New child care centre to open in New Denver in September

by Jan McMurray

A full-time, year-round licensed child care centre is set to open in September at Lucerne School in New Denver. Funding of almost $750,000 for the Goat Mountain Kids Child Care Centre was announced at a special assembly at the school library on November 15.

“This is truly a momentous occasion!” said School District 10 Superintendent Terry Taylor in her remarks at the assembly. “We started a year ago, looking at the needs. Full-time spaces for children and families have never existed here before. This funding announced today will make an immense difference for kids and community.”

The funding is coming from the Province and the Columbia Basin Trust. At the assembly, local MLA and Minister of Children and Family Development Katrine Conroy announced $492,052.80 of provincial funds for the project, and Mark Brunton of the Trust announced a contribution of $250,000.

The funding will be used to turn the former kindergarten and grade one classrooms in the school’s west wing into two spaces for 0-11 year olds. The two classrooms have been out of use for more than eight years due to low enrolment. The school district doesn’t anticipate a need for these classrooms in the foreseeable future, as enrolment is projected to remain stable for the next decade at around 90-100 students. The school was built for 400.

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The Nakusp/ New Denver senior boys soccer team had a great season, culminating in their participation at the provincial championships. In the tradition of team solidarity, they bleached their hair for provincials.

Submitted by Jarrett Bass

The Nakusp/ New Denver senior boys soccer team attended Single A Boys Soccer Provincials in Burnaby November 6-8.

The boys came in with a positive attitude knowing that they were a young team and that their only goal was to play their best and let all of the other pieces fall into place.

They played Similkameen in their first game. While they were outmanned in terms of offensive chances, the team played the game of their lives and were able to hold on for a 0-0 tie with a couple of spectacular saves from goalie Lucas Robins and his defenders. At the end of the game, Lucas was kicked in the face and diagnosed with a concussion, meaning his tournament was over. The team then played the eventual winners of the tournament, West Point Grey, losing 8-0. The next day, with the opportunity to finish third in the pool, the team played Northside Christian. Colby Mackintosh scored three minutes in with a beautiful shot from 20 yards out, and the team’s defense held for the rest of the game. At the end of pool play, Nakusp was tied with Similkameen on points, which meant going to Penalty Kicks to determine who would finish second in the pool. Nakusp lost the Penalty kicks but still finished third in the pool. They played St. Andrews from Vancouver Island (losing 4-0), and finally Vernon Christian (losing 3-0), to finish 12th out of 16 teams, but 2nd out of 4 public Island (losing 4-0), and finally Vernon Christian School holds down the #1 spot and is last year’s returning provincial champion.

The championship caps a great season for Mt. Sentinel boys, after having finished first at an eight-team Kootenay Zone A Championship held in Sparwood in early November. There were five other teams competing for the title: Fernie, Fernie Academy, Sentinel Secondary School (MSSS), Senior Boys Volleyball team, the Wildcats, brought home first place at the Kootenay Zone A Championship held in Sparwood in early November.

Golden, Salmon and host Sparwood. The Wildcats went undefeated in pool play and playoffs, beating Fernie Secondary in the best of five games final 3-0.

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Making CleanBC Real: Ministers Mungall and Heyman explain BC’s Climate Action Plan

by Kathy Hartman

CleanBC, BC’s Climate Action Plan, was ‘made real’ at an event in Nelson on November 16 by George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, who attended via Skype, and Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and MLA for Nelson-Creston. Montana Burgess from West Kootenay EcoSociety emceed the event.

Outside, reps from the Council of Canadians and Extinction Rebellion were handing out leaflets on LNG Canada. The ministers answered several questions in their presentation.

What is Clean BC?

CleanBC is BC’s climate action plan, adopted 11 months ago. It aims at incrementally reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 40% by 2030, 60% by 2040 and 80% by 2050 of 2007 levels. There are accountability measures to meet these targets and for regular public reporting; with the next report due December 2020. Heyman’s ministry is responsible for overseeing the overall government effort, while Mungall’s ministry is responsible for waste. Mungall spoke of expanding electric charging stations to grocery stores and community centres, and the government’s efforts to encourage people to take advantage of the rebates aiding the move to electricity. She hyped government programs that offer rebates of $8,000 for a new electric vehicle, a move to cancel the PST on new electric bikes, $3,000 to move from gas heating to a heat pump, plus other incentives offered by BC Hydro and FortisBC.

Will BC have enough electricity to support electric vehicles?

The answer was no. Mungall asserted BC will need the equivalent of five Site C dams to power the transition from fossil fuels that is envisioned in CleanBC. Heyman said BC has enough electricity for 5-10 years but will need to work now to develop offshore wind power, geothermal and solar resources as well as developing better battery storage technology.

How can we align LNG production with the Climate Action Plan targets?

(According to the Extinction Rebellion leaflet, LNG Canada adds 9% of the total emissions allowed for BC in 2013.)

Mungall opposes rapid clawbacks in natural gas, which heats many BC homes. She contends that CleanBC reduces carbon emissions and increased carbon sink work.

The NDP has had the same four conditions for LNG since 2011: First Nations support, clear benefit for British Columbians, fair rate of return, and meet Climate Action Plan targets. Mungall said the Haisla First Nation in northwestern BC supports LNG Canada. ‘They’ve told her they’ve done the homework on LNG – it is an opportunity to create jobs and a strong economy for their people and if it can assist Asian countries to get off of coal-fired electricity, it’s a project they can support. Heyman said that LNG Canada is regulated to reduce 45% of the current fugitive methane, which escapes during the drilling, extraction, and transportation process. By 2035, in 2023, there will be a review of new field emission technology to further reduce emissions. Yearly progress reports are legally mandated.

Heyman said that the purpose of carbon pricing, which BC has had for 11 years, is to reduce emissions without putting British Columbians out of work. He gave an analogy using the cement industry in BC. If we put them out of business here, then we create a ‘carbon leak’ by importing cement from elsewhere. Better to keep the jobs in BC and incentivize business to use new emission reduction technology.

What is the strategy for maintaining carbon sinks in the West Kootenay?

Heyman said carbon sinks are critically important to the Climate Action Plan. Old growth forests and grasslands are all overseen by Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. There will be an open meeting in Nelson in early January on how to support forests in the West Kootenay. All are encouraged to come.

How can people in the West Kootenay push the government to follow through on the Climate Action Plan?

Mungall talked about keeping the pressure on the BC government, demanding the government stick to the targets and encouraging the plan to be more ambitious. Heyman and Mungall agreed that BC can’t reduce emissions alone and pressure needs to be applied to the big emitters. The biggest emitters in the world are the Asian countries and in Canada, Alberta. Just this month, Alberta’s Energy Minister Sonya Savage introduced legislation to axe the transition plan to replace coal-fired electricity with more natural gas-fired power and renewables like wind and solar, and to just keep burning coal. Mungall said one way to help would be to find ways to pressure Alberta. Heyman said when people feel they are not being listened to, when they feel their livelihood is threatened, they grab onto simple and false messaging, and pointed to the election of a climate denier for US president to illustrate his point.

‘Talk to your neighbour about BC’s Climate Plan. It is no good if we make great strides today and, as in Alberta, see it all reversed tomorrow. And please, hold the BC government’s feet to the fire to do as we have promised and put into law,” Heyman concluded.
by Art Joyce

Kootenay historian and journalist Greg Nesteroff has curated an exhibition on the history of regional newspapers at Touchstones Nelson titled Kootenay News: The History of Nelson’s Newspapers. The exhibition and accompanying booklet notes other newspapers in the West Kootenay over the past century, including the Kootenay Review, The Daily Canadian, Nelson Economist, Images, the Valley Voice, and many others.

For such a small city, Nelson has had a lively newspaper history, starting in 1890 when journalist and itinerant miner John Houston packed a letterpress to what was then still just a rough mining camp. The Miner published its first issue on June 21, 1890, stating that it was “printed on Saturdays, provided the staff is sober.”

Houston sold The Miner to a major competitor to print news, and subscriptions to the Nelson Daily News had fallen to an all-time low of about 3,500. At one time the newspaper had been able to boost its subscribership, but the circulation was cut in half when the CPR was “the greediest corporation on Earth.” The Miner became the Nelson Daily Miner, renamed The Daily News in 1902 when F.J. Deane bought the newspaper.

Later renamed the Nelson Daily News, the last issue was published July 16, 2010, following the closure of the newspaper by new owner Black Press. The chain had established the Kootenay Western Star – now the Nelson Star – in 2006 as a competitor and part of its corporate mandate to purchase most of BC’s interior community newspapers. By that time, the internet had emerged as a major competitor to print news, and subscriptions to the Nelson Daily News had fallen to an all-time low of 3,500.

John Houston was known for his fiery prose, once writing that the CPR was “the greediest corporation on Earth.” The Miner became the Nelson Daily Miner, renamed The Daily News in 1902 when F.J. Deane bought the newspaper. Later renamed the Nelson Daily News, the last issue was published July 16, 2010, following the closure of the newspaper by new owner Black Press. The chain had established the Kootenay Western Star – now the Nelson Star – in 2006 as a competitor and part of its corporate mandate to purchase most of BC’s interior community newspapers. By that time, the internet had emerged as a major competitor to print news, and subscriptions to the Nelson Daily News had fallen to an all-time low of about 3,500. At one time the newspaper had been able to boost its subscribership, but the circulation was cut in half when a decision was made in 1987 to go from a morning to an afternoon newspaper.

The Touchstones launch on November 2 featured a panel discussion with former Nelson Daily News journalists and editors, as well as Nelson Beacker, founder of The Express. Panelist Kathleen Rogers started as a freelance Kaslo correspondent for the Nelson Daily News in the 1970s and became staff reporter and columnist from 1979 to 1990. She was a single mom from California, living in Kaslo and needing more income to feed her three kids. She recalled being sent to the Nelson Courthouse to cover a trial of the Doukhobor Sons of Freedom.

“I walked into the courthouse and there’s these very dignified Doukhobor men and women sitting there, completely naked, singing in four-part harmony. And I thought, gee, I’m not in Kansas anymore.”

Panelist and Slocan Valley author Rita Moir began writing for newspapers in Sudbury, Ontario, although she was originally from BC. She began writing for the Nelson Daily News in the early 1980s and was a key figure in the establishment of the feminist newspaper Images. Like Rogers, she recalled that in those days it wasn’t necessary to have a journalism degree to work as a reporter, only a lively curiosity and a willingness to learn from veteran journalists. She quoted H.L. Mencken’s famous quip about the ethic of journalism being “to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.” “And that’s what I saw my job as being,” she said. This brought her into conflict with Nelson Daily News management when she and Jim Sinclair published a story about the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. They were both punished – Sinclair was made sports editor and Moir the court reporter. Moir recalled writing some of the first stories about the proposal to establish Valhalla Provincial Park, then highly controversial.

“I got a full front page on the logging of the Valhallas. And the next day a logger about three times my size came into the office and he said, ‘I want to see Rita Moir.’ And I said, ‘I want to come and do a story like that in Salmo.’ And what I learned from that was not to judge a person by what they looked like, or where they came from, or what job they did.”

Panelist Bob Hall was a reporter for the Nelson Daily News from 1995 to 2002, editor from 2002 to 2010 and editor of the Nelson Star from 2010 to 2013. Originally from Calgary, he and his wife moved to Nelson in 1994 shortly after he graduated from the University of Alberta. He was amazed that a city of Nelson’s size would have both a daily newspaper and the weekly Express published by Nelson Becker. Starting off as sports reporter at the NDN, he graduated to the City Hall beat, which he covered for 15 years.

“It was a great introduction to the community because you get introduced to the entirety of the community, and a lot of its quirky characters – some of them sitting in this room right now.”

Panelist Nelson Becker grew up in New York, where he was involved in media from a young age, working with some of the first portable video equipment in the late 1960s. Moving to Canada in 1970, he worked on a video festival in Montreal, later moving to Vancouver. Both cities still have community radio stations he helped establish. He first came to Nelson in 1980, when he created a video festival with Anne DeGrace called Peace of the Kootenays. DeGrace encouraged him to return, and in 1988 he settled permanently in Nelson, establishing the forerunner to The Express, What’s On, showcasing local arts and culture and non-profit groups.

“My idea of The Express was to be something the community could feel emotional ownership of. I wanted to get everybody’s photo in the newspaper, whether with ‘Good Neighbours,’ ‘Street Talk’ or for other things.”

Kootenay News will run at Touchstones Nelson until February 17, 2020.

by Jan McMurray

There’s a new business in town. Kellie Macnair and Darrin Bialkoski have opened ‘Charlie’s Needful Things’ in the former Hidden Garden Gallery building in downtown New Denver.

“We wanted to bring more to the town, and we saw a need for a store that’s open late for convenience items,” said Kellie. “We also wanted to fill the gap that ‘What’s in Store’ left behind by carrying candy, gifts and toys.”

If you find yourself short of groceries like milk, butter, medicine or laundry detergent in the evening, you now have a place to go. The store also offers a wide array of gift items, including toys and games, candles and bath products. Check it out on Merchants’ Night, December 5.

Kellie and Darrin are both originally from New Denver. As many do, they both left the community and came back, looking for a way to bring something more to their hometown. “Charlie’s Needful Things’ has a wonderful mix of convenience and gift items, and includes a tanning salon in the former office space in the building. While living in Kelowna, Kellie tanned at a salon regularly and wanted to bring this service to New Denver.

“Tanning offers people a dose of vitamin D, which is particularly helpful in winter,” she says. She does consultations with customers before they enter the stand-up tanning booth to determine what type of lotion would be best for their skin type. Kellie has everything you need for a tanning session, which lasts for up to 10 minutes at $1 per minute, plus the cost of lotion and very modest cost for protective glasses.

Open seven days a week at 2 pm, Charlie’s Needful Things stays open till 9 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and till 8 pm every other night of the week. See the ad on this page for more information.
Kootenay initiative to create jobs, support cannabis businesses

submitted

A new initiative to support cannabis businesses in the Kootenays will soon lead to better access to employment opportunities in the industry and create sustainable cannabis operations in the region, according to the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

The Cannabis Business Transition Initiative, delivered by Community Futures, is the first step toward building a sustainable future for cannabis businesses in the Kootenays, said Community Futures Executive Director Andrea Wilkey.

“We believe cannabis can support local and sustainable employment opportunities,” said Minister Shane Simpson. “It will help cannabis businesses get off to a good start with a solid and sustainable plan to create jobs that support local families.”

Community Futures has hired a new team of advisors to run the project. They will work with individuals interested in testing tools and resources to support licensing applications and help businesses transition.

“Cannabis has been a significant economic driver in many of BC’s rural communities and it is our goal to help cannabis producers, who are not connected to organized crime, transition to the legal economy,” said Mike Farnsworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

“A failure to transition these producers would not only jeopardize our goal to reduce the illegal market, it would also be an opportunity to create stable jobs that support families and communities.”

The underground cannabis market in the Kootenays was well established prior to Canada legalizing non-medical cannabis in October 2018. There are an estimated 2,500 cannabis producers in the region that hope to expand into the non-medical market, including some authorized to grow medical cannabis. The transition advisors will help them identify existing issues, strategies and opportunities in the current legalization process.

“Our region has an opportunity to transition its underground cannabis economy to a successful legal industry,” said Community Futures executive director Andrea Wilkey. “This provincial funding will help ensure that local entrepreneurs have the support they need to navigate the complex regulatory system and create a sustainable cannabis business.”

The initiative is the first of its kind in Canada. Over the next two years, it is expected to support more than 100 clients in their transition to licensed and sustainable cannabis businesses.

“I look forward to the results of this initiative to have heritage value. The public engagement period will last until end of December 2019. The proposed sites and heritage resources to be included on the RDCK Community Heritage Register will follow in early 2020.

Residents are invited to fill out a survey. There are three ways to access the survey: visit surveymonkey.com/r/RDCKHeritageRegister to take the survey online; send an e-mail to RDCKHeritageRegister@gmail.com and a link will be sent to you directly; pick up a printed survey form at any RDCK office location or at your local library branch.

This project is made possible by a Heritage Museums and Archives grant, funded by the Columbia Basin Trust and administered by Heritage BC.
Not celebrating Turkey’s anniversary
I was very surprised the Valley Voice chose to post the observation of Turkey’s founding. This is completely inappropriate for the front page of our community paper. Turkey is a brutally oppressive regime with a horrible human rights record internally and abroad. Anyone ever hear of the Armenian genocide? The authoritarian rule of Erdogan continues to violate and undermine the rights of the Kurdish minority, who have been systematically targeted for decades. I’m not celebrating this anniversary and I don’t think the Voice should either.

Dave Collin
Valleymount

Nurse Practitioner Donna Gibbons
She may not be a “doctor” She’s way more than a nurse
And this is why I had to write
This short but thankful verse
She comes to work on crutches
To make “you” well again
She treats you like a friend
Honest, true and fair
She treats you like you’re family
And that’s the best health care
All medical conditions
That ever came to be
And all of those you talk to
Have praise for Donna G

Al Mills
Slocan

A system where every vote counts
In the election every vote for a party counts in this party’s total. Parties with at least one seat in parliament get the party’s total divided by their number of members of parliament. Independents MPs get the number of votes they personally got. Every voter

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY
The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers. Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material. Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes. We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances. Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.

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So anyway, personally I'm okay with your proposals to keep the snowmobiles from making their killing highways for the wolves to run on. Somebody made a big biological mistake in reintroducing the wolves, in my opinion. So, who let the dogs out and where are they now to fix this? That's my piece.

R. Allen Nakusp

Selective praise

In the October 24 VV, Kamil Aksouy wrote a piece in honour of the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of Turkey, noting that Turkey is a “pluralistic, secular and vibrant democracy.” This may have characterized Turkey prior to the current AKP government under the repressive and authoritarian leadership of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but not today.

Pluralistic? In 2012 Erdogan opened peace negotiations with the jailed Kurdish leader followed 30 years of government repression and Kurdish guerrilla warfare, only to resume attacking them two years later. Since the coup attempt against Erdogan in 2016, many of the 2,000 academicians have been termed a petizione only asking the government to reopen negotiations with the Kurds have been arrested, fired from their jobs and had their passports revoked. In 2017, the United Nations expressed concern over the Turkish government’s operations and called for independent assessment for the alleged “massive destruction, killings and numerous other serious human rights violations” against the ethnic Kurdish minority. As of last month, Turkey has killed or wounded on Kurdish settlements in Northern Syria.

Secular? Under Erdogan’s Islamic policies he has commandeered the control between the church (Islam) and state instituted by Atatürk has steadily been eroded, i.e. government controls the religious establishment and the secular education system is dismantled.

Democratic? Starting well before the anti-government protests in 2013, the Erdogan government has imposed censorship on the press and social media, blocking sites such as YouTube, Twitter and Wikipedia, and has purged the judicial, bureaucratic and military institutions of anyone not sympathetic to their rule. This year the Turkish government overturned the election of a new Istanbul mayor only to have that candidate re-elected in a second vote. The current populist authoritarian government calls itself democratic, because it holds elections, but denies dissent and alternate opinion, and brands anyone not agreeing with it as a terrorist, who why in democracy rankings, Turkey has now fallen and is characterized as not-free and authoritarian. Discussion and dissent are cornerstones of a full democracy. Let’s forget, Turkey steadfastly chooses to deny the genocide in 1915-1917 when 600,000 of 1.75 million Armenians were killed. To this day, anyone who acknowledges this is arrested or driven into exile including the Nobel Prize writer Orhan Pamuk.

Mr. Aksouy concludes that Turkey promises to continue to fight against all forms of terror and that Turkish Canadians join the anniversary celebrations with joy and pride. Perhaps it is time for Turks living outside Turkey to raise their voices to demand the current government since it is almost impossible for those living there to do so.

Jerrel Wilkens Calgary and Hills

Wear a poppy

November 11. The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Wear a poppy. Wear a poppy on Remembrance Day.

With sad faces and manufactured grief, we remember all those men and women, whether in war or another. The First World War, more than 100 years ago. The Second World War, 75 years ago. Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan. You also. Maybe you lost a friend or a relative, a classmate, a neighbour. Maybe not. Wear a poppy.

Sad, yes. Death is sad. What about all those who are stabbed, shot, killed by a drunk driver? Do they not deserve to be remembered, too?

What do you remember, they ask. I was eight years old, sitting astride a half-pitch tiled roof, waving a little paper flag. There were six, maybe ten of us on that roof. A few days earlier, a teenage boy was thrown from the street in the middle of the night: “Vredh! Vredh! Vredh!” “Peace! Peace! Peace!” he yelled, and my mother placed a red and white cardigan over my shoulders, and kicked some kind of footwear in my direction. Arm in arm we danced around the street, all who lived there, in pyjamas, night gowns, dressing gowns, slippers, chanting: “Orange boven! Orange boven! Leve de Koningin!” Over and over and over. In Hotel The World in Wageningen, the Germans had surrendered… May 5, 1945. “Orange boven” refers to the House of Orange, the constitutional monarchy that has ruled Holland since around 1813. For 100 years, Holland had a queen; now they have a king. “Leve de Koningin!” means Long live, Long live, Long live.

But the cannon were still lined up in the pasture across the street, pointing straight at our house and at the North. The backlash is behind us. There were tulip bulb pancakes for breakfast, boiled barley pancakes with marmite for lunch, and oil, on every table. We were safe now. In the Cow pasture across the street, a king. ‘Leve de Koningin!’ means Long live, Long live, Long live.

So I’m all for your proposed snowmobile ban as long as it is temporary, until the caribou recover because the wolves have been starved out, or until they are extinct – whichever comes first.

Who is going to pay for the alienation of the Crown land? I have a Crown land lease of 1/2 hectare that provides me with access only (a roadway) and they told me that they would only charge me the minimum of $500 per year. If that’s fair for me then the alienation of a total of 9,418.5 hectares in sum for your onetime winter ranges $50 per 1/2 hectare equals $9,418,500 per year that somebody should be paying the people of British Columbia for the alienation. Who would I be talking to for me to be fair for all, or did somebody teach me wrong? Hey, I’m just saying there is value on land that’s alienated and it’s very arbitrary for anybody to alienate all that land on behalf of all the people of the province for FREE.

Continued from page 6

LETTERS

November 21, 2019 The Valley Voice

Response to VWS ad when the dogs out?

Very nice full page for the sake of drought conditions. A waterline across the street from where there is very little access and the terrain is very steep. I can’t speak to the Silvercup Ridge proposal.

Wulf Mense Winlaw

Message from MP Richard Cannings

I want to start by saying that it’s a great honour and privilege to be re-elected as the Member of Parliament for South Okanagan-West Kootenay. I’ll continue to work hard to live up to the responsibility of that position.

It was a hard-fought campaign, and I am proud that the landscape of Canadian politics has shifted somewhat. We have a Liberal minority government that received only a third of the votes cast, the lowest share for a governing party in Canadian history. The Conservative opposition actually received more votes than the Liberal minority, but did not receive a majority. The Quebecois, which managed to win 32 seats despite only getting 7% of the vote. The NDP elected 24 MPs with 16% of the vote. It’s clear that the better electoral system is needed to properly represent Canadians.
in Parliament and I’ll continue advocating for that.

There is concern in some parts of the country that the new government does not adequately represent regional interests, particularly in Alberta. After spending a considerable amount of time during the campaign with the candidates from the other parties, I can say that we have much more in common across the country and across the political spectrum than our differences might suggest. We all want a thriving economy, a healthy environment, affordable housing and fair taxation. Politicians should work across party lines to achieve these goals instead of emphasizing the things that push us apart.

While the situation seems complicated, there is actually one clear mandate that the Liberal government received from the voters – to move forward quickly with an effective plan of climate action. Two-thirds of Canadian voters rejected the Conservative plan to get rid of a price on carbon and simply hope that industry will take action. The Liberals must work with the NDP, the Greens and the Bloc to set science-based targets, put them into law, and create an independent office that will ensure governments meet those targets.

Last week I met with my NDP caucus colleagues in Ottawa. I met the new NDP MPs and said goodbye to some of those who retired or lost their bids for re-election. Canadians responded well to the positive message the NDP offered in the election – such as our plans to increase seniors’ benefits, create an independent office that will ensure governments meet those targets, and the positive message the NDP offered in the election – such as our plans to increase seniors’ benefits, create an independent office that will ensure governments meet those targets.

The relationship between the men and women in our armed forces have made to protect our country and to bring peace to conflict zones around the world. Too often governments have neglected the needs of veterans after they have put their lives on the line for us. We must make sure that veterans have access to fair lifetime pensions. Perhaps most critical is ensuring that veterans have prompt access to mental health care to combat the unacceptable rate of suicide among members of the armed forces and first responders.

If you have any comments or concerns that you’d like to bring to my attention, contact my office in Penticton (#202-301 Main Street, 250-770-4480) or Castlegar (1695A Columbia Ave., 250-365-2792), or simply email me at Richard.Cannings@parl.gc.ca.

Richard Cannings, MP
South Okanagan-West
Kootenay

Forest management and renewable energy development

Economic Development? Let’s rebuild what we have through a coordinated system of forest resource management and the production of renewable forest biomass electricity. This way:

• improve forest health & ecosystem habitat
• reduce wildfire risk. BC spent over $200 million fighting fires in 2018.
• reduce the risks of respiratory health problems by lessening the amount of wildfire smoke.
• reduce forest fire carbon contribution. BC’s 2017 fires caused an estimated 190 million tonnes of CO2 emissions.
• enhance forest carbon storage capacity. Managed resilient forests are the best storhouses of carbon but since 2000/AD our BC forests release more carbon into the atmosphere than they hold.
• reduce our BC reliance upon primarily imported fossil fuels and sell our excess cleaner fossil fuels to areas that are attempting to evolve from highly polluting forms of energy.
• create resilient watersheds for quantity and quality of water. Many BC watersheds are highly susceptible to increasing drought amplifying quality problems. The BC Auditor General recently noted that our Ministry of Health is not sufficiently assuring the safety of BC’s drinking water.
• resolve the softwood issue through improved forest management. Competitive differences in respective forestry management principles and practices create the issue.
• increase the odds that tourists will visit BC with clearer summer skies. Tourism suffered due to the 2017-18 fire seasons. The damage to Beautiful BC’s brand as a summer vacation could cost us as much as just as costly, harvesting, thinning, silviculture, research and development. Sell our surplus “clean” fossil fuels to those that need them as they evolve from highly polluting energy stock.

BC is fortunate in having been endowed with an abundant renewable hydro electric resource. BUT, we’re just not making enough use of it. The opportunities are there, even if the funding is by reservoirs fed by glacier waters. In a warming climate much of it is in the form of torrential spring flooding, unpredictable patterns of rainfall and even drought during other parts of the year. 2) ‘Energy stock’ in BC is more than electricity. BC has over 5000 km of pipeline. There are over 3.4 million gasoline and diesel registered vehicles on our roads (plus 20,000 electric vehicles).

3) Much of this “non-renewable fossil fuel energy,” including natural gas, is imported. And, 4) energy use will grow. On a worldwide scale it would be to our advantage to minimize or eliminate our fossil fuel energy.”

Forest energy stock has a future in BC due to the poor state of our massively dense and homogenous forested lands. Spatial diversity, biodiversity and genetic diversity increases the resilience of forests. The ‘chocking’ fibre volume is significantly beyond the ability of small Diameter trees that are susceptible to disease, insects, fire, etc.

So do we continue to live with wildfires and our forests are more overgrown? Do we just continue to allow this to happen? Do we export this unwanted fibre elsewhere? Or do we develop the material here? The economics 1) mixed with growing markets, biomass energy – including inherent biochemical products – are improving considering the hidden costs of fossil fuels and products.

Adapting and becoming resilient to climate change in an overwhelmingly forested landscape requires aggressive leadership and the concerted efforts of our “divisions” of government, property owners, communites, conservationists, businesses, the forest industry and other stakeholders.

Steven Miros
Deer Park

Automobile safety: who decides?

Some background: I graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical in Toronto in Mechanical Engineering Technology, top of the technology diploma. While at Ryerson, I joined the Society of Automotive Engineers. When the modern vehicles came in I dropped my membership in the SAE. Five things to consider: 1) headlights; 2) cab-forward design; 3) passive restraint seat belts; 4) front wheel drive; and 5) mag wheels.

#1: At all candidates meeting wagon, MLA’s were questioned about headlight on late model vehicles, referred to as “a graphic designer’s wet dream.” Virtually all of old vehicles tested in 2016. That translates to 98% of the vehicles on the road should not be driven after sundown.

Funny, I always thought the people we elect to office, and pay their wages, benefits, and pensions, were like our consumer advocate group.

An interesting coincidence: about 20 or 25 years ago on the news, representatives from both American and Canadian governments made comment and said it came from an American consumer advocate group. He added that this group only approved two vehicles in the 2016 test.

The American commented most people only drive on dim anyways. The whole thing seemed utterly stupid until I read the movie script “Brockovich”.

The RCMP have saved. One of the first things I learned about seatbelts and driving is that you had to be anchored behind the steering wheel. How often do we see the seatbelt fully buckled and then lost control?” What happened is you lose your composer behind the wheel and were unable to maintain control of your vehicle. Modern technology should build seatbelts that pull up to 30 or 40 lbs and lock to hold you behind the wheel. This also puts an end to multi-tasking behind the wheel and helps keep focus on driving. Also, as speed increases belts should hold tighter. An increase in speed from 80 kph to 120 kph is an increase of 50% in speed but a 125% increase in momentum.

#4: We have front wheel drive vehicles because they are cheaper to build. As a retired assembly officer, I say because they are better. A semi left Kaledinkon Lumber and on hard acceleration to pass the car went completely out of my line of sight. If you want dray racers in Vancouver were on the sidewalks killing people. This was mentioned to a retired RCMP officer. He said that is why the RCMP did not use front wheel drive cars because (his words) they could not keep them out of the ‘ruthless’. When asked, Nelson RCMP said they have no front wheel drives. Trail RCMP refused to answer. Why is it a national secret as to whether or not the RCMP drive front wheel drive cars? They do not.

#5: Mag wheels is another example of a graphic designer’s wet dream’ building vehicles. Look through the classifieds, the mag wheels are as thick as your thumb and you are looking at the brakes exposed to rocks, gravel, salt and all sorts of corrosive matter. You would think that for $250 in a semi, the brakes should be protected. No, the law was changed to remove this clause.

With these faults, the auto industry tells us the cars are 55% safer in the event of a crash. Given airbags and crumple zones, they probably are. What about the frequency of crashes? Ten times more! The industry does not want people killed, they just want them to crash, survive and buy another car. Vehicles produced are the equivalent of Boeing’s Max 8. We are paying for these design flaws with our lives and our insurance dollars.

The relationship between the government and auto makers reminds me of that of a fox and hen whose eggs had been hydrogenated in Nelson. Police pulled over vehicle driving erratically. The owner of the car was drunk and his friend was driving – his friend was blind.

So you have a drunk telling a blind person how to drive. The industry is driving, the government is blind.

Ed Varney
Vallican
Dog attacks senior citizen in Slocan Valley

by Barbara Curry Mulchay

A 77-year-old Slocan grandmother is housebound after being attacked by a pair of dogs on West Slocan Road on November 1.

The woman, who has asked that her name be used, said that while she was walking her two dogs on a daily basis, a pair of dogs charged at her. The dogs were mid-sized, muscular, and aggressive.

"Things happened so fast," she said. One of the dogs, which are estimated to weigh 100 pounds, knocked her to the ground.

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Nakusp and Harrop-Procter Community Forests get grants to avoid burning slash

by Jan McMurray

The community forests in Nakusp and Harrop-Procter have each recently received grants from the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) that will reduce carbon emissions by utilizing wood fibre that otherwise would have been burned as slash.

Both community forests are using their FESBC grants to ship wood waste to Zellstoff Celgar in Castlegar to be used for pulp. The Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) received $19,909 and Harrop-Procter received $40,000 in this latest round of FESBC funding.

NACFOR’s FESBC project is being done in partnership with Interfor, and is part of the larger pilot project happening in the community to reduce wildfire risk. The pilot project involves all licencees in the area and is a collaborative approach to wildfire management. The wood waste from two Interfor cutblocks, which are being logged with wildfire risk reduction in mind, will be shipped to the Castlegar pulp mill with the FESBC funding.

“The nonmerchantable timber that is being shipped to Celgar would typically be burned, so we’re reducing emissions by shipping it,” says Frances Swan, NACFOR project manager. “We also reduce the wildfire risk when we take away the residual fuels.”

Swan says that since 2017-18, NACFOR has secured $586,000 in funding from various sources for fuel management projects. Nakusp, Kaslo and Creston were all selected to pilot community-wide, collaborative wildfire mitigation projects—an initiative of the RDCK.

Swan says these communities were selected because they have current Community Wildfire Protection Plans and have already done some wildfire mitigation work.

The Harrop-Procter Community Forest is also using the FESBC funds to reduce both wildfire risk and carbon emissions.

“Eliminating slash pile burning is a low hanging fruit as far as carbon emissions go,” says Erik Leslie, forest manager at the Harrop-Procter Community Forest. “You’re avoiding emitting the carbon on day one – it has a benefit right away. Using carbon dollars to fund fuel treatment, which has a carbon benefit, is a win-win.”

The FESBC funds will be used to treat 70 hectares above Harrop over the next two years. Leslie says fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risk are not really money-making propositions, so this funding is appreciated. “We leave the bigger trees, like Douglas fir and larch, and remove lots of small trees that are often less valuable. In order to make it work, you have to find a way to make use of or get rid of those small trees. Slash burning is by far the cheapest method, but everyone knows how much slash has been burned over the decades in the bush and we don’t want to do it anymore. We want to get it to Celgar where it will be made into chips and used for pulp.”

Leslie says Celgar has recently started to accept very small trees – quite a bit smaller than they used to. He says the FESBC funding works out to about $10-$12 per cubic metre or $500 per truckload – about a 15-20% subsidy. “We requested funds to help us pay for the difference between what Celgar will pay us for this low value material, which generally would have been burned in the past, and our costs to cut it down, collect it, process it, load it on trucks and haul it. The funding allows us to ship it and at least break even. It’s just that extra little bit of funding to go from seriously losing money to breaking even.

“We’re doing these jobs for public benefit – not the great cash they generate.”

The Harrop-Procter Community Forest is currently doing a three-year fuel treatment project above Procter, which was also partly funded by FESBC.

Community

Ferry workers ratify collective agreements with WaterBridge, head back to bargaining with Western Pacific Marine

submitted by BCGEU

BC Government and Service Employees’ Union (BCGEU) members voted overwhelmingly to ratify collective agreements with WaterBridge Ferries and WaterBridge Equipment, avoiding jobs actions that would have disrupted service on the Arrow Lake, Adams Lake, and Francois Lake ferries.

“Our members had one goal in this round of bargaining—to get contracts that ensured the long-term sustainability of these ferries by addressing recruitment and retention through wage parity with BC Ferries and a commitment to successorship training,” said Stephanie Smith, BCGEU president. “They achieved that goal.”

Interior ferry workers have been without a contract since March 31, 2019. The WaterBridge agreements take effect immediately and expire on March 31, 2022. Talks between the BCGEU and Western Pacific Marine (WPM) – which operates the Kootenay Lake, Glade and Harrop routes – resumed on November 13, more than five months after the two sides reached an impasse in June.

“We’re happy WPM has agreed to come back to the table,” said Smith. “We have the same goal for the WPM contract that we had for WaterBridge. In the past, our contracts with these employers have followed the same principles, and that’s what we’re aiming for again.”

The union initiated job action on WPM’s Kootenay Lake route with a three-day work stoppage over the Labour Day long weekend and an overtime restriction that started on September 18. While the overtime restriction remains officially in effect, the union will be authorizing overtime to ensure all regularly scheduled sailings on Kootenay Lake as long as bargaining is ongoing.

“Job action has never been our objective—our objective is to get a contract with WPM that achieves the same goal as the WaterBridge contracts,” said Smith. “Our members are keeping these ferries running during bargaining as a show of good faith to the communities around Kootenay Lake—who have been very supportive—and to their employer.”

The BCGEU is one of the largest and fastest growing unions in B.C. with more than 79,000 members working in almost every community and economic sector in the province.

$5,000 grant for Slocan Valley Unity Mural

submitted by Slocan Valley Community Heritage Foundation

The Slocan Valley Community Heritage Society and RBC Foundation have granted $5,000 to support the Slocan Valley Unity Mural. Young artists from New Denver, Slocan and South Slocan will collaborate to create several murals. The project will be supported by the New Denver Youth Centre, W.E. Graham Community Services Society, and schools in the participating Slocan Valley communities.

“It’s so exciting to get this support. Thank you to the funders for recognizing the impact young leaders can make,” says youth leader Stella Carter-Warthe.

The group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth will collaborate with the Salish School of Spokan and other young Indigenous artists in our region.

Through a process of relationship-building and cultural learning, they will jointly create a multi-panel artwork that will be displayed in each participating community before installation in its final location, yet to be determined.

In addition to developing creative skills, this process will help build understanding and mutual respect among youth who have few other opportunities to connect.

“By collaborating across distance and cultural difference, the students will develop leadership skills and the ability to navigate complex situations with creativity and confidence,” says Andrea Mann, Aboriginal Education Teacher for School District 8.

“It projects like this that help us all to step forward on the journey to reconciliation.”

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Stay cozy this winter with Laurenient Chief leather and rabbit fur slippers!

Please join us for our Christmas Party Saturday, December 14

BOSUN HALL, NEW DENVER
Music by Good Time Entertainment

Dinner & Dance
6:00 p.m. Cocktails | 7:00 p.m. Dinner | Dance to Follow
TICKETS $25 @ NEW MARKET FOODS / NURU / SBS
NO MINORS (19+) Hosted by the Slocan Valley Chamber of Commerce
Slocan Valley artist Rabi’a wins Sculpture Walk People’s Choice

by Art Joyce

Slocan Valley artist Rabi’a has won the People’s Choice award in the 2019 Castlegar Sculpture Walk.

Now in its tenth year, the event features 30 works of world-class sculptural art, offering $25,000 in prize money annually. Viewers are encouraged to vote for their favourite sculpture via ballot, and the winner of the People’s Choice Award is purchased for permanent display in the city.

Rabi’a’s winning sculpture, titled ‘Housing Crisis,’ is a stunning creation of painted steel pieces welded together. It was made with all new, bought steel – a first for her. She usually works with rusty steel that she scrounges from bins outside welding and fabricating shops. Rabi’a says the piece was initially inspired by watching an animated movie called Box Trolls. “I loved the old world houses in that film, leaning, toppy-surf, upright and down – an artist’s dream and architect’s nightmare,” she said, “I wanted to make housing units with no plans for Castlegar, just for me because I thought of it... and the rest is history.”

The title of the sculpture came to her as she was putting all the separate housing units together. “A name was needed and ‘Housing Crisis’ seemed timely, subtitled ‘With Creative Solutions.’ At the same time there was talk on CBC radio of flooding in Quebec, hence the long legs that support the sculpture.”

Rabi’a is a self-taught artist. “Sculptural, three-dimensional pieces just seem to suit my nature,” she says, “Welding steel together is just magic.”

And there’s no danger of running short on material. “I love finding the negative spaces left in steel. Scrapyards in Vancouver are my favourite. Really, the stuff is everywhere and these random pieces make for interesting creations.”

Rabi’a won the People’s Choice Award in 2016 as well, with the piece ‘Imagine the Stories’ she created with Carl Schlichting. Many of her entries have been purchased or leased, and are on public display – ‘Dancing Myself’ is at the top of Hall Street in Nelson and ‘Huge and Foolish’ is near the Columbia Basin Trust building in Castlegar.

New Denver Remembrance Day

Lest We Forget. The Slocan Valley Legion would like to thank everyone who attended our November 11 Remembrance Day services at the Slocan cenotaph and the Legion Hall. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the people of the Slocan Valley and the members and friends who helped at and/or supported our fundraising events. In the past year, thanks to your support and a Community Gaming grant, we have donated a total of $26,880 to the following:

- $1,500 New Parents’ Luncheon Program
- $1,000 & Xmas gifts
- $3,000 Seniors’ Hoot
- $2,700 Veterans Programs
- $2,000 Egg Hunt
- $75 Annual Easter
- $1,500 WEG Service Society
- $2,530 School Food Program,
- $3,000 Food Bank
- $2,500 Slocan Community Library,
- $2,000 Slocan Community Band,
- $1,000 Bursaries
- $1,500 Network for New Parents Program
- $1,000 for a snowblower for the Slocan Skating Rink.
- $1,500 Community Band
- $1,000 Track & Field Programs
- $100 Slocan Field Programs
- $100 Network for New Parents Program
- $1,000 Skating Rink
- $250 West Bosun Hall, decorated with thematic art from students at Luceerne and WE Graham Schools, for a brief service. Rather than a glorification of military service, we have donated a plaque to the Slocan Legion Hall.

The Legion is Canada’s largest veteran support and a cornerstone of communities. Anyone can be a member.

For more information on the Castlegar Sculpture Walk visit: https://www.sculpturewalkcastlegar.com

Candlelight Blue Christmas

A time to honour those we miss - a time of support and understanding for all walks of grief. Please join us as we reminisce about our losses and look with hope toward enjoying the festive season once more. This is an event for all ages and faiths.

Robertson Memorial United Church
117 3rd Avenue, Nakusp
Wednesday, December 11th, 2019 at 7:00pm
Refreshments graciously offered by the United Church Workers following the service.
To arrange transportation please call Thompson Funeral Services at (250) 352-3613
The Valley Voice November 21, 2019

**The Village of New Denver**

The value of the price they paid is evident in the faces of our children.
We thank all our veterans!

**Lest we forget**

Silvertown Transport
250-355-5969

**Kaslo Mohawk**

If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.
John McCrae

**Thank you to all veterans for your service.**

**The Village of Slocan**

It is time to Remember all those who fought to preserve our freedom and for all Canadians to ensure their dream of peace is realized.
–Canadian Archives

**Mountain Valley Station**

We thank our veterans for the freedoms that we enjoy today.

355-2245
Slocan, BC

**The secret of happiness is freedom.**

The secret of freedom is courage.
–Thucydides

**New Market Foods**

New Denver • 355-2270

**There never was a good war or a bad peace**

–Benjamin Franklin

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And at the going down of the sun
We shall remember them

510 Broadway Nakusp 250-265-3662

**The Village of Silvertown**

In peace the sons bury their fathers, but in war the fathers bury their sons.
–Crosus

**Smokey Creek Salvage**

With the tears a Land hail shed Their graves should ever be green.
–Thomas Bailey Aldrich
359-7815 1-877-376-6539

**The Apple Tree**

We shall remember them

**We shall remember them.**

**KALTIRE**

95 8th Avenue NW, Nakusp
250-265-4155

**Meritxell Books**

In troubled times such as these we are reminded even more strongly of what we owe to our brave veterans and our current soldiers and peacekeepers.
They are in our hearts.
314 Broadway, Nakusp 205-4400

PHOTO CREDIT: FOREVER NATURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Dieter Otte lays a wreath on behalf of the Nakusp Rotary club at Nakusp’s Remembrance Day ceremonies.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

The Kaslo Remembrance Day Parade, led by piper Al Barclay.
The Valley Voice wishes to recognize the contribution of our veterans to building peace in the world.

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.
— Joseph Campbell

Slocan Village Market
Nakusp • 250-255-3777

Our veterans and loved ones gave us the gift of freedom. We remember their sacrifice and service with sincere gratitude and thanks.

Kaslo & New Denver Community Pharmacy

Lest we forget

The color party lowers flags at New Denver’s Remembrance Day ceremonies.

The Slocan Remembrance Day parade, from the Legion to the cenotaph at the Wellness Centre.

Stan Fenton, veteran from Edgewood, at the Remembrance Day service at the Edgewood cenotaph. Over 100 people attended this year, then gathered at the Legion for a home-cooked lunch.

Remembering the sacrifice of those who serve our country and the world, that we may live in peace.

Silverton Building Supplies

 Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows.
— Martin Luther King, Jr.
Rutabaga’s Natural Foods
Main St. New Denver

If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
In Flanders fields
— John McCrae

The colour party lowers flags at New Denver’s Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Lest we forget

Slocan Village Market
Nakusp • 250-255-2211

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— Joseph Campbell

Slocan Village Market
Nakusp • 250-255-2211

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Lest we forget

Slocan Village Market
Nakusp • 250-255-2211

The Valley Voice wishes to recognize the contribution of our veterans to building peace in the world.

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.
— Joseph Campbell

Slocan Village Market
Nakusp • 250-255-2211

Our veterans and loved ones gave us the gift of freedom. We remember their sacrifice and service with sincere gratitude and thanks.

Kaslo & New Denver Community Pharmacy

Lest we forget

The color party lowers flags at New Denver’s Remembrance Day ceremonies.

The Slocan Remembrance Day parade, from the Legion to the cenotaph at the Wellness Centre.

Stan Fenton, veteran from Edgewood, at the Remembrance Day service at the Edgewood cenotaph. Over 100 people attended this year, then gathered at the Legion for a home-cooked lunch.

Remembering the sacrifice of those who serve our country and the world, that we may live in peace.

Silverton Building Supplies

 Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows.
— Martin Luther King, Jr.
Rutabaga’s Natural Foods
Main St. New Denver

If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
In Flanders fields
— John McCrae

The colour party lowers flags at New Denver’s Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Lest we forget
Vaccine choice demonstrators march in Nelson

by Art Joyce

Does the state have the right to compel parents to disclose their children’s vaccination records? Does it have the right to compel vaccinations? Those were the issues that motivated a group of between 30 and 50 parents and grandparents to march on Nelson’s Baker Street on November 2.

The march was organized by local group Our Choice, and included members of Vaccine Choice Canada, including VCC president Edda West of the Slocan Valley. Among other issues, the marchers were protesting regulation introduced by the BC government in July requiring parents or guardians to report the vaccination status of their school-age children. Until recently, exemptions from the vaccination program for children have been allowed based on parental choice.

A statement issued by the Our Choice group made it clear that they are not “anti-vaccine” and “believe in the importance of vaccines” but “not to be mandated.”

Our Choice group and VCC say they support “true, informed consent, medical freedom and personal choice in the use of pharmaceutical vaccine products. Where there is risk, there must always be choice.”

One young mother with the group, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said she was never informed by her doctor of the risks when her baby was vaccinated. At 18 months old, her son was given the DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccine. In the weeks that followed he developed chronic upper respiratory infections, a listed adverse reaction. Within two months he developed pertussis despite being vaccinated for it, was given steroids to help him breathe, and was diagnosed with asthma. At his four-year-old checkup he was given several more vaccines, causing an immediate reaction and subsequent decline in his health. Now 11, he has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, ADHD and DMDD – a childhood condition of extreme irritability, anger, and frequent, intense temper outbursts.

West says BC’s new vaccination registration plan never went through an actual legislative process. “The Public Health Act was amended to accommodate mandatory disclosure of vaccination status, and a requirement that parents have to attend a vaccine education class and they have to attend an interview with the medical officer of health with their children. So we haven’t seen anything about exemption forms. It’s a pretty draconian because we have the right to the privacy of our medical records and right now they’re forcing the disclosure of your child’s medical record.”

VCC has hired Canada’s top constitutional lawyer Rocco Galati to launch a challenge to the Province of Ontario, which has been moving toward mandatory vaccinations for school-age children, eliminating a parent’s right to exempt their child.

“They force parents to sign a affidavit in which they agree that by not vaccinating they’re putting their child’s health and life in danger,” says West, “and it’s compelled speech, because some parents don’t agree with that statement. But they’re forced to sign it in order to send their children to school. We’re seeking to have these mandatory clauses removed, so that vaccination is a purely voluntary act, that nobody can force anybody to inject these very potent, complex biochemical drugs into your child or your own body.”

Recently there has been increased incidence of state governments in the US passing legislation to eliminate vaccine choice. But not all are convinced the science of vaccines is set in stone by mainstream researchers and immunologists. A 2010 Harvard University study came to the conclusion that children suffered adverse reactions in one of 39 cases, not the one in a million commonly claimed by medical authorities. In the US, a separate vaccine injury court, the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, was established in 1988. It has since paid out $4 billion in compensation to families and individuals who have suffered injury due to adverse vaccine reactions, though only in one third of those who filed claims. In Canada there is no program to compensate those with vaccine-related injuries except in Quebec. There is a database known as the Canadian Adverse Events Following Immunization Surveillance System (CAEFISS) requiring doctors and medical authorities to report adverse vaccine reactions.

Many of the parents in the Nelson march were concerned that they have the right to the privacy of our medical records and that they will be forced to sign an affidavit in which they agree that by not vaccinating they’re putting their child’s health and life in danger, “and it’s compelled speech, because some parents don’t agree with that statement. But they’re forced to sign it in order to send their children to school. We’re seeking to have these mandatory clauses removed, so that vaccination is a purely voluntary act, that nobody can force anybody to inject these very potent, complex biochemical drugs into your child or your own body.”

Vaccine choice demonstrators march in Nelson November 2.

Hills mailboxes broken into on Halloween

by Jan McMurry

Canada Post has confirmed that there was a break-in at the community mailboxes in Hills on Halloween night.

“We take the security of the mail very seriously and we work closely with police in such cases,” said Nicole Lecompte of Canada Post. The police investigation of the incident is ongoing.

Lecompte said all affected customers were notified of the break-in, and were advised to pick up their mail at the New Denver post office until the community mailboxes were replaced.

When this type of incident occurs, Canada Post asks customers who have not received an expected parcel to inform the sender, who may initiate a claim with Canada Post Customer Service at 1-800-267-1177. Canada Post encourages customers concerned about identity fraud to contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501. They also encourage anyone who witnesses any suspicious activity to immediately inform the authorities and Canada Post Customer Service at 1-800-267-1177.

Some tips to help secure your mail and protect your identity: collect your mail daily; if you plan to be away, use Canada Post’s Hold Mail Service to suspend delivery until you return; when you move, file a change of address request with Canada Post and inform your bank and other institutions of your new office box service if you wish to receive all of your mail at an address other than your designated mode of delivery; use Canada Post’s iHeld Delivery service to have the occasional mail item delivered to a post office of your choice.
Edgewood photographer wins big in Professional Photographers of Canada competition

by Jan McMurray

Edgewood photographer Tasha Hall had a strong showing at this year’s awards banquet of the Professional Photographers of Canada - British Columbia on November 2 in Vancouver.

Hall had four images accepted into the competition, and she won a trophy, an award and two honourable mentions. She was also one of seven finalists for the 2019 Photographer of the Year Award.

Her image, ‘Ancient Memories’ – a double exposure depicting a family of elephants inside an elephant – earned her the Jan de Haas Trophy for the Most Creative image in the entire competition, as well as the Best in Class award in the Fine Art class. Hall created ‘Ancient Memories’ with two photographs she took while on holiday in Tanzania.

She received an honourable mention for her entry in the Animal class – a photo of a dog – and for her entry in the Conceptual Illustration class – a farm portrait called ‘Three Generations of Farmily.’

Farm portraits are Hall’s specialty.

“I’m the only person I know of who specializes in family portraits of people and the whole farm all together in one portrait,” she said in an interview.

Hall has lived in Edgewood for the last seven years, and has been a professional photographer for three years. “I came to Edgewood to help my dad out on his farm for a while and then I stuck around… I met a cute guy and couldn’t leave.”

She moved onto a farm in Edgewood with her partner. Her career as a farm portrait photograher “all started when I wanted to make a Christmas card of all of our animals and us in one portrait. Once that went out on the internet, people started asking if I could do it for them, too.”

Hall says she books week-long tours in different regions, where she photographs one farm a day. “We’ve been pretty busy this year – we’ve done Prince George, Creston, the Lower Mainland, the Okanagan. It’s so much fun!”

The competition earlier this month included 168 images from photographers from all over BC and other parts of Canada, and was judged by a panel of five qualified craftsman and master photographers. Only ‘Ancient Memories’ and one other image in the entire competition were given “excellent” scoring by the judges.

Hall has nothing but praise for the Professional Photographers of Canada. “I would recommend PPOC to any photographer who wants help and support,” she said.

Check out Hall’s website: bcfarmandfamilyphotography.com

Awards presented to members of New Denver ambulance crew

by Moe Lyons

The helipad at the Slocan Community Health Centre in New Denver was the site of an awards presentation for local ambulance workers on Tuesday, November 12.

Unit Chief Sara Rainford presented Joe Matthews with a 25-year service award while Dave Bryan received a 15-year service award. A special ‘Stork Award’ went to Joe Matthews, Scott Benedict and Sara Rainford for helping to deliver a baby en route!

BC Ambulance Service District Manager Doug Garland came to New Denver to deliver the awards and congratulate the recipients.

The crew currently consists of seven members, which is really good news for this area. Rainford says, “Seven crew members are significant because historically, rural and remote stations have struggled to have enough crew to maintain good coverage in a community. We are a pager crew with small call volume, which translates into challenges in earning a living at a remote station. The fact that we have had experienced crew move into the area with young families has really helped to stabilize our schedule and provide reliable service to our community.”
Silverton council, November 12: Regional Emergency Program presentation

by Moe Lyons

• The meeting opened with a presentation on the RDCK Regional Emergency Program from Chris Johnson, Emergency Program Manager for the RDCK. This was an overview of the program, and he said he was “happy to come for a longer discussion at any time.”

• The Official Community Plan Phase 1 is complete, and copies of the mail-out survey for property owners should be in the mail by November 19. PDF copies will also be available online.

• The question of removing problem fruit trees on Village property arose for the third time. Apparently neighbours are willing to take responsibility for the main problem tree, and to talk to the person whose property it abuts. Councillor K. Gordon is following through on this. The largest question of the rest of the trees was not dealt with.

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Nakusp council, November 12: Staff housing now permitted in C4 Highway Commercial zone

by Katrine Campbell

The Village of Nakusp held a public hearing regarding the proposed amendment to Zoning Bylaw 614, to add staff housing as a permitted use in the C4 Highway Commercial zone. The hearing was held immediately before the regular council meeting.

Mayor Tom Zeleznik read the agenda for the hearing, which was to allow people to speak up for or against the amendment. Although five people attended, none spoke up. The hearing was adjourned at 6:34 pm.

During the regular meeting, the bylaw amendment was given third reading and adopted.

On staff’s recommendation, council approved the Temporary Use Permit application from Halcyon Hot Springs for 209 - 2nd Ave NW so Halcyon Hot Springs can use the building as a hostel, under the condition that a manager reside on site. The permit expires May 1, 2020. Also, if there are any incidents that violate the ‘Good Neighbour’ bylaw or any other bylaws, council can, at its discretion, revoke the permit.

Councillor Joseph Hughes asked when Petra will be singing lead with Paul Allen. People said our voices blended well so I taught Petra the harmony parts. We decided to form a solo act of original songs together a solo act of original songs our first concert together in June

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp songwriter Paul Allen makes good showing in international competition

Paul Allen, accomplished songwriter and guitarist from Nova Scotia who now lives in Nakusp, was in the running for the International Singer-Songwriter Association’s Acoustic Artist of the Month Award in October. Awards are given to the candidate with the most online votes at the end of the month.

“I was surprisingly neck-and-neck most of the way for first place but alas, was unable to win in the end,” Allen said in an interview. “I was however the runner up, so given it was an international competition, I feel pretty good. It’s a nice endorsement and another sign of acknowledgement of my life’s work as a songwriter.”

The winner was Justin Tate, a rapper from Tacoma, Washington also known as Mr. Eighty8Music. He won by only 120 votes. Paul Allen and his wife, Petra, have been performing together as AllenSong for four years. “We played our first concert together in June 2015,” recalls Paul. “I was putting together a solo act of original songs and wanted to hear some harmonies so I taught Petra the harmony parts. People said our voices blended well so we became a duo. In fact, people ask when Petra will be singing lead on a song!”

Over his long career, Paul has performed across Canada and has played with various groups, most notably funk-reggae band Activate and his critically acclaimed group Viewer Discretion. He has shared the stage with artists like Kenny Shields and Streetheart, Messiah, Messenjah, Grapes of Wrath, Spirit of the West, Jann Arden and Sarah McLachlan.

His music gets airplay on radio stations and online platforms around the world. He is a two-time Recording Industry Association (RIA) songwriting award winner, was a semi-finalist in the 2018 Canadian Songwriting Competition, and has been nominated twice for Kootenay Music Awards.

DeSandoli said some seniors were concerned about the continual hospital ER closures. The mayor said he had spoken to Health Minister Adrian Dix and he is well aware and working on it.” He also suggested speaking to Dr. Norman Lea for advice “on what we can do about it.”

Hughes said he would bring to the next council meeting recommendations for the Mixed Trail Use Committee for terms of use and make-up of the group, which he said should include: Grant, privileges got to get a lot of minds at one table,” he added.

Councillor Ken Miller said other municipalities allow ‘passageway’ through town by ATVs at reduced speed, to get to trails, and suggested the Village look into it.

The mayor announced the Light-Tree up would be a 30’ spire erected in front of the courthouse.

He attended the West Resource Recovery Committee meeting where directors discussed raising the tonnage rate from $100 to $110. They also talked about longer hours at the Nakusp site, on summer Mondays to 9 am - 3:30 pm, to help construction contractors.

The campground committee invited Slo-Pitch President Zac Wethal to their meeting to discuss a different entry point into the ball fields. For the next meeting, the Nakusp Seniors president will be invited to attend to discuss this entry point and offer their concerns and ideas.

Zeleznik attended the Nakusp and Area Youth Society (NAYS) AGM and meeting that followed. NAYS has given three readings. The amendment states that council approves a sponsorship fee of $2,500 for a Downtown Revitalization bench, and that the monies generated from the sponsorship fees would be placed into a reserve to offset the costs of maintaining the benches.

Council authorized Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS) to take on the responsibility of emptying the Village’s two recycling bins currently on Broadwalk. Council authorized ASLCS to install two more bins, one at the corner of Nelson and Broadway by the marina, and the other by the beach area.

by Katrine Campbell

The Valley Voice

November 21, 2019
Council passed eight resolutions in response to issues raised by the operators' report. Staff will contact the Slocan Valley Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce, and neighbouring Villages to obtain maps for hikers and brochures on Japanese internment history and indigenous sites in the area.

Staff will get quotes for bear-proof food caches and for the installation of laundry services, and the required electrical upgrade, for the campground, to be reviewed during budget discussions. During public participation, two residents said a laundromat in the village which all residents could use would be better and would preserve the natural beauty of the campground. Public Works staff will install a screen on the men’s washroom window to prevent此事.

Requests that the operators’ contract be renewed with an additional 50 hours of staff time (as they had to volunteer time to cover the extra work required by the successful season) were referred to the January council meeting. Discussions about wood supply and delivery were also referred to contract negotiations at a future meeting.

Council directed staff to complete the provincial referral for the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation’s project to deploy a marine fibre-optic cable on Crown land (Slocan Lake, Summit Lake, and Upper Arrow Lake). Mayor Lunn explained that in Slocan, the cable would run from the spur by the transfer station, down Harold Street, to the lake.

CAMI Michelle Gordon reported that the 2019 Springer Creek Development Fund has allocated $1,338.62 to the RDCK Discretionary Fund and $47,084.48 in its RDCK Community Development Fund. The RDCK allocates $900 to the Discretionary Fund and $9,037 to the Community Development Fund annually. This year the Village also received an allocation increase of $3,096 for the Community Development Fund.

Council approved two Discretionary Grants: $75 for the 2019 Halloween Hoot and $425 to WE Graham Community Service Society for their 2019 Food Bank Christmas Hamper Program. WEGCSS had asked for $1,250, but a big increase from the usual $200 was a contribution.

After some discussion, council decided $425 would support what Councilor Joel Peltier called and others agreed was a “great service.”

Mayor Lunn reported on the many meetings she has attended. She noted that a resolution was made at the RDCK board meeting to plan a service to regulate special events that have entrance fees. Location, hours, noise and fire are being considered for regulation. Lunn drew attention to the $100% Renewable Kootenay Working Group engagement session to be held at the Legion in Slocan on 6:30 pm on November 25. She thanked the Legion for its Remembrance Day ceremony.

Councilor Ferriere reported on the newly revitalized Spirit of Slocan Committee. “Absolutely fantastic, just what we needed,” she said. “It just shows tree light-up will be at 6 pm on December 1. Residents can sign up for that event at the town hall and help decorating contest. Caroling and contest judging will occur on December 22. Councilor Burly Van Byen reported that the Halloween Hoot was “like a huge family affair.”

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“a mother earth they can live safely,” The message will be placed in the Village newsletter.

New Denver laundromat under siege

by Moe Lyons

The Coin Laundry in New Denver, which up to now has been open 24/7, has been forced to limit its hours to 7am to 7pm from now on. Why this is happening is a small-town tragedy, the sort of story no one wants to have to tell.

In 2012, the New Denver laundromat shut down. Local resident Wendy Harlock, who lives rurally south of Slocan, says, “I couldn’t see the town not having it. I thought it would be an economic disaster for the village. Particularly in the summer, if campers couldn’t do their laundry here they would go somewhere else.” So, having not the least interest in running a laundromat business, she bought it.

Typical for Wendy’s community-oriented attitude, she saw it as something more than just a place to wash clothes. The laundromat had never being having less, she decided to leave things that way. “I liked it that it was a warm, dry space available to whoever needed it. And it worked. The kids used it as a hangout, sometimes it gave them a place to make homework. Occasionally some hitchhikers slept there, sort of thing, it worked. Nothing bad happened until last year.”

Then someone ruined it all. The big table in the laundromat was defaced with deep gouges, consisting of a swastika and vicious anti-Semitic graffiti.

Suspecting it might be the action of some local youth, Wendy approached the principal at Lucerne School. She asked if the school had information about the Holocaust (it does), and asked that the incident be brought up at the school assembly. The school’s shop class took the table and repaired it with a new cork surface, which art teacher Donna Hicks and a student decorated with paintings. Two weeks later the table was returned in fantastic, just what we needed,”

Mayor Lunn read a message about National Child Day written by the children at the Valhalla Early Learning Centre and Natalie Lucas. The message is a reminder that children have a right to inherit social justice. “a mother earth they can live safely,” The message will be placed in the Village newsletter.

Therefore, Councillor Burly Van Byen.

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Climate change is making the whole Kootenay Lake system "a little edgy"

by Jane E. Burton

The annual Kootenay Lake Summit presented by the Friends of Kootenay Lake (FOKL) at Taghum Hall on November 8 promised participants dinner and a full menu of information on how climate change has and will impact Kootenay Lake – BC’s largest natural lake.

Climate models tell us, hydrologist and FOKL chair, believe climate change is making the whole Kootenay Lake system "a little edgy." After the summit, he told the Valley Voice, "I hope that the larger community will take home from this that this lake that we value so much is going through a lot of changes. Be it the climate above the lake, the wildfires around the lake, the warming of our lake, as well as the whole ecosystem itself, it is all changing."

The adjustments to date are just the beginning of much greater changes that are in store for Kootenay Lake.

The evening summit featured eight speakers. Conference organizer Camille Leblanc, FOKL Assistant Environmental Manager, described the event as "the most ambitious summit agenda to date. We featured eight speakers covering eight different topics on such a complex issue as climate change. It’s amazing to realize that all of this was covered in one evening! "This was all made possible by our talented MC David Reid, and the professionalism of our sponsors.

Sticking to strict time limits, the presenters sprang through PowerPoint presentations on their topics. It became clear that there are many high caliber scientists living in this region working on climate change. The agenda steered us through the trends and predictions, to the impacts, and ended with resources, solutions and calls for action.

Dr. Mel Reasoner led off by explaining that it is trends that count and not the actual temperature or precipitation, and discussed regional climate variability. The Kaslo weather station has been collecting data for over 100 years and this data conclusively shows the warming trend. Mean average temperature has increased 1°C in the last 100 years while the global rate of warming is 0.13°C per decade. The last 50 years, our mean average temperature has gone up 2.8°C. Both summers and winters are warmer, especially in the 50-year range. Precipitation is changing as well: on average, spring and fall are increasing and summer and winter precipitation is decreasing. Dramatic effects can be seen by comparing the Khaylish Fraser, particularly mid-elevation glaciers, which are basically gone.

The data Reasoner referenced can be found at a newly launched portal: https://basinclinometrics.ca/. He concluded that while there is uncertainty with all climate models, the biggest uncertainty is around which emissions pathway we will take.

Conservation ecologist Greg Utzig talked about how the warming climate impacts vegetation and forests. Using three models (one, two, and three) he described the potential changes. "The first of three models with a couple of degrees warming, shows more Ponderosa pine around Kootenay Lake, more grasslands around Creston, upper elevations change from Engelmann spruce and alpine fir to cedar and hemlock. In the last hot dry model, things look really nasty, grasslands half way up the mountains and upper elevations have become open stands of Ponderosa pine. Impacts are already apparent – birch are dying in this area due to climate change, and yellow cedar on the coast is freezing to death because their shallow roots are not getting a snow blanket to protect them.

Utzig concluded with the warning that there is a limit to our ability to adapt to the changes, our resiliency can only go so far. Strategic action that is needed to stop the process is to stop CO2 emissions.

Dr. Carver ran through an analysis of the climate impacts on Kootenay Lake water levels and described the lake's complex system of water management as dictated by international agreements. From the hydrologic and climate models, he outlined five trends: higher winter flows, more precipitation and more flooding; earlier snow melt, warmer earlier, and the freshest is earlier; higher peak flows; earlier peak flow; and lower summer/fall flows. He believes the dams provide an opportunity to moderate some of the negative effects but their efficacy will be tested due to the complexity and competing priorities of the system.

Finnish John Calho described the incredibly overstocked forests that must be thinned and made climate resilient to lower the fire risk. He was optimistic: it can be done because it is being done locally. "The community forest in the Slocan Valley is leading the province if not the country in how to do this work," he said.

As the trajectory of the presentations headed toward solutions, the audience heard from Khaylish Fraser of the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, who said that climate change is aiding invasive species spread by weakening ecosystems; but, the primary culprit is still human activity, which can be changed.

Juliet Craig from the Kootenay Conservation Program demonstrated a new Stewardship Solutions Toolkit. At https://kootenayconservation.ca/toolkit/ you can click on the interactive map to view what resources are in your region. The Slocan Valley for example contains information on 18 different resources ranging from Firesmart programs to investments for sustainable farming to swallow surveys.

Rollie Gallagher and Carol Lutner described how the new Living Lakes Collaborative aims to make water monitoring dollars go further. If you are interested in participating, email groundwater@livinglakescanada.ca. Laura Sacks from the Citizens Climate Lobby read some quotes that inspire her to work to make a positive change. One slide said "FEAR can mean "Fire Eating Roadside Run & Face Everything & Rise.""

The evening ended with Alyssa Taburiaux and Jamie Hunter from Neilson’s Fridays for the Future organizing committee. Their next climate strike will be November 29 in Nelson and Trail and will include a clothes swap to bring attention to clothing industry emissions. They ended their presentation by leading the audience in chanting, "We are unstoppable, another world is possible.

Kaslo council, November 12: First meeting to start off with arts and culture presentation

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo council meeting of October 23, as dictated by international agreements.

Two letters were received regarding the paving of the River Trail from the Motorcycle Club: one in support of the paving and two against it. One letter was from a resident thankful for the improved accessibility; the other letters was from residents who felt the paving was inappropriate in the Lakefront Protection Area (LPA), as designated in the Village’s Official Community Plan. Development in the LPA requires a development permit and an environmental impact assessment.

Council received a letter opposing the planned installation of a streetlight at the intersection of Back Road and A Avenue. The development of lots along the west side of the Back Road triggered the requirement for the development permit, as detailed in the Village’s subdivision bylaw.

A letter from Kristy Danby informs the Village that the reconstruction of the cabin room at Periwinkle will occur in August 2020, now that all the funding for the project is in place.

Council accepted Austin Engineering’s proposal to complete detailed designs for the Kaslo River Dike and Bank Remediation project, and to submit the environmental permit for the project, at a cost of $34,299.80.

The Kaslo infoNet Society has received $278,000 in grant funding for its Fibre in the Lake project. A requirement of the funding is to erect a sign acknowledging the funders. Council gave permission for the sign to be installed on Village land, where the fibre enters Kootenay Lake, for one year. KN will be responsible for the costs and all liability.

Trish Bennett was awarded the community’s recognition as a Community Champion for her five years, starting January 1, 2020.

Bylaw 1245, to define the specified sewer area no. 1, was given three readings.
ANNOUNCEMENTS
AINS WORTH HOT SPRINGS RESORT will be closed Thursday December 5, 2019 for our annual “Staff Appreciation” day which excludes public access and patronage. The hot springs will re-open regular hours on Friday, December 6. The Ktunaxa Grill will close at 2 pm on the 6th for a private event. For more info please visit www.ainsworthhotsprings.com.

GARDENING
Trees Company
7030 Powell Rd, Wrinlalv
250-226-7334
1-800-991-4461
Grown Your Own
Indoor & Outdoor Garden Supplies. Knowledgeable Staff, Winter Hours
Mon – Sat 10 am - 5 pm
November – February

CLASSIFIED ADS
BUDDY’S PIZZA, KASLO: Award winning, hand-tossed artisan pizza. 20-353-2282
KASLO HOUSING SOCIETY Housing Coordinator, assisting residents of Kaslo and Area D with affordable housing. Office hours: Tuesday 3-7, Wednesday & Thursday 9-12 or by appointment. #23 The Langham, Kaslo. 250-353-8363. Funding for this position thanks to CBF and RICK-Kadalo EDC.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
WHAT A MAZING OPPORTUNITY to live your dream and own your own business. Become the proud owner of the Valley Voice and a quaint building on the main street of New Denver. The newspaper business can provide a modest living for you...your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

COMPUTER
Your ad could be here for only $19.50 + GST

JEWELRY
Even little ads get noticed in the Valley Voice

ACCOMMODATIONS
ADVERTISE IN THE VALLEY VOICE. IT PAYS!

RECYCLING
Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

HEALTH • WELL-BEING • FITNESS
Hand & Soul Wellness Centre
202 Lake Avenue, Silverton
CHIROPRACTOR: Dr. Larry Zaleski with 20 years experience of Spatial Health Care Silverton, Monday & Friday afternoon - Windsor & Kahlo for alternating scheduling plus every 4th Thursday afternoon in Winter)
COUNSELOR: Sue Mistrutta, M.A. 30+ years experience helping clients working with anxiety, depression, addiction, grief and more.

CLASSIFIED ADS
and your family and wonderful community connections. If you are so inclined, we would love to show you the ropes and stay as long or as little as you need us. We have absolutely loved our life as newspaper people! Give us a call at 250-358-7218 for a chat, or email valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca. Yours, Dan & Jan.

THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business? If so, Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training; and delivers the Small Employment Program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email shonsbs@gmail.com

WORK YOUR DREAM JOB and be your own boss with help from the Self Employment Program at Community Futures. Through this program you will receive business plan instruction and ongoing business training and coaching while you start your business. And if you're eligible you will usually also receive financial support for the first year. To learn more call 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY SOCIETY of the North Slocan Valley AGM – November 27 at 7 pm at the Lucerne School Library. Come hear about our school greenhouse and garden projects, breakfast and lunch programs, community composting project and more. All welcome!


LANGHAM FILM FILM SERIES presents DOLCE FINE GIORNATA Friday, November 29, 7pm.

Bikes, Skis, Snowshoes Sales and Maintenance • Guesthouse • Bike Shop 250-265-3332


SQUARE DANCING! 5 piece band “Eldorado Hoedown” and live caller November 23, 6-8:30 pm at the Bosun Hall in New Denver. Beginners are welcome. Call 250-7198 for info.

GOAT MOUNTAIN SCHOOL SOCIETY AGM – Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 7 pm at Lumino Library.

TREASURE HUNTERS CLUB of the North Slocan Valley AGM – November 27 at 7 pm at the Lucerne School Library. Come hear about our school greenhouse and garden projects, breakfast and lunch programs, community composting project, and more. All welcome!

VITAL HEALTH & WEALTH: Board Certified Chiropractor, Dr. Brennan comes to New Denver and Nakusp every week: 20+ years experience helping clients working with anxiety, depression, addiction, grief and more.

HANDHELD DARTS: Drop in every Thursday afternoon at the New Denver Community Hall. All welcome! Call 250-962-2562.

THE RHYTHM DANCE DRUM ORCHESTRA. We provide mulled apple cider and goodies at this festive occasion the last Wednesday of every month! We would also like to welcome special guests, the Friends Choir and some members of the RhythmDance Drum Orchestra, to our first gathering.

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OBITUARY

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Bartel Skouter on October 31. Bartel passed away suddenly after having been in poor health for many years. He was a wonderful man: kind, caring, generous and honorable. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him but most especially by his family and close friends. Despite the poor health of his later years Bartel had lived a full life. He was born in New York City on June 21, 1941 and was raised there. His life’s path would take him from the coffee houses of NYC to travel around the US to the “Six Day School” in Mt. Shasta in Northern California and eventually to the Slocan Valley of British Columbia in 1971/1972 where he would live for the remainder of his life. In the early years in the Valley, he deals in scrap metal and was a Volkswagen mechanic but ultimately he discovered wood and opened his own lumber yard at Winlaw. He would operate that business until all health forced him to close it down. Through that business he would become known throughout the Valley and surrounding area.

Bartel was predeceased by his father (Earl), mother (Ida), sister (Barbara) and nephews (Jeffrey and Richard). He leaves behind his daughters, Riana Stella and October Bartel; 2 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

In keeping with Bart’s wishes there will be no funeral service. However, the family is planning a celebration of his life for June of 2020.

COMMUNITY/CLASSIFIEDS

Christmas at the Cathedral: A Gift of Music

submitted

Nelson native Natasha Hall, currently based in London England, performs regularly with the English Chamber and BHC Symphonietta. She is returning to this area next month to perform in four venues: Silverton, Kaslo, Nelson and Cranbrook.

Hall has performed as soloist, chamber and orchestral musician in North America, Europe and Asia. She has received numerous awards for her violin performances and is a winner of the Carnegie International and Montreux Music Bridge chamber music competitions. Her interest in humanitarian work has led her to raise more than $33,000 through solo benefit performances for charities in Canada, the UK, the United States, Georgia and Russia. Dr. Yoomi Kim is a pianist, conductor and composer who has taught at the University of Virginia and is currently a faculty member at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Kim received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance at the University of Cincinnati where she also completed her Masters of Music degree in conducting with choral emphasis. She has been invited to participate in a number of international orchestral conducting masterclasses. Through these master classes, Kim has had the opportunity to conduct the Berlin Sininfonietta and the Budapest Symphony Orchestra.

Hall and Kim will perform at the Silverton Memorial Hall (by donation) on December 17 at 7:30 pm, then in Kaslo at St. Andrew’s United Church on December 18 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available at Sunnydale Naturals and at the door.

In partnership with St. Saviour’s Community and Cultural Arts Series, the Nelson concert will take place December 20 at 7:30 pm at St. Saviour’s Pro Cathedral, 701 Ward Street. Tickets are available at Eddy Music and at the door.

The final performance will be at the Ashram Temple of Light in Crawford Bay on December 22 at 2 pm. Tickets are available at The Ladybug Café, $20 for an adult and $15 for seniors and students.

Hall and Kim will perform works by Mozart, Adolphe, Sarasate and Brahms. Share in the gift of music this season and enjoy!
New Denver Merchants’ Night kicks off the holiday season on December 5! From 5 to 8 pm, the main street will be open for pedestrians only, so take to the street and enjoy socializing with friends and neighbours. Big Dog Music will be playing Christmas music out onto the main street to add to the holiday atmosphere. New Denver’s shops and restaurants will be lit up, and offering treats and specials for their customers on Merchants’ Night.

Santa arrives at 6 pm, after parking the reindeer and catching a ride with the firemen. He’ll be set up outside the credit union to receive the kids and hear all about their wish lists.

New Denver’s royalty and friends will be serving complimentary hotdogs, hot chocolate and scrumptious treats by Robin McNabb outside the Valley Voice.

Don’t forget to pick up a draw prize ticket at the Valley Voice office. Have it initialed at all the shops listed, then return it to be entered into the draw for a basket full of items donated by local businesses.

Merchants’ Night is sponsored by the Slocan Valley Chamber of Commerce to encourage local shopping at Christmas and all times of the year.

Here are some responses from people in business on why we should support small and independent businesses (from Forbes.com):

“Small businesses represent the creative consciousness – they contribute tremendously to the unique identities of communities everywhere.” – Maayan Zilberman and Alastair Birm (founder - Sweet Saba / program director - Brooklyn Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu).

“They’re the ones that are actually of, and not just in, a community.” – Nigel Silvestro (pro BMX rider).

“You want to shop and live near places that actually mean things to people; places that have a real effect on communities. You can feel when someone really cares about the neighbourhood they’re running a business in.” – Saideep Salter (co-founder - Picture Room and Goods for the Study).

“Independent businesses are the lifeline of every community.” – Wilson Tang (owner, Nom Wah Tea Parlor and Fung Tu).

“Small businesses provide the feeling that a real person is behind it all, someone who cares more about giving you a quality product or service, over just taking our hard earned dollars.” – Annie Bukhman (designer, founder - Gift Shop Brooklyn).

“By doing so, you’re directly putting money back into your own community. You’re funding great ideas and ventures that can only exist outside of mainstream, corporate chains.” – Tamara Santibanez (artist, tattoo artist, publisher - Discipline Press).

“There’s something special about knowing that someone created this thing to uplift other people in the community.” – Kerin Rose Gold (designer, founder - A-morir).

“It’s important to realize that by supporting the hard work of entrepreneurs, you support their dreams, as well. How can you not appreciate their passion for delivering you a piece of their imaginations, their heart, and courage?” – Hassan Rahim (designer, art director).

“Supporting independent businesses fosters creativity and it shows we are invested in our communities and their futures.” – Tomoko Ogura (brand director - Vince).

“If people in your neighbourhood are working hard to make something great happen, you choosing to buy a coffee at their shop instead of Starbucks, or taking a class with them instead of at an Equinox – it’s directly helping them achieve their dreams. All of that gets paid back to the community and strengthens it, it’s a reciprocal energy.” – Amy Woodside (founder, OKREAL).

“We work our asses off, man! Support me working my ass off! No, but honestly, there’s a lot of heart and soul that goes into starting and maintaining an independent business.” – Kai Avent-deLeon (founder - Sincerely, Tommy).

“There’s a feeling of shared responsibility and ownership when you support an independent business.” – Angie Martinez (radio personality, best-selling author).
Joyce Johnson is the new Seniors’ Housing administrator

submitted
Joyce Johnson, familiar to many in the Slocan Valley in her volunteer role as president of the Slocan Valley Historical Society, has an additional big role – as the new administrator for Passmore Lodge and the Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society.

Johnson started work at Passmore Lodge in October, replacing Nora Lilligren, who retired after seven years with the society. Tamara Smith continues to serve as manager of Slocan City Suites.

“It’s an amazing community, incredibly busy here, and it’s a steep learning curve,” said Johnson. Set on two acres of land, Passmore Lodge includes 10 suites of seniors’ housing and a beautiful central hall used for outreach programs, classes and socials.

“It’s wonderful meeting the residents, the people who take the programs and those who run them, all the board and the other staff and contractors. It’s complex because of the physical plant, the new energy systems, the relationships with funders, how to determine rent, the repairs and maintenance…all the moving pieces. It’s dynamic. It’s a community hub in many ways.”

Johnson grew up in Nelson and Nakusp, worked in Vancouver as a clerk and later in management for a car rental company, moved back to the Kootenays where she became a foster parent, and then a facilitator part-time for ARC (Adolescent Residential Care) programs, providing support and training for foster parents. She has also worked for a security firm and as a cab driver in Nelson, meeting a lot of seniors, helping them and hearing their stories.

As president of the historical society, she has participated in several successful projects in the Village of Nelson, including the preservation of the Japanese Canadian fishing vessel, the Merinwaike, during which she worked on the shelter plans with the late Eric Clough, the designer of both Passmore Lodge and Slocan City Suites.

Johnson moved to Slocan in 2003, and recently her mother has come to live with her. Johnson’s move to the area started like many people’s: “I loved the atmosphere of the Slocan Valley and it was affordable in Slocan. I looked at a house, sat in the driveway and listened to the birds, my whole body relaxed and I thought, I could live here.”

And so she does, and the seniors’ housing society is very happy to have her working now as the new administrator.

For more information on the housing society, visit www.slocanhousing.ca or facebook.com/slocanhousing or call 250-226-7136.

Slocan Valley celebrates Giving Tuesday, December 3

submitted
Many people do their holiday shopping on Black Friday and Cyber Monday after American Thanksgiving. The following day – this year December 3 – is “Giving Tuesday,” a global movement for individual generosity. The board of the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund hopes you will make a donation to the fund; this is their annual appeal for support through one-time gifts, monthly pledges and 2020 memberships.

You can donate in person at “Coffee & Conversations’ events at The Apple Tree in New Denver, Sleep is for Sissies in Winlaw or Everbean Café in the Evergreen Natural Foods Store.

FLIKS returns to the Langham

submitted
FLIKS presents Dolce Fine Giornata at the Langham in Kaslo, Friday November 29 at 7 pm.

This compelling Polish drama follows Maria Linde, a free-spirited, Jewish Polish Nobel Prize winner, living in Tuscany. A loving mother and grandmother, she also fosters a secret flirtation with the much younger Egyptian man who runs a nearby seaside inn.

After a terrorist attack in Rome, Maria refuses to succumb to the fear and anti-immigrant sentiment that quickly emerge, deciding instead to boldly decry Europe’s eroding democracy – but she is unprepared for the public and personal havoc her actions wreak.

“…traces the connections between the personal and the political, transforming a family drama into a consideration of European identity.”

Screen International
Tickets $10 at the door, which opens 6:30 pm. www.thelangham.ca.

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