that we must find a way to deal with that problem. Shuffling the people around to spread them out is not the answer. It will only serve to make us all more miserable.

I immediately received an answer back from the local paper, stating that they would not be printing any anti-immigrant letters. It seems that the only acceptable view is that immigrants are good for the country, the more the better, and that anyone who thinks otherwise will be shut out of the discussion. Such is the confidence of the supposedly most popular viewpoint.

I am concerned that freedom of thought is being manipulated by the media. They believe themselves to be right, so right, that no other point of view will be tolerated. Clearly they believe that complete freedom of religion now trumps free speech, and anyone who disagrees with controlled but eventual huge population growth in Canada should just crawl back to their cave and shut up. More people, more better.

I doubt you will be reading this letter in any local paper except the Valley Voice, which I believe still supports freedom of speech.

Rod Retzlaff
Glade

Renewable energy and our BC electrical grid
In order to help adapt to developing Kootenay climate changes we need a more sophisticated electrical grid that allows autonomous residential, commercial and community power producers to sell their surplus solar, wind, forest biomass and microhydro energy. This in turn would also augment our large hydro generation infrastructure in the face of significantly changing precipitation trends, disappearing glacier water sources, a warming climate and increased electrical demand (e.g. electric transport).

Numerous opportunities are also being missed. One need only to look south to Washington state and see the phenomenal growth of renewable energy systems, the rest of the world, including other parts of Canada, have embraced the concept in line with the growing support for a broadly sourced renewable energy.

On a positive note, both BC Hydro and Fortis may be open to change as their statements on environment say they “seek feasible, cost-effective opportunities to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase renewable energy sources.”


Steven Miro
Deer Park
Climate crisis: are we willing to make the necessary sacrifices?

My name is Timothy Hume. I am 77 years of age and writing on behalf of my grandchildren.

Let me begin by first acknowledging we are living on First Nation land. Our thanks to them. Our thanks also to all the animals, plants, birds and fish that have dwelt here long before we came to live here. We are all here hoping to make a difference in this disappearing time. When my grandchildren asked me what I could do to help stop the global warming crisis, I said I could write something to tell everyone who would listen, and pray we will be successful.

We should know that Greta Thunberg will not save the world. Neither will the millions of passionate young people – their valiant efforts to awaken the adult population will not create the world they dream of. The politicians will not save us. Likewise, science and technology will not return the world to the safe haven we need.

It appears to me that we all want to change, at least of some sort so we do. But there is no clear action because we are honest, we want to wake up in the morning and still have everything the same. It can’t be. It won’t be. Surely we don’t want to be left out.

In order to stop the global climate crisis, we must simply stop doing what we are doing. We must stop buying and shipping stuff from around the world. We must stop flying, driving, burning gas and oil in every way. We must stop mining, damming rivers, cutting down forests, we must stop ignorant farming practices. We must stop building obsolete, military machines.

We won’t, you know we won’t, take the key out of the ignition and park our cars, we won’t give up our power, we won’t do it or if we do they will fight their teeth and nail. We wait for Greta and the children to do it. We wait for science to lead us. But we don’t want to change really because the changes will demand sacrifice.

It’s all pie in the sky, the big change everyone says they will do is the last of a disappearing species. That name is Endling. Is that what we are? The Endings. If we do not act, we are the Endings.

Unless we act, unless we act now, unless we act right now. Are we willing? Are we willing to make the sacrifices to save our grandchildren? We must be done to save our grandchildren? They are looking to us, they are pleading for us to step up with courage and determination. Are we willing?

It does not look like it to me. So I ask you all to prove me wrong. Please prove me wrong.

Timothy Hume

Kaslo

Major dredging at Balfour ferry makes no sense

Major dredging at Balfour ferry, according to the most recent report, is scheduled to begin in the fall. This is a major dredging project as opposed to the earlier report of minor dredging to improve ferry access to Balfour on the west arm.

Major dredging can only adversely affect already fragile West Arm fishing. Are we ready for that?

Another concern is that SF6 is a synthetic gas and isn’t absorbed or destroyed naturally. It will all have to be replaced and destroyed to limit the impact on the climate.

Why is it used? When a switch handling medium to high power is thrown to “off” or “on”, there is an explosive arc produced. The SF6 is blasted at the contacts during the split-second change. The SF6 clouds the electric arc in a non-explosive atmosphere preventing fires and short circuits.

The drive to combat climate change means coal and gas generation plants are now being replaced by mixed sources of power including wind, solar and gas. This has resulted in many more connections to the electric grid, and a rise in the number of electrical switches and circuit breakers, all needing protection from short circuit overload and arc flash.

The vast majority use SF6 gas to quench arcs and stop short circuits. Why is it still being used? Because it is cheap and it works and at the moment there is no alternative. New switching gear is being built that does away with SF6. Key word is new.

The real question is should we be investing in SF6 filled turbines that can put out a greenhouse gas potent to replace coal and gas generation systems that produce gases that will dissolve by themselves? They fill SF6 if it is the one generation station, every wind turbine is its own generation system with its own SF6 system.

Our country also uses SF6 in the construction of their solar panels. Connections made in construction are flooded with SF6 for a sterile connection. Made in China… I am not sure how much effort is made to contain the gas.

How do we know if SF6 is increasing? According to the BBC’s Science and Environment, across the entire UK network of power lines and substations, there are around one million kilograms of SF6. A study from the University of Cambridge found that across all transmission and distribution networks, the amount used was increasing by 30-40 tonnes per year. This rise was also reflected across Europe. However, the BBC says SF6 costs are expected to grow by 75% by 2030.

The Green Lobby has really kept this one a secret. Why? If the truth is obscured, do they want to hide this information?

Only when our children have the strength possible level of operative action, do we have enough resources to do what is needed. This was first introduced to the world by Charles Darwin and later emulated by Socrates. Most adults have little or no time to investigate the claims about climate change. They believe what they read. If it is not written, how do they know? This is the responsibility of our media. Balanced, fair coverage. Individuals need to decide for themselves, not have the media do it for them.

William E Cross

Kaslo

If you go down to the marsh today, you’re in for a good surprise

Residents of the Slocan Valley and beyond clearly care about the Snk’map Marsh Sanctuary and feel a stewardship connection to this rare and precious wetland at the north end of Slocan Lake. This connection is what facilitated the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology to marshal support to purchase the property in 2017.

With job one (acquisition) done, the next step in 2018 was the clean-up of industrial debris from the property and the removal and recycling of derelict structures: job two done. This summer, job three was begun: restoration of the wetland itself. This involved the decommissioning and deep de-compacting of road surfaces that had been built on fill packed into the wetland. Apparent to sense, seeing the results of this restoration work has been something of a surprise.

For context: the project was carefully designed by two acclaimed wetland restoration experts and was meticulously undertaken by expert machine operators working under the supervision of biologist Robbin Amundson. All permits required about why and how this “reconstructive surgery” on the marsh was done.

There is a misconception that roads and trails in the Bonanza Marsh area are on public property. Community members have treated the roads in Snk’map as such but in reality the entire marsh is private property, held by four owners, one of which is the VFE. Other than the Crown forest at Slocan Lake and the trail grade trail, the Bonanza Marsh area is private land.

The mandate of the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology, a conservation-oriented land trust, is foremost the health and protection of the wetland. But we are also committed to fostering public enjoyment, appreciation of and participation in wildlife and remains committed to providing reasonable access for people to experience the marsh.

The public is always welcome to visit the Snk’map Marsh Sanctuary for quiet appreciation of nature — this is made clear on the signage posted there and in all of our public communications. For example, we hope people will come and appreciate the massive amount of work done to save a colossal old larch tree near the gravel pit – a community landmark. After all, it is managed that people members see former hiking trails now roughed-up (deep de-compaction), resurfaced, with coarse woody debris from the road surface also added for amphibians and reptiles, to the layperson this seems a major change.

We humans get used to things as we’re familiar with them and assume, the status quo is “normal” and “natural.” Unfortunately those roads were anything but natural: they were compacted, ecologically sterile zones that interfered with the natural hydrology of the marsh. That’s why this summer’s work saw them removed with those areas restored to the natural topography of a forested wetland.

Bottom line is, for the proper functioning of the wetland and the restoration of nature at Snk’map, we will need to give in to the natural curves. There are plenty of other beautiful trails to walk on, including along the rail trail.

The work done this summer carefully restored what were roads to the pools, gullies, hummocks, stumps, coarse woody debris, etc. of a forested-wetland ecosystem. To the untrained eye it may look random but in fact every stick of wood was carefully placed and every pool deliberately created to provide homes for the threatened species that desperately need this habitat. Frogs, salamanders and dragonflies are already re-colonizing these areas.

Replanting is underway using native species appropriate to each ecological zone. The project is being managed in the field, with the good folks from the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, were there in late September enthusiastically planting seedlings, and students from the Winlaw School were just there as well. We’ve been spreading the seeds of native grasses and dumbs and pulling weeds. The replanting continues this fall.

The revegetation work, carefully overseen by the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology, will result in a lush of new growth next spring and onward. The restored areas will green up quickly; the deeply loosed soils make it easier for native trees and shrubs to re-establish. The result will be habitat that is massively more ecologically productive than what was there.

In the next phase of restoration work (next funding period), we will be developing additional new ponds and viewing areas, a nature-appreciation trail, and a viewpoint overlooking the marsh.

If you go down to the marsh today, you’re in for a good surprise. We hope you will come and become familiar with the marsh. And if you do, please take some time to thank the people that made this happen and the future generations that will benefit from it.

Lorna Visser, Director
Valhalla Foundation for Ecology

October 24, 2019   The Valley Voice
Silvertown council, October 8: Meeting scheduled to discuss rat problem

by Moe Lyons

• In response to citizen concern and information from WildSafe, council agreed to hold a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the rat problem. This meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 29 at 4 pm. Possible topics for discussion include: education; bylaws re attractants; distribution of WildSafe pamphlets; sponsoring the purchase of rat traps; and a letter to all local property owners apprising them of the problem.

• Taking down fruit trees on Village property continues to be a contentious issue. Council didn’t pass the motion to take down all fruit trees on Village boulevards, recommended by staff because the Village doesn’t have “the ability or capacity to be a responsible fruit tree owner.” Councillors Kerry Gordon and Arlene Yofonoff have agreed to discuss the issue with members of the public.

• The Village will be the lead proponent in the application for funding from the Community Resilience Investment FireSmart Community Fund. The project will be carried out in partnership with the Villages of Slocan and New Denver.

• Council voted unanimously to support the Climate Action Plan. The Village doesn’t have “the ability or capacity to be a responsible fruit tree owner.” Council directed staff to look into a grant to help determine the feasibility of such a plan.

• The Silvertown Community Club asked the Village for fees for the use of the museum meeting room for Senior’s Day on Wednesdays. This was approved as a grant-in-aid.

• Bruce Gardiner wrote a letter objecting to the placement of the community compost barrels. Councillor Yofonoff said she was still awaiting a response from Julia Greenlaw from the composting project.

• A letter from the Youth Parliament of BC asks the Village to encourage and support young people from the area to be part of the Youth Parliament at the legislature December 27-31. Council agreed to support this in principle and forward the information to the school. More information can be found at www.bcp.org.

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New Denver council, October 8: Village to distribute info, buy traps for rat problem  
by Katrine Campbell  
Staff presented council with three options to help reduce the rat population in the village; council followed the recommendation to adopt the third one. The option involved mailing WildSafeBC brochures to all property owners – renters can pick up a copy at the Village office; the second option was to add a link to the Village website (newdenver.ca) to include the information; and the third was to spend up to $500 for traps. The report from staff outlined the option “preliminary actions to reduce the rat population in New Denver and support community groups working towards this goal.” It also advised that a group of concerned citizens had created a Rat Patrol Facebook group and had taken on mapping the location of rats killed in the community.

Staff recommended budgeting additional funds for rat control in the 2020 budget. As the CAO commented, staff were not likely to build a rat wall so they can keep them out. “People can’t eradicate rats, but we can get them controlled.”

Council supported a funding agreement and a Site Licence Agreement with the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC) for delivery of the fibre optic backbone project with funding from the Connecting BC Program, CBST and partner local governments. CBST will install 125 km of fibre optic backbone throughout the Village in the Slocan region. Total budget is about $7.2 million. The project will connect underserved areas like New Denver to CBST’s existing fibre optic backbone, providing a foundation for ‘last mile’ solutions needed to provide individual customers high-speed internet connections. New Denver’s contribution is $37,577.

A point of presence to access the backbone will be installed in the Village’s works yard. CBBC will place a 3 m x 3.3 m modular equipment building for a 20-year term, paying the Village $100 per month. The CAO said construction would likely be done in the spring.

In response to an announcement from Columbia Basin Trust regarding its “New Land Acquisition Grants Program,” Councillor John Dyke said he would love to follow up on it. Acting CAO Catherine Allaway said the Trust had been talking about this “really interesting concept” for a long time. The program would help municipalities acquire lands for community purposes by paying up to 60% of purchase and investment costs, up to maximum of $750,000 per project.

Council decided to support the New Denver & Area Housing Society’s application for funding to study the feasibility of developing a minimum 10-unit housing project in New Denver. The suggested site is Block 51, the recycling area and Block 50, across Slocan Ave from the recycling area. The society plans to apply to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for seed funding of about $97,625. This would be used partly to develop a more robust financial model and to determine whether the current proposed funding program is sufficient to make the project viable. The money would also go to professional appraisal, site survey, geotechnical survey, preliminary skill in information gaps and project management.

Council agreed to support the application to the UBCM 2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program. New Denver is partnering with Silverton and Slocan in an application for funding up to $50,000 for the Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program, under the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program.

Council received a letter from Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Selina Robinson advising the Village’s application for a $10,000 infrastructure planning grant had been approved. The money will be used for water distribution asset review and planning. The Village has already marked the location of main line valves and its engineering contractor will create a digital model of the water system inside the existing boundaries. The model will allow the contractor to fill in information gaps, note any deficiencies and prioritize recommended improvements. The current mapping of the 1970s-era system is paper-based; digital mapping will be more cost-effective than physically digging to examine the infrastructure.

Council received for information a press release from Interior Health regarding the hiring of two new part-time doctors for the Slocan Community Health Centre. Both are on 18-month contracts. Mayor Leonard Casley noted this means that 25-year-veteran Dr. Chuck Burkholder can “get actual days off.”

Casley gave a brief report on the recent Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) conference, saying that they got to speak to more levels of government than they usually do. Dyke presented a document detailing each meeting or forum the New Denver contingent (Casley, Dyke and Councillor Gerald Wagner) attended, separately or together. These included sessions with BC Ambulance; BC Hydro; Municipal Insurance Association; Tourism by Design; Community Connectivity; Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure; Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; BC Housing; and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). Casley added that New Denver delegates did not attend the controversial reception hosted by the Chinese government.

Council gave three readings to the Village’s revised Bylaw #725, 2019, which will allow the Village to participate in the Kootenay-wide initiative. Final adoption is scheduled for the October 22 meeting.

Council authorized the Service Provider Agreement between the Village and the Slocan Lake Boating Association, which operates the New Denver Marina. Under the agreement, the SLBA can buy liability insurance for a lower cost through the Municipal Insurance Association; the SLBA will pay the premiums and any claim expenses, subject to the Village’s $2,500 deductible.

Village office between September 30th and November 15th.

ABOUR DAY
In order to reduce open burning and divert organic material from the landfill, the Village of New Denver will once again hold a fall Arbour Day event to collect yard waste, branches and leaves that are bundled or bagged and placed curbside. A date will be set and advertised once the leaves have been lost. Remember that collection is free, so please don’t affix garbage tags to bags of leaves or garden waste. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the Village Office.

WINTER SNOWPLOWING REMINDER
The Village of New Denver wishes to remind its residents that snow removal is a priority over the winter months. The Village requests your cooperation in removing items from the lanes, alleys and boulevards before the snow falls so that plowing can be done efficiently and safely.

RATS
Information about managing the unwanted rat population has been mailed to all property owners. Any residents and property occupiers of property are encouraged to pick up a brochure at the Village Office or contact staff to make arrangements for delivery.
Slocan council, October 15: WEGCSS plans to expand community garden and improve kitchen

by Jan McMurray

Council will provide a letter in support of WE Graham Community Service Society’s funding application to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to improve the kitchen and expand the community garden. The Village will contribute $2,320 to the project, from the RDCK Community Development Fund. The total project cost is $41,295.

Slocan, Silverton and New Denver are partnering in a funding application for up to $450,000 to continue wildfire mitigation work. SIFCo will take the lead on the project, which will include FireSmart education, emergency planning, cross-training with BC Wildfire Service, RDCK staff and local fire departments, demonstration projects (complete FireSmart retrofits on Slocan Village office), provide free home assessments and rebate programs, host “chipper days” and complete fuel treatment on the west side of Slocan river behind the homes in the park.

The application is to the provincial Community Resiliency Investment FireSmart Community Funding & Supports Program. The Village of Silverton to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on behalf of the partnering communities.

The Spirit of Slocan Committee is planning the fifth annual Christmas Tree Light Up Celebration for December 1 at 6 pm at the Wellness Centre. The committee’s requests for the use of the Wellness Centre for access to power and public washrooms, and for the Village crew’s help with the tree, were approved.

A drinking water advisory map, created by Be the Change Group and Interior Health, allows people to check the status of drinking water in the interior region of BC. Council agreed to post information about the map on its website, in the newsletter and on social media pages.

A letter from Dianne Smith of the Slocan Community Library thanks the Village for support of the floor refinishing project at the library. Council will send thank you to the library and to Samurai Hardwood Flooring.

Council received a letter of introduction from Community Paramedic Desiree Profili. She will be invited to make a presentation to council.

Councillor Joel Pelletier reported that the youth centre was shut down for a month and was renovated. There is a new room in the back for movie night with a couch and screen.

Mayor Lunn reported that Slocan has been recognized for achieving milestone 4 of the Partners for Climate Protection Program of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Information regarding Community Wellness and Harm Reduction Grants will be forwarded to the Wellness Centre Health Committee and WE Graham Community Service Society. These grants are available through Interior Health’s Healthy Communities Program.

Councilor Ezra Buller was appointed as the council representative on the Community Literacy Planning Committee of the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy. Councillor Madeleine Pelletier was appointed as the alternate.

The Village of Slocan has reached milestone 4 in the Partners for Climate Protection Program. Slocan Mayor Jessica Lunn receives an award in recognition of this achievement from Garth Frizzell, first vice-president of FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities).
Nakusp council, October 15: Arrow Lakes Caribou Society presents maternity pen idea

by Katrine Campbell

• Hugh Watt of the Arrow Lakes Caribou Society appeared as a delegation to outline the organization’s plan to build, if necessary, a maternity pen. He wasn’t asking permission at this time but wanted council to have the information. Watt said the society had formed because members felt that in the past there had not been enough local participation sought in plans to save the local herd from extinction. For this reason, for the pen would be on 40 acres of Village land above and north of the hot springs. Watt said the society doesn’t know for sure it would be needed, but they want to get permitting, etc. done in advance. Pregnant caribou would be captured in May, and kept safe from predators in a pen.

• Council agreed to provide a letter of support for NACFOR’s application for a permit to ship the non-mERCHANTABLE fibre to the pulp mill in Castlegar rather than burning it onsite.

• Council approved the submission of a grant application to the 2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program in the amount of $150,832, with a total project cost estimated at $220,857. It would be used to continue and expand the FireSmart program.

• Council will include funds in the 2020 budget to hire a planning consultant to assist the Municipal Campground and Expansion Committee.

Key items the committee discussed included propane fire pits, creating noise barriers by planting trees or bushes, change exits, change location of mini-sani-station and pot hole for a coin operated system, locating water and sewer lines and electrical outlets, reservation system, research grant opportunities with matching criteria and requirements re: additional stalls and updates for the restroom facility, and adding water and sewer hookups to the 10 existing electrical sites.

With some improvements to the trail, the logging would be restored and deactivated after the two skid trail crossings which will be made. The two board members and two other Nakusp citizens formed an informal group and conducted a survey this past winter that showed opposition to the logging plans. The two board members and two other Nakusp citizens formed an informal group and conducted a survey this past winter that showed opposition to the logging plans.

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• Mayor Tom Zeleznik presented a written report on his activities since mid-September, including his attendance at the Union of BC Municipalities conference. The mayor, along with local business people and others, flew to the coast to express their “concerns, and opinions of the importance of why the Arrow Lake Ferries must remain, and continue as an essential service to our communities during a possible labour dispute.”

At a meeting with Forests Minister Doug Donaldson, he argued against the Dividend Fund being diverted to forestry communities in trouble. At a meeting with BC Hydro, he asked about the breakerwater but received no definitive answer and was told to apply to Columbia Basin Trust.

In total, the Nakusp delegation met with 10 ministers or senior ministry staff to make their case for help with everything from the housing shortage to the nursing shortage.

Councillor Joseph Hughes noted that although much of BC is rural, decisions and policy are made in Victoria and Vancouver. “We reminded them of what’s happening in the rest of the province,” he said.

• At the request of the Hot Springs Advisory Committee, council amended motion No. R229/19 to appoint Nola Balland as a non-voting member on the committee.

• Council gave final adoption to Bylaw No. 689, 2019/Permit Tax Exemption; and Bylaw No. 496-7, Reduce Speed on Broadway. CAO Cheryl Martens noted that Public Works were “scouring around for [speed limit] signage as we speak.”

• Council approved the request from the RDCK that all new Part 9 buildings be built to Step Code 1. Hughes asked to be recorded as opposed. He said that energy efficiency was a good thing but “they’re going about it the wrong way… A drafty house is a healthier house” and the Step Codes are making homes more expensive.

Nakusp Trails Society works through Saddle Mountain logging and Kuskanax Trail tower issues

by Jan McMurray

The board of directors of the Nakusp and Arrow Area Community Trails Society (NACTS) is just finishing up a year that dealt them two major challenges – a proposal for logging along Saddle Mountain Lookout Trail and a proposal for a communications tower on Kuskanax Trail.

The society board worked with the logging and communications companies and other community groups, and is very happy with the way things have worked out.

Saddle Mountain logging

Interfor began its logging operation near Saddle Mountain Trail on October 2, and hopes to complete the project this fall. NACTS Director Jerry Van Immerzeel said in an interview, “Interfor is working extremely well to accommodate the hiking trail.”

Interfor approached NACTS last fall with a proposal to log a 25-hectare cutblock surrounding an 800-metre segment of Saddle Mountain. The logging company planned to clean up 5.5 hectares of massive blowdown and address trees affected by spruce beetle. After several meetings between the society and Interfor, Van Immerzeel says, “Interfor is a good corporate citizen and is accommodating a lot of our wishes.”

A 30-metre buffer will be left on either side of the trail “in most areas,” Van Immerzeel said. Where the original proposal included three trail crossings, there will now be just two skid trail crossings which will be restored and deactivated after the logging.

Interfor is also helping the society with some improvements to the trail, Van Immerzeel added. The logging company has expanded the parking lot at the existing trailhead, and will assist with the installation of a pit toilet there. The logging operation involves extending Saddle Road, and Interfor will create a second trailhead

Kuskanax Trail tower

The Columbia Wireless tower has been installed, and is located more than 60 feet away from the trail, reports NACTS Director Bianca Niedhart. NACTS is very happy with how the largely non-invasive proposal would have seen the tower right on the trail.

Chwachka says that when Columbia Wireless submitted the Crown land application for the tower, Front Counter BC told the company that this was a good location for the tower, as there was nothing else there. When NACTS contacted Columbia Wireless to inform them about the trail and ask them to find another location, the company was very cooperative.

Nakusp Village council and the Nakusp and Arrow Area Development Board got involved in the discussions about the tower placement, as well. Chwachka said, “We didn’t want to stop communications development – we just wanted to be consulted.” Chwachka said. She said some community members were concerned about electromagnetic frequency radiation emissions from the tower, but that was not an issue for NACTS.
Nakusp OCP process launched October 8 and 9
by Jan McMurray

Nakusp has launched an Official Community Plan process, and has hired B&A Planning Group out of Calgary to take the lead.

“We share a passion for taking communities from where they are to where they want to be,” said Jonathan Schmidt, senior planner with B&A, at a public meeting October 8 at the arena auditorium. “If you want to be something extraordinary and differentiate yourself from other communities from where they are to where they want to be,” said Jonathan Schmidt, senior planner with B&A, at a public meeting October 8 at the arena auditorium. “If you want to be something extraordinary and differentiate yourself from other

Villages, we can help.” B&A reps were in Nakusp October 7-9. They had meetings with key stakeholders; spoke with locals at cafés and restaurants; took walks around the community to understand the land use patterns, urban design, and economics; and they held two public sessions – on the evenings of October 8 and 9.

On the evening of October 9, B&A presented “What We Heard.” The presentation concluded with “five big ideas” for Nakusp: enhancing the waterfront, connecting everything with trails and pathways, creating innovative housing, creating public gathering spaces, and encouraging economic activity – in agritourism and agribusiness, health and wellness, industrial manufacturing/resource innovation and information technology.

At the October 8 public session, guest speaker Chris Fields gave an inspirational talk, “Five Ways to Unleash Exceptional Communities.” His key message to the community was to be brave and embrace change.

“Change creates critics,” he said. “The ‘Grumpy Gus’ personality is 20% of your population and they rule the roost because they yell the loudest. They are uncomfortable with change. Appearance of the angry is what we do, but we have to ignore the 20% and choose to work with those who want change.”

Fields said Nakusp has an opportunity to attract millennials and those who can bring their jobs with them, thanks to technology. He suggested capitalizing on tourism as a way to grow the population. “You have a tourism economy, 7% of people live where they do based on their visit as a tourist first. This is a way you could consider getting people to live here. People who work in tourism should be ambassadors.”

Fields listed the things tourists notice about their destination: cleanliness, quality of life, cost of living, cost of housing, infrastructure, public transit and diversity of the population. He said housing is probably Nakusp’s most important key to attracting growth.

“About the OCP itself, Fields said it should be ‘something you can read and even enjoy.’ “Good plans connect the dots – jobs, recreation, community development. A good OCP has a complete sense of self at the end of the day. It has simplicity, a sense of humour, personality, and an emotional tug to get people into the boat. You all have to be rowing together.”

“Attitude is 80% of the battle,” said. “We are complaining on Facebook or jumping in to change the world?” B&A plans to come back to the community in January or February with draft directions for the OCP, then again in March or April to present the final plan. The new OCP is expected to be adopted in May or June.

Bussing challenges at School District 10 Arrow Lakes
by Jan McMurray

Broken down buses and a shortage of bus drivers have gotten bussing off to a bad start in School District 10 this year.

Superintendent Terry Taylor reports that two buses broke down in September, causing the Edgewood bus to be cancelled for a day and the Crescent Bay route to be delayed.

At this point, one bus is out of service until parts come in. The extra bus from Edgewood is being used for the new Burton bus route. Thankfully, a new bus is scheduled to arrive soon.

On top of the broken buses, there is a shortage of bus drivers. The bus driver position for the Fauquier route still hasn’t been filled. Taylor says they are “only managing with them, thanks to technology. He

NSS climbing wall construction to start in December
by Jan McMurray

Construction of the climbing wall at Nakusp Secondary will begin in December.

Local contractor Dave Madden has been hired for the project, and school district carpenters will assist him.

Engineered drawings have been received for both the climbing wall and bouldering wall. Funding of about $70,000 has been secured for the project. As costs are now higher than expected in the original 2017 budget, NSS Principal Peter Gajda has indicated that the shortfall can be covered with school trust funds. Other grants may be explored as well.

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Nakusp handyman ready to improve your house
by Katrina Campbell

Some people try to tackle home reno jobs then find they are in over their heads. Others don’t even make the attempt, preferring to call in an expert. But who?

In the Nakusp area, you can call on MC Handyman for property improvements, renovations, common handyman tasks, small construction projects and preventative maintenance. Owner Murray Ardell moved to Nakusp six years ago to work for WaterBridge as a steamfitter/pipelifter, hired to design, fabricate, and install the piping system on the MV Columbia, the new Galena/Sherer Bay ferry.

“When I moved to Nakusp, I was always travelling to remote projects away from home,” he says. “With a beautiful family – my wife and three daughters – and a home in Bayview, I decided that I needed a change of careers.

“I also experienced two severe industrial accidents, so enough was enough. I love my family and want to be with my family. I did what was necessary.”

Ardell says that with his extensive construction and property maintenance experience, “MC Handyman was a natural fit for me. It allows me to work and help people in our community, while being with my family.”

The benefits to the customers, business, institution or residential, he says, are increased value, esthetics and function.

Ardell offers home and property improvement services and small construction projects, including land clearing, landscaping and maintenance, that will increase the value of your property.

MC Handyman Services strives to be the best home and property improvement service provider in the region. His business operates by the following guiding values: quality, hard work, customer service, and competitive pricing.”

Ardell has more than 20 years of the and construction experience. He is Red Seal Journeyman steamfitter/pipelifter, and fourth class power engineer. His other experience is in sales and marketing in Chengdu China, adventure tourism and whitewater rafting guiding, tourism hospitality, and management of large industrial projects as supervisor, general foreman and superintendent.

MC Handyman can be reached at 265-2225 or murray.ardell@gmail.com.

CSS SUMMIT LAKE SKI AREA
www.skisummitlake.com
Contact us at: info@skisummitlake.com
2019-2020 EARLY BIRD RATES AVAILABLE
SEASON PASS EARLY BIRD RATES AVAILABLE

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The New Customs live at the Langham

submitted

Friday November 8 at 7 pm sees the return of fan-favourite indie-roots-folk duo The New Customs with a great set of fresh tunes from their brand new album. Hailing from that hot-bed of musical creativity, Winnipeg, the Customs are the lively and evocative blend of guitarist Emma Cloney’s haunting voice with the eclectic riffing of multi-instrumentalist Dale Brown - fiddle, mandolin, bouzouki, cigar-box guitar, stomp, and harmony vocals. Canadian Beats Review says “...beautiful, emotional fiddle playing... sounding akin to something that would come out of the Maritimes... amazing harmonies... This is definitely something you need to check out.” Folking Amazing!

Advance tickets are $15 at Sunnyside or Willow in Kaslo, or $18 at the door from 6:30 pm. www.thelangham.ca.

The New Customs plays the Langham November 8.

After a hiatus of five years, the 13th Sinixt Territory Barter Fair was celebrated on October 12 and 13 at Blue Deer Lodge (formerly Lemon Creek Lodge). The event opened with a blessing by traditional Sinixt leader Marilyn James, and attracted numerous vendors, musicians and barterers, as well as about 350 other attendees. On Sunday morning, popular local poet and songwriter Geordie Campos, performing under the name of ‘G,’ greeted the crowd with a selection of original material.

PHOTO CREDIT: MOE LYONS

Welcome to our first NSTS newsletter! Hopefully you have all enjoyed an active season out riding and hiking the trails and taking advantage of our smoke free skies. We were thrilled to have so many new members sign up at our AGM in the spring – so much enthusiasm for our local outdoor community!

OUR BOARD: We welcomed a new Vice President, Carl Jacks, and two new directors, Bryn Perry and Tyler Paynton, who join President Mike Koolen, Heather Fox, Kip Drobish and Sheila Sinkie on the board. A great, big thank you goes out to Rob Kozarchuk; he stepped down from the board but remains an active member.

WINTER: The arrival of snow doesn’t mean we hibernate! Be sure to pay a visit to the K&S Shelter in Sandon this winter where you will be welcomed by a cozy woodburner! Frank has worked hard at widening the trails this summer to accommodate both cross-country skiers and snowshoers.

JOIN US! Memberships are available at $10 for an individual and $20 for a family annually. Email us for an application or print one from our facebook page.

THANK YOU! It has been a fantastic season for volunteer trail crew; the Wakefield and Fishermaiden trails have seen teams clearing and reclaimging; the K&S Shelter in Sandon has a smert new coat of paint to protect her and smaller crews have been busy out on the trails fixing bridges, removing fallen trees, raking and clipping. Earthfelt thanks to all those involved, both volunteers and local businesses, for your help, support and positive energy.

Northsloancantrailsociety@hotmail.com

NEW: This summer we signed a management agreement with BC Parks to maintain the Nemo Creek trail and the Wee Sandy trail in Valhalla Provincial Park. You may have noticed how great these trails looked this year – Rob.K removed over 100 fallen trees from Nemo and almost as many from Wee Sandy! We look forward to further improvements next year, keeping these trails in shape for everyone to enjoy! There are a couple of plans in the pipeline for the spring, so to keep informed, follow us on facebook and instagram #northsloancantrails

BC Hydro’s Wildlife Enhancement Project to create wetland habitat at Burton Flats has begun. Phase 1, expected to be finished by the beginning of November, will see two ponds and one mound completed, and two ponds and one mound partially completed. The remainder of the project will be done during phase 2, which has not yet been scheduled.

Vintage and Brand name clothing, jewelry, bath and body products, accessories and more. Something for everyone! 343 Columbia Avenue Castlegar, BC V1N 1G6

250.231.8024
Kaslo driver Mark Jennings-Bates slides on to the podium

submitted

In the October 9 Pacific Forest Rally, rally driver Mark Jennings-Bates was hoping for a smooth event. That was not to be, and the problems continued after the event concluded.

The team showed up with the Valley Mitsubishi Evo 4 hoping to have found and fixed the gremlins since their mechanical DNF at the earlier rally in Invermere. Their hopes were short-lived as problems mounted, not just for them, but for many teams in the event. The national series rally, hosted in Merritt, was held on a weekend that was not optimal for the rallylights. The weather was rainy and rain squalls were falling.

Jennings-Bates, however, had an ace in the hole with a set of mud tires mounted on rims that came with the pre-owned car he purchased. The service crew installed the tires, but shortly after he was advised that the rims had the wrong ‘offset’ and the mud tires were interfering with the suspension which would spell trouble on the stages.

The event started slow for the team with Jennings-Bates frustrated by his pace on the first two night stages but was able to close the evening with a top ten finish after four stages. Ready for a fresh start and ready to push, the team arrived early in the morning to find a major clutch component had failed and parts for an Evo 4 are not readily available. Jennings-Bates persuaded a volunteer from another team to lend him the needed part from his own Evo. With that, the team was back in the hunt but missing two stages in the morning.

The rest of the day saw the team claiming top seven spots in the next two stages and finishing the very snowy and slippery last stage with a top six times overall having had to run the last twelve minutes without any rally lights.

Bates was hoping for a smooth event. That was not to be, and the problems continued after the event concluded. That was not to be, and the problems continued after the event concluded.

 Shortly after the event the team found that co-driver Jackie Jennings-Bates had unknowingly run the event with a detached retina, which required emergency surgery as soon as they arrived home. Expect to see the team running the full Western Canada rally series next year and fighting for a top position in the series.

Jennings-Bates was hoping for a smooth event. That was not to be, and the problems continued after the event concluded.

Mark Jennings-Bates was hoping for a smooth event. That was not to be, and the problems continued after the event concluded.

Need work? Need a worker? Call WorkBC

submitted

Thanks to WorkBC’s Wage Subsidy Program and other WorkBC services, to find out more about the Wage Subsidy Program and other WorkBC services, visit www.WorkBC.ca or contact one of the following WorkBC Centres: Nelson 250-352-6200; Castlegar 250-365-6515; Trail 250-512-3001.

WorkBC is funded by the federal and provincial governments. To find out more about the Wage Subsidy Program and other WorkBC services, visit www.WorkBC.ca or contact one of the following WorkBC Centres: Nelson 250-352-6200; Castlegar 250-365-6515; Trail 250-512-3001.

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This job has been so great and I have learned so much about the agriculture industry,” she says, adding that she’s acquired many lifelong transferrable skills. She is also grateful for all the assistance she received from WorkBC, particularly the help in purchasing clothes for her job.

“My employment counsellor was helpful in navigating what services were provided. That made all the difference in finding employment.”

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Got land? Want land? Land linking workshop coming

Are you a farmer looking for land? Are you a landowner looking for farmers? On Saturday, November 16 the BC Land Matching Program and Young Agrarians will host the Columbia Basin Land Linking Workshop, bringing together landowners and seekers from across the region.

The workshop will be held 1-6 pm at the North Shore Hall, 673 Whitmore Rd, Nelson. The event is free, though donations to support Young Agrarians submitted

The workshop will be held 1-6 pm at the North Shore Hall, 673 Whitmore Rd, Nelson. The event is free, though donations to support Young Agrarians.

Young Agrarians will host the workshop as part of their Land Matching Program. The workshop will provide valuable information on how to access services offered by the BC Land Matching Program (BCLMP), delivered by Young Agrarians and funded in the Columbia Basin by the Province with support from Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and the Real Estate Foundation of BC. Landowners and farmers from across the Basin – Revelstoke to Salmo, Fernie to Castlegar – are encouraged to attend.

“Land linking workshops are an avenue for farmers and landowners to meet their regional land matchers, and access important resources and information about land agreements,” says program manager Darcy Smith. “Our goal is to create an opportunity for people to network, and sign up new participants to receive ongoing support through the BC Land Matching Program.”

The BCLMP provides an online and searchable inventory of BC land opportunities, and personalized, regionally-based matchmaking services for farmers and landowners. Support services include assistance finding land and developing legal agreements, as well as referrals to local and provincial resources, to increase knowledge and facilitate matches between new farmers and landowners.

Aspiring farmers face a wide range of barriers to getting established, from limited training options to the high cost of farmland. Land in the Columbia Basin averages a considerable price tag of $45,073 per acre, according to Farm Credit Canada’s 2018 Farmland Values Report. It’s no surprise why access to land is one of the biggest barriers new farmers face, why leasing land has become a popular solution that enables young entrepreneurs to start small businesses and put more land into production.

For Krista, who recently found land to lease in Harrop through the BCLMP, “the way our economy is today makes access to land and farming very difficult for younger generations. I can’t express enough importance in encouraging young people to stay involved in keeping our herbs and produce grown locally. Land share opportunities create valuable connections within communities and give young farmers a chance to pursue their passions.”

The 2016 Canadian Census of Agriculture shows a loss of 116 farms in the Kootenay region from 2011 figures equalling 21,172 hectares of farmland. The average age of farm operators in the Kootenay is 57 years old.

This all points to the urgent need to increase local food production, increase local economic development, and support new entrants into agriculture across the Columbia Basin. The Basin is seeing more and more farms selling directly to the public through farm gate sales and farmers’ markets, with more than a dozen seasonal markets in communities across the Basin.

And there’s clearly a demand: 75% of residents in the Basin-Boundary regions prefer to buy locally-produced food and more than two-thirds would pay extra for local, says a report from the Columbia Basin Trust. Considering that 95% of the food consumed in the Basin-Boundary region is imported from other regions, provinces or countries, there is expansion potential for local producers and processors.

For landowners, the benefits of leasing out land to a farmer may include tax incentives, seeing land become – or stay – productive, improvements to land and soil health, being able to take on less management of the land themselves, new relationships and, of course, fresh veggies and other farm fresh products.

For more information and to register, visit youngagrarians.org/land.

Wild Heart reached the number two spot on Roots Music Report’s Soul Blues charts for 2019 and garnered rave reviews from the music press.

While remaining firmly grounded in the soul and R&B feel of the earlier masters, her music transports the listener into the modern era with infectious dance grooves, horn lines, funky guitar and positive, uplifting lyrics. Hyatt has appeared on shows with fellow Canadian artists such as Colin James, Jeff Healey, Harry Manx, Sue Foley and international legends like Leon Russell, Los Lobos and David ‘Fathead’ Newman. The Memphis soul-tinged, ‘River Flows’, which appears on the new album and was released earlier as a single, won the 2019 Kootenay Music Award for best Rhythm and Blues Song.

Hyatt will be joined by musicians Clinton Swanson, Jack Taftor, Steve Wilson and Jon Burden, a funky, blues-infused, soul-based band that matches her soulful vocal delivery. Admission at the door is $15. The event is sponsored by the Slocan Lake Arts Council and funded by the BC Arts Council.

Holly Hyatt recently found land to lease through the BC Land Matching Program.

Slocan Valley-based blues/soul singer, bassist and songwriter Holly Hyatt will be at the Silverton Gallery Saturday, November 9 at 7:30 pm with her five-piece band celebrating her debut solo album Wild Heart. The album is a full band production, complete with horns and keyboards, that showcases Hyatt’s highly evolved songwriting skills and soulfully smooth vocal abilities.

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Holly Hyatt to play the Silverton Gallery

On September 29 the Nakusp & District Museum held the Museum Founders’ Tea Party in honour of the wonderful folks who created and managed the museum over the years. Approximately 70 people attended the tea party, many in delightful costumes. This event would not have been possible without the support of Columbia Basin Trust and the creativity and hard work of Linda Dixon, Claire Paradis, Lorna Guild, Shannon Low, Pam O’Neil, Lynda Lafleur, Lucy Ponto, Judy Hatt, Corney and Kathy Froese. This event would not have been possible without the support of Columbia Basin Trust and the creativity and hard work of Linda Dixon, Claire Paradis, Lorna Guild, Shannon Low, Pam O’Neil, Lynda Lafleur, Lucy Ponto, Judy Hatt, Corney and Kathy Froese. This event would not have been possible without the support of Columbia Basin Trust and the creativity and hard work of Linda Dixon, Claire Paradis, Lorna Guild, Shannon Low, Pam O’Neil, Lynda Lafleur, Lucy Ponto, Judy Hatt, Corney and Kathy Froese.

At the workshop you will network, hear from folks who have already been matched, talk locally, learn about the land access services offered by the BC Land Matching Program (BCLMP), delivered by Young Agrarians and funded in the Columbia Basin by the Province with support from Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and the Real Estate Foundation of BC. Landowners and farmers from across the Basin – Revelstoke to Salmo, Fernie to Castlegar – are encouraged to attend.

“Land linking workshops are an avenue for farmers and landowners to meet their regional land matchers, and access important resources and information about land agreements,” says program manager Darcy Smith. “Our goal is to create an opportunity for people to network, and sign up new participants to receive ongoing support through the BC Land Matching Program.”

The workshop will be held 1-6 pm at the North Shore Hall, 673 Whitmore Rd, Nelson. The event is free, though donations to support Young Agrarians.

For more information and to register, visit youngagrarians.org/landlink2019 or call Hailey at 250-212-5016. For more information about the BCLMP, visit youngagrarians.org/land.

The Silverton Gallery
Saturday, November 9th
Show @ 7:30 pm
Tickets are $15

On September 29 the Nakusp & District Museum held the Museum Founders’ Tea Party in honour of the wonderful folks who created and managed the museum over the years. Approximately 70 people attended the tea party, many in delightful costumes.
Investment Ready Nakusp targets housing

submitted

The Investment Ready Nakusp initiative (IRN) is taking tangible steps to encourage economic diversification and growth through land development promotion and positioning.

IRN is specifically targeting housing by encouraging new lot creation, new unit development, and the identification, onboarding and management of rental units to market. Unfortunately, there are still only nine residential listings, up one from last month, and 11 commercial listings, down three from last month. There are only three vacant lots listed for sale. Drastically low inventory is restricting the opportunity for new investment in Nakusp. IRN will try to facilitate new opportunities for Nakusp landowners.

The good news is that Nakusp is having a record year for development. Regional District of Central Kootenay statistics to the end of August show a building boom in Nakusp. 25 building permits worth $4.9 million have been issued so far this year – higher than any year on record, and representing over half of the value in the region.

“Nakusp is showing phenomenal growth, with a healthy balance of both residential and commercial/industrial development. IRN will only bolster and encourage further local investment to create new housing units and industrial development opportunities,” says James Kay of the IRN Leadership Team.

The recent Nakusp and Area Rental Property Management Feasibility Study by Incentica, February 2019, determined that Nakusp is growing at 2.3% per year, and that there are approximately 230 rental units in Nakusp out of a total of 760 private households. It also determined that 74% of Nakusp houses were built before 1981. “The shortage of long-term rental accommodation has been identified as a deterrent for individuals and families who are considering moving to the Nakusp area, and therefore is considered a constraint on economic growth for the region.”

Next steps include assisting owners in preparing plans, concept drawings and proformas to support their investment in development or marketing of opportunities. Village staff are always available to discuss opportunities and address questions. IRN is a partnership between the Village of Nakusp, the Nakusp & Area Development Board, Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Basin Trust, and Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services. For more information: www.investmentreadynakusp.ca.

Export Navigator to offer ‘Doing Business in the USA’ seminar

submitted by Community Futures

Export Navigator Kootenay-Boundary is pleased to announce a free, first ever, solution-oriented US cross-border trade solution seminar in cooperation with experts from Pacific Customs Broker, Greg Boos Cascadia LLP and Spokane and Kootenay freight forwarders among others. The seminar takes place November 14 at the Prestige in Nelson, 11 am - 3 pm.

The proximity to the US border is the Kootenay’s greatest trading asset, yet crossing borders with commercial goods faces ever increasing complexities and regulations. US-bound shipments presently are almost exclusively routed via Calgary and Vancouver, making it costly and time consuming to reach US customers.

‘Doing Business in the USA’ is a seminar with a meticulously selected panel consisting of US immigration and cross-border lawyers, US tax specialists, customs brokers, and logistics professionals from Spokane area and Kootenays.

It will offer a fast-paced guide to expanding your sales into the US. Whether opening a facility with a US address or partnering with a distribution centre for your e-commerce activity, our seasoned panel will present options that will help determine an export strategy and understand responsibilities with local and federal government agencies such as the US Customs and Border Protection, Secretary of State, and US Citizen and Immigration Services.

The content focuses on current trends seen in the USA/CAN cross-border market and based on the experiences of each speaker. Small- to medium-sized businesses who attend this event will walk away with invaluable new connections, knowledge of all available resources and a lot of information.

No matter your experience with exporting or type of product, this must-attend, interactive seminar will prove invaluable to those looking to error-proof their US market access strategy.

To register, contact Community Futures Central Kootenay at info@futures.bc.ca or call 250-352-1933 ext. 100.

Registration deadline is November 8 for event planning purposes. Working lunch will be provided.
About the Nakusp & Area Development Board

The Nakusp & Area Development Board supports small business in our community through economic development and collaborative partnerships, and in celebration of Small Business Month we’d like to share a little about who we are and what we do.

As a non-profit society since 1989 with a volunteer board of directors, our goal is to help our residents and the business community by promoting businesses such as Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce introduces new board members.

The five directors on the board are: Karma Hallaran, president; Kul Nijjar, vice president; Dana Blouin, secretary; Jeff Davie, treasurer; Dave McCowan, and Henry Van Mill, Village liaison. The board has big plans and is very optimistic about fulfilling them.

Broadband initiative
We worked collaboratively with Columbia Wireless (columbiawireless.ca) to assist with surveys, approvals for wireless tower locations, and hosted information sessions and a launch event. Columbia Wireless installed a tower on Summit Peak this fall, providing Broadband internet access for Summit Lake residents. An additional tower installed on Kuskana Peak will provide continued growth in wireless internet options for the entire region.

Feasibility study
We completed a feasibility study to explore potential for a Rental Property Management system to help address the housing shortage in Nakusp and the surrounding area. The final report includes situational analysis and comparison with similar-sized communities, Nakusp ‘fit’ with the property management industry, financial feasibility, and potential next steps. The report has been shared within our community, and is also available on our website (nadb.ca) for other communities and organizations facing the same challenges.

Imagine Kootenay
We’re partners in this joint-initiative of local governments, economic development organizations and Chambers of Commerce with the aim of attracting and supporting investment and workforce development throughout the Kootenay and Boundary region. We are active members on the regional steering committee, and work collaboratively with the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce to ensure our region and its investment opportunities are well-represented and lead to successful conversions into property sales.

Investment Ready Nakusp
We were involved in the initial discussions, grant applications/award process and implementation of the steering committee, and continue to be active members with a primary goal of promoting Nakusp as ‘Ready for Investment’. We work collaboratively with representatives from the Village of Nakusp, Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Basin Trust, and Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services to help facilitate land development for residential housing, industrial parks and commercial revitalization.

We look forward to hearing from you!

West Kootenay Boundary Investment Coop
This is a new member-owned association that allows its members to invest into local businesses with the purpose of promoting economic, social, environmental and community impacts. As a founding member, the NADB has been actively involved in the implementation process and currently represents Nakusp, helping to make a positive impact for our community and region.

This past year we’ve also provided letters of support for organizations such as: Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services, Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association, Nakusp and Area Bike Society, Nakusp Rotary Club, Visit Nakusp and WorkBC Centre.

To request a letter of support, or for more information about our board members and upcoming meetings and activities, go to our website: nadb.ca.
submitted
The Chamber of Commerce in the Slocan Valley has been taking a good look at itself over the past year.

“We have just been through strategic planning and a branding process,” says Jan McMurray, president of the Chamber.

During the planning process, the Chamber board decided to call the organization the ‘Slocan Valley Chamber of Commerce,’ even though its official name is the ‘Slocan District Chamber of Commerce.’

“We recognized that ‘Slocan District’ doesn’t really mean anything to people,” said McMurray. “We’re in the Slocan Valley, and everyone calls this place the Slocan Valley, so we decided to go with that in our name.”

McMurray adds that the Chamber encourages businesses and organizations from the entire Slocan Valley to become members, even though the organization is based in New Denver.

The strategic planning process resulted in three general goals for the Chamber: support the business community; contribute towards resident attraction and retention; and contribute towards economic sustainability of the area. Some of the activities to support these goals include hosting networking events and workshops, connecting businesses with resources, continuing to host the Visitor Centre, improving and maintaining the website, and developing a new business welcome wagon program.

Upcoming projects for the Chamber include a new website and a resident attraction project.

A survey conducted as part of the strategic planning showed the three most beneficial Chamber activities as hosting the Visitor Centre in New Denver, hosting the website with its online business directory, and starting the Health Committee.

The Chamber had another successful year of operating the Visitor Centre with Erika Beringer as manager. “We’re so happy this was Erika’s last year as Visitor Centre manager,” said McMurray. “After five years, Erika has decided that she wants year-round retirement!”

The Chamber is also very pleased that two new doctors have recently signed a contract to work at the Slocan Community Health Centre in New Denver, keeping the 24/7 emergency department open. “Our expanded and enhanced health committee played a key role in helping to recruit doctors to the area,” said McMurray. “Our Health Committee is working with the Village of New Denver Health Select Committee to continue efforts to improve health services in the local area, and is a member of the BC Rural Health Network, which is working to improve health services in rural communities throughout the province.”

The upcoming resident attraction project is funded by the provincial Rural Dividend Program. The Chamber’s strategic planning process was supported by the Columbia Basin Trust Nonprofit Advisors Program.

The year ahead will involve support for small businesses in the Agriculture, Cannabis, Tourism, Technology, and Arts & culture sectors, as well as continued capacity-building with valley organizations.

SVEDC Chair Leah Main adds, “Our Valley economy relies on entrepreneurs, home-based businesses, independent eateries, artists and craftpeople, as well as locally-owned franchise businesses. We are a community of hard-working, flexible, creative people. This is our strength!”

Hats off to you Slocan Valley small businesses for making life here so much better for us all!

Many thanks to the propane users and JEMS customers that have supported me over the past 27 years in the Slocan. I’m grateful for the privilege of serving you.

Warm wishes
Jim Berrill

Slocan Valley celebrates Small Business Month

It’s Small Business Month and we at the Slocan Valley Economic Development Partnership and Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission would like to honour all the storefront and home-based small businesses out there. Those of us who are self-employed and have to wear many hats, be really good at what we do, and hustle to make ends meet – and juggle this with home and family life – are surely kept busy. Thankfully we live in a ground and healthy environment with such a supportive and caring community. Remember to ask for help if you need it!

This time of year for many is a shoulder season. Kids are back in school, we can take a breath and get prepared for winter. It’s a good time to reflect on what just happened, and to give thanks for the gentle weather and minimal wildfire season we enjoyed.

It was this time last year that the Slocan Valley Economic Development Partnership project really got up and running. The year has been very busy and quite productive on many fronts.

Right now we are working on redeveloping the slocanvalley.com website. Congratulations awarded to Shanna Fuller of Design Farm and Brad Higham of Colabo Consulting, both valley residents.

We see real value in supporting local small businesses whenever possible, and putting money where our mouths are. We congratulate Shanna and Brad on their good work.

In the new year we will see a new look and better functionality of the website, followed by an improved social media presence. The Slocan Valley Chamber of Commerce and Arrow Slocan Tourism Association are also developing a new look so the valley will be looking pretty spiffy online in 2020.

The year ahead will involve support for small businesses in the Agriculture, Cannabis, Tourism, Technology, and Arts & culture sectors, as well as continued capacity-building with valley organizations.

SVE DC Chair Leah Main adds, “Our Valley economy relies on entrepreneurs, home-based businesses, independent eateries, artists and craftpeople, as well as locally-owned franchise businesses. We are a community of hard-working, flexible, creative people. This is our strength!”

Hats off to you Slocan Valley small businesses for making life here so much better for us all!
CIBC business survey highlights work-life balance issues

submitted

With Small Business Month upon us and an election underway, you would think the only thing entrepreneurs care about is the usual small biz pain points: raising capital, regulation, taxes, taxes and more taxes.

But business owners are people, and here are some of the issues they face in terms of their work-life balance. A new poll of small business owners suggests some BC entrepreneurs never stop working and never take vacation.

The CIBC SmartBanking for Business Survey took the pulse of 1,005 small business owners – finding that one in five BC entrepreneurs are always working and never take vacation. Some BC entrepreneurs never stop working and never take vacation.

The Collective Perspective Survey is part of the BC Chamber’s BCMindReader.com initiative. Data is collected through BC MindReader, and is used to inform the BC Chamber’s advocacy efforts and policy direction. The data is shared locally, so it can help local businesses with their business decisions.

The Nakusp Chamber is encouraging local businesses to take the Collective Perspectives Survey and also to sign up for BCMindReader.com. If 50 businesses sign up for BC MindReader, Nakusp and area will get custom reports on all surveys.

Eichenauer explains that 50 is the critical number for the data to be statistically significant.
RDCK board, October 17: Funding application made to continue Regional FireSmart program

Community

The RDCK will apply for $150,000 from the Community Resiliency Investment Program to continue the Regional FireSmart program. The funds will be used to hire up to seven full-time staff from May to October 2020.

The RDCK continues to grow out of its office space. An Office Space Select Committee was formed to look at the issue and to hire a consultant to help solve the problem. Committee members include Directors Walter Popoff, Joseph Hughes, Tanya Wall and Janice Morrison. The committee was mandated to have a recommendation to the board by May.

The lease of space in the Kutenai Building for the Emergency Operations Centre, Fire & Emergency Management Services offices and Community Services offices will be extended for another 36 months until April 2023 at a cost not to exceed $225,921.75.

The board received the results of a survey of RDCK communications and website. Some of the highlights are as follows. Most respondents use local newspapers and the RDCK website to get information about the RDCK. Respondents were split when asked whether they feel well informed about RDCK services – one-third agree, one-third are neutral, and one-third disagree. Only 30% of respondents feel the RDCK listens to residents’ feedback. One-third don’t use social media. The RDCK topic the respondents most are recreational programming and resource recovery.

The board will send a letter in support of Selkirk College’s application for a Technology Access Centre (TAC). A Selkirk College document explains: “A TAC is a centre affiliated with a Canadian college that provides access to specialized technology, equipment and expertise to local industry with the goal of enhancing their research and innovation.” The RDCK will provide in-kind communications and marketing support to the Technology Access Centre for over the next five years.

A resolution brought forward by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) was passed. The resolution calls on all national parties to commit to modernizing how they work with local governments “to get even more done for Canadians.”

Area H

A $10,000 infrastructure planning grant from the Province was approved for the Rural Water System Direct Investigation Study.

The Rosebury Parklands and Trails Commission has identified some priority items for the 2020 budget, including cable car restoration and a geotechnical report and follow-up on a new slough near the cable car. Also, demarcation, signage and beach access at Rosebery Shores has been deferred to 2020.

The RDCK is working on regulating special events in Area H (Slocan Valley) and E (Balfron area). If this goes through, organizers of mass gatherings in these areas will have to apply to the RDCK for a permit. The process to adopt the necessary bylaws is lengthy, and is estimated to take another two years. It will include education of the public and event planning community. A staff report was released last week: “Communication received from Area H residents over the summer of 2019 indicate considerable public interest in services to regulate mass gatherings.”

Streamkeepers’ gap analysis is a wrap

Dominique Monnier to carry out the project. She is a graduate of Selkirk College’s Integrated Environmental Planning program. She has worked for two years as a BC park ranger, and since then as a field technician and field supervisor in biological and environmental projects.

To develop the report, Monnier undertook a review of more than 100 studies, such as ones concerned with the geographical features that define the life and function of the river, as well as fish assessments, and then an inventory of plants and habitat conditions. The resulting document goes on to suggest management strategies to maintain the ecological and hydrological integrity of the watershed.

The report can be downloaded from the Streamkeepers website: slocanriverstreamkeepers.wordpress.com.

Don’t let fruit attract bears

WildSafeBC is asking the residents of Areas H & K to take a proactive approach in deterring bears this season. Although there is a lot of talk about bears and gathering to significant in order to realize how much of an issue fruit trees can be if they are not cared for with wildlife in mind.

Do not pick a reward from a fruit tree, it will return to the tree again and again. Although fruit might seem like a natural reward for these bears, fruit in our backyards leads to habituation of wildlife – something that is dangerous and unpredictable.

Simple solutions to this problem include picking fruit and allowing it ripened indoors or to ripen on the tree if it ripens. Cleaning up windfall is also important, as it prunes trees to produce fruit, prune the tree vigorously or spray spring blossoms with a garden hose to discourage wildlife. Visit wildsafebc.com or facebook.com/WildSafeBCNewdenver.

Thank You

Kaslo Senior Citizens’ Association – Branch #81 would like to thank the following foundation and corporate sponsors, businesses and individuals who provided the funding, prizes and supplies at our September 21st Seniors’ Appreciation Dinner.

We also want to thank the Legion Ladies Auxiliary for cooking the beautiful and delicious fall meal.

Major Sponsors: Community Foundation of North Kootenay Lake Society, Columbia Power, Kootenay Savings Community Foundation and the Regional District of Central Kootenay’s Area D.

Organizations: Kaslo Food Hub


Volunteers: We would also like to thank: the many volunteers who worked together to make this event possible. We want to acknowledge the high impact that our uniformed servers made on our guests. Represented were members from the BC Ambulance, BC Sheriff Services, Kaslo Fire Department and RCMP.
by Jan McMurray

The CAO reported that the City Hall building is now hooked up to the new sewer system.

Paving of the Moyie Beach West facility, which is part of the City’s project to complete repairs of the EV charger near the rear of the Kemball building were projects scheduled for October.

Verna Mumby, owner of Mumby’s Arboriculture Consulting, visited Kaslo last month to update the report she did for the Village. The Parks, Trails and Public Arts Committee reviewed the Village’s current tree policy and the updated Mumby Report, and will report back to council with any recommended changes.

The Village’s application for wildfire mitigation funding from the provincial Community Resiliency Initiative has been approved, pending the following elements: education (through the homeowners support program); planning (conducting public building and community infrastructure assessments for Village assets); interagency co-operation (cross-jurisdictional meetings with key regional partners); cross-training, as identified by the Kaslo Fire Department; and capacity building in residential areas; and fuel management on municipal land. The project will generate employment and increased local economic opportunities, improve local expertise, community awareness, assist local residents in reducing wildfire hazards, and treat approximately 30 hectares of municipal land.

Council received a letter from Patti Coutts, president of the Kaslo Legion, asking the Village to ensure respect for the cenotaph site during the Jazz Festival. Coutts said she had received many complaints about the lack of respect for the site during the last festival. In the letter, Kaslo cenotaph had scavenger hunt stickers pasted on the monument itself and there were placards, chairs, people and litter scattered over the cenotaph grounds as if it were a basketball field,” she said. The CAO said he would raise this concern at an October 9 Jazz Fest debrief meeting.

The Kaslo & District Community Forest Society was given permission to store industrial equipment on land near the aerodrome. The society will purchase the land by November 10 at an online auction. The Village has recently given KDCF’s a Licence of Occupation on this same land to set up a seacan for storage of firefighting equipment and seedlings. The CAO reported that the society is interested in a long-term lease of land in this area in the future.

The CAO reported that most recent Rural Dividend funding intake was cancelled to the government can channel the funds towards programs to support forestry workers. The Village had applied for $100,000 for a Community Signage and Wayfinding project in partnership with the Chamber. He said the Village and Chamber may be able to find alternate funding sources for the project or for some of the project components.

The Kaslo delegation at the Union of BC Municipalities convention met with RCMP representatives and learned that there will be 40 new members across the province, including 12 in a new strategic support unit. Four support unit members will be based in Kaslo or Kelowna and will be assigned to small communities like Kaslo when additional support is needed, for relief, filling gaps, and special events.

The CAO was going to meet with other CAOs at the Local Government Management Association meeting to discuss options.

The Village will cover the Kaslo Chamber sewer fees for May Days.

The CAO reported that ministerial approval of the Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) is expected in November. First Nations consultation on the plan revealed the lack of a requiring environment monitoring plan (REMP). This need not delay approval of the LWMP, but the Village will be required to create a REMP.

Kaslo and Area Health Fair 2019 at the Primary Health Centre

This year’s displays will include: Health Outreach Nurse – STOP HIV Program, KORTES, Kaslo Community Pharmacy, BC Health Care selects.

This is a chance to meet traditional, complementary, and supportive health practitioners. View displays, speak with service providers and receive some hands-on treatments. Enjoy coffee and snacks, and visit with friends. Get your ‘Health Passport’ signed and enter the prize draw.

The project will include 36 one-bedroom, six two-bedroom and five studio units, for a total of 47 homes. In addition to these 47 homes, the Province is working in partnership to build nearly 300 new affordable homes in the Kootenays. To address the issue of housing affordability for British Columbians, the Province is curbing speculation in BC’s housing market and helping build 114,000 affordable market rental, non-profit, supported social housing and owner-purchase housing through partnerships.

More funding to train caregivers

The Province has noticed the shortage of care aides in BC and is taking action to increase the number of qualified health care assistants to continue improving care for seniors.

Through the Ministries of Health and Advanced Education, Skills and Training, government is providing approximately $3.64 million over the next two years to create 418 new health care assistant seats in 14 post-secondary institutions across the province. Interagency coordination are also known as care aides, community health workers and other titles.

Selkirk College in Trail will get $260,000 for 36 more seats; College of the Rockies in Cranbrook, $128,000 for 16 seats; Okanagan College, Revelstoke, $109,900 for 10 seats.

There are currently an estimated 25,500 health-care assistants employed by health authorities and affiliated employers in British Columbia. Health care assistants provide personal support services for people living with disabilities and those living with acute or chronic illnesses, including seniors. They work in a variety of settings, including long-term care homes, acute care, home support and assisted living.

There are 17 publicly funded post-secondary institutions in September in 11 post-secondary institutions.

Training programs are approximately six to 10 months long. The first of the new seats became available to post-secondary institutions in September 2019.

Increasing the number of trained health care assistants is part of government’s commitment to strengthen the supports available to seniors. It is investing approximately $1 billion over three years to improve care for seniors, including investments in primary care, home health, long-term care and assisted living. This also includes $20 million over the next two years to increase staffing levels in long-term care homes, with the goal of achieving 3.36 direct care hours per resident day – on average by 2020-21.

In 2019, 19% of BC’s population is 65 or over. In 15 years, this percentage is expected to increase to 25%. The ministries provided approximately $3.3 million to create 384 health care assistant seats in 11 post-secondary institutions.

Kaslo & District

Kaslo council, October 8: City Hall gets connected to new sewer system

The site, 805 Nelson Ave., formerly housed a 20-unit motel, which was demolished in 2018. In partnership with the City of Nelson, a large outdoor space is proposed on the east side of the building, providing outdoor space for residents and the larger community.

“Nelson has experienced a near 0% vacancy rate for several years,” says Mayor John Dooley, “and we are hopeful that projects such as this will be an excellent opportunity for us to provide a welcoming and safe environment for our community, while providing affordable accommodation for our seniors and persons living with disabilities.”

Nelson CARES Society provided the land for the project and will own and operate the building once it is complete. The society also operates an adjacent eight-unit building to serve people at risk of homelessness and will connect residents at both sites to supports in the community.

The Province provided $8.6 million for the project, as well as construction financing. Columbia Basin Trust provided a grant of $200,000 for the development of the project.

Construction began in September 2019 and is scheduled to be completed by late 2020.

Delivering affordable housing is a shared priority between government and the BC Green Party caucus and is part of the Confidence and Supply Agreement.

The project will include 36 one-bedroom, six two-bedroom and five studio units, for a total of 47 homes. In addition to these 47 homes, the Province is working in partnership to

19KASLO & DISTRICT

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Kootenay Trails Physiotherapy and more.

All are welcome at the Victorian Hospital of Kaslo Community Health Centre, 673 ’A’ Ave, Wednesday, November 6, and Jewett School, November 20. Sponsored by the Village of Kaslo Health Select Committee.
CLASSIFIED ADS
THINKING OF STARTING, BUYING or expanding your own business? If so, Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training, and delivers the Self Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 250-367-347 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@future.bc.ca.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

THANK YOU to CBT and RDCK/Kasco EDC.
Funding for this position is thanks to CBT and RDCK/Kasco EDC.

BUDDY’S PIZZA, KASLO: Award winning, hand-stretched artisan pizza.
250-353-8363. Funding for this position is thanks to CBT and RDCK/Kasco EDC.

THE Langham, Kaslo.
Tuesday 1-3, Wednesday & Thursday 9-12 or by appointment. #23 The Langham, Kaslo.

3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

The Langham Presents THE NEW CUSTOMS Friday November 8, 7pm. Evocative Indie-roots-folk duo from Winnipeg return with a new album full of Emma Cliney’s haunting vocals and the impeccable electrifying riffs of multi-instrumentalist Dale Brown. Tickets $15 Willow or Sunnyside. www.thelangham.ca


SQUARE DANCING! 5 piece band ‘Eldorado Hoedown’ and live caller October 26 & November 23, 6:30-9 pm at the Bosun Hall in New Denver. Beginners are welcome. Call 250-358-2177 for information.

HARVEST DINNER: Annual Community Potluck at the Silverton Memorial Hall, November 16 at 5:30pm. Celebrate local food abundance with friends, neighbours and newcomers! Bring your favourite fall dish or dessert to share and enjoy music and dancing with Eldorado Hoedowns! Local meats, music and beverages provided thanks to CBT sponsorship.

JUDANCE NAKUSP: Escape the cold and get your dance on to World Fusion music. November 2, 16, and 30, 7-9pm. Fiahnell upstairs. Nakusp BC. $10 suggested donation www.facebook.com/groups/judancenakusp

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NAKUSP & DISTRICT MUSEUM SOCIETY AGM - Saturday, October 26, 9:30am at the Archives Office in the Centennial Building, 92 Sixth Ave NW. Kootskins Clothing Exchange - Saturday, November 2, Noon - 3 pm. Bosun Hall, New Denver. Trade children’s clothes or just take some home.

HOLLY HYATT - WILD HEART album release party at Silverton Gallery on November 9 at 7:30 pm. $15 at the door.

VIRKAS AUTO SALES & FUNDRAISER Kaslo: Saturday October 26, 12 noon-2:30 pm. St. Andrews Heritage Hall, New Denver. Trade children’s clothes or just take some home.

ESCAPE THE COLD & FUNDRAISER Kaslo: Saturday October 26, 12 noon-2:30 pm at St. Andrews Heritage Hall on 4th Street - Tickets are $7 and under free, includes food, drink and delicious desserts. Crafts; jewelry; bake sale; treasure table and popular Lucky 7 Table. Costumes optional prizes for best costumes. Tickets at the door and Kaslo Thrift Store. Fun for all!!

THE VALLEY VOICE

THANK YOU to CBT and RDCK/Kasco EDC.
Funding for this position is thanks to CBT and RDCK/Kasco EDC.

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

RESTAURANTS


HELP WANTED
6-YEAR-OLD MATH TUTOR is looking for some part-time administrative assistant, approx. 40 hours/ week. Duties include: filing, typing, handling emails, answering phones, doing bank deposits etc. Email resume and cover letter to valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca by November 4.

REPORTERS WANTED at the Valley Voice. Are you community minded and want to practice your writing skills? Contact Jan valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca by November 4.

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

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Gone are the days we used to share
But in my heart you are always there.

Loved and remembered every day.
Never more than a thought away
But in my heart you are always there.

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RDCK and Nelson Leafs launch full-time Eco-Depot

submitted

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has partnered with the Nelson Leafs Hockey Society to expand their recycling centres. Nelson Leafs has agreed to accept used oil, antifreeze, fertilizers, household cleaners and other materials in addition to the electronics, paint and beverage containers they have always collected. This kind of ‘Eco-Depot’ – a one-stop recycling centre for materials that can’t go in regular recycling bins or the landfill – is the first of its kind in Central Kootenay.

The Nelson Leafs Eco-Depot opened on October 16. “More than 800 people participated in [hazardous waste] events across the RDCK, and we were able to collect thousands of litres of used oil, antifreeze and paint out of our landfills and environment,” said the RDCK’s Resource Recovery Technician Travis Burrington.

Residents with very large volumes should contact the depot in advance, as individual container size may limit the number of containers. Commercial users must make arrangements with a waste disposal contractor.

BC craft cannabis co-op named, rules updated

submitted

After months of consultation with stakeholders and potential members, a proposed BC craft cannabis co-operative officially has a name and released new rules.

Church community donates $10K to schools

submitted

When the pastor of Nelson’s Covenant Church, Jeff Strong, read a report earlier this summer that the costs associated with going back to school are now comparable to the amount of dollars spent at Christmas time, he saw an opportunity to serve his community and to give back.

Kootenay Lake School District 8’s initiative to offer $40 school supply packs for students further compelled him to invite his congregation to help cover the costs of school supplies for any families in the community that might be struggling with them. The support that came back from his church’s congregation was both overwhelming and unexpected. What began with a matching incentive from the church, verbal commitments and donations from individuals grew to a total of $10,800.

Nine schools, including Brent Kennedy Elementary, will each receive $1,200 from this donation, intended to be used to lower or cover school event costs, and provide financial aid for students who could use the support in order to participate in these events.

“We see the different pressures and economic demands on our families,” said Superintendent Dr. Christine Perkins, “and the generosity of this large donation is wholeheartedly appreciated.”

Tanya P. Johnson: art from Slocan Valley to Mongolia

submitted

Oxygen Art Centre hosts an artist talk by Slocan Valley-based artist Tanya Pixie Johnson on Thursday, November 7 at 7:30 pm. Everyone welcome to attend; admission is free or by donation.

Johnson’s talk will track her practice over the last two years including residencies in Europe, collaborations, and exhibitions. The talk will focus on a few key projects: Story Keepers, for Land Art Mongolia Biennale; a proposed BC craft cannabis co-op; and unexpected. What began with a matching incentive from the church, verbal commitments and donations from individuals grew to a total of $10,800.

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RCPM investigating suspicious death in Vallican

submitted

The death of a 47-year-old man in the Vallican area is being treated as suspicious by police, who have released no other information. On October 8 at approximately 10 am, the Nelson RCPM received a call of a deceased person. Frontline officers responded and located the male on private property.

The Southeast District RCPM Major Crime Unit and the Kootenay Boundary Regional Detachment are now investigating the sudden death. Investigators are treating the death, including painting, installation, assemblage, paper cutting, printmaking, collage and writing. Her practice is often concerned with concepts of belonging, liminality and consciousness. It is informed by ideas of colonial accountability, relationship with land and an interest in transformation and ancestors.

Oxygen is excited to offer this event to share Johnson’s practice as it has evolved over the last two years across many borders and topics. The artist talk will take place at Oxygen Art Centre featuring a digital slide projection and a short open dialogue afterwards.

Artist Bio: www.tanyapijohnson.com

BC craft cannabis co-op mission, rules updated

submitted

If the BC government accepts the proposed rules from the founding members, the co-op will be established, members will be invited to join and the first Annual General Meeting will be called to elect an independent board of directors and formally adopt the approved rules.

For more information, contact: natasha@growtechlabs.com.

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More than 2,500 forest scientists and experts from around the world met recently to co-develop solutions for sustainable development, and to tackle climate change and deforestation. The meeting was organized by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), a non-profit, non-governmental international network of forest scientists, which promotes global cooperation in forest-related research and enhances the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests and trees.

This 25th IUFRO World Congress was hosted for the first time in South America, from September 29 to October 5 in Curitiba, Brazil. Over the course of the six-day scientific program, scientists and experts from 92 countries exchanged knowledge and ideas. Presentations and discussions covered a diversity of forest and tree-related topics including: silviculture, physiology and genetics, social aspects of forestry, forest products, forest health, forest operations and management, forest modelling and assessment, forest policy and economics, and forest environment.

All areas of expertise contributed to finding solutions to forest-related challenges for the benefit of forests and people worldwide. IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC) supported the participation of over 100 early and mid-career scientists from economically disadvantaged countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and launched a new Spanish-language resource for forest landscape practitioners, thanks to generous support from its donors. Sponsored participants were invited to pre-congress trainings to enhance their skills in forest landscape restoration, systematic literature reviews, and scientific methods in forest research.

The programme also hosted an event showcasing the lessons learned from an ongoing scientific analysis of progress in forest landscape restoration implementation in support of the Bonn Challenge, a global initiative to put 150 million hectares in restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. Participants reaffirmed that forests and forest products have an important role to play in future climate change mitigation, but warned that goals of keeping global temperature rise well below 2°C by the end of this century cannot be achieved without massive societal transformation. With an ever-growing world population of more than 7.7 billion, the pressure on forests has never been so high. As such, scientists pledged to speed up efforts to counter global forest threats by providing knowledge and practical solutions to foster good land management for water and wildlife; to prevent deforestation and to repair damaged landscapes; to supply wood products that have a lower carbon footprint than alternatives; and to enable forests to fulfil the physical and spiritual needs of society.

In addition to the scientists’ commitment to provide knowledge and practical solutions, they reiterated the calls by global youth to “listen to the scientists,” and recognize the need for the science community to speak up in new ways to highlight the fundamental role science and technology must play in finding effective, economically viable solutions.

Janice Burns graduated from Mount Sentinel Secondary School in 2006, worked for six summers at the BC Wildfire Service, and received the Canadian Institute of Forestry’s prestigious Gold Medal Award upon completion of her bachelor’s degree in Forest Resource Management at the University of British Columbia in 2012. She completed a dual Master’s Degree in European Forestry in 2015, and has since been supporting forest-related scientific networking, especially in the areas of forest landscape restoration, forest education, the role of gender in forestry, and global fire challenges in a warming world.

Burns believes that local context and community are key to long term success in achieving the UN Sustainable Development goals and other global targets, and invites you to contact her for information about IUFRO activities, publications, upcoming international events or general inquiries: burns@iufro.org

The IUFRO World Congress offered a platform for scientific networking and knowledge exchange with the aim of developing practical solutions to foster global forest-related challenges such as deforestation and climate change. For example, a creative approach to forest landscape restoration in Brazil includes the development of agroforestry systems (as shown above): Zé do Bode’s backyard, in an agrarian reform settlement with a diversified production, including açaí plantation and ponds for fish farming.