New option proposed for Winlaw School by Trustee Nazaroff at SD8 board meeting

by Jan McMurray

At the December 10 School District 8 Kootenay Lake (SD8) board of education meeting, the Facilities Plan was adopted, and configuration changes for the Nelson family of schools were approved for 2021-22 – but there was no decision on the fate of Winlaw Elementary School (WES). The Winlaw decision was postponed until the January 28 board meeting to allow time for more consultation with school staff and community.

A document prepared by SD8 staff proposed four different configuration options for the Slocan Valley family of schools for the board to consider at the December meeting. These options would result in WES being a K-5, K-4 or K-3 school. It is currently K-6. One of the options would see Brent Kennedy reduced to a K-5 from its current configuration of K-6.

However, none of the four options made it onto the table at the meeting, because Slocan Valley Trustee Sharon Nazaroff put forward a brand new option. She proposed a one-year pilot where the WES grade 6 class would go out into the community to learn one day per week. This proposal would free up one classroom at Winlaw, the school district's decision was that the district doesn’t care about or respect our school and we always seem to be under attack, so we’re always on the defensive. We want to see the district stand up for the integrity of our space and our community.

When asked if the Winlaw PAC was happy with the school district’s consultation process, Follinsbee said parents generally felt there hadn’t been enough consultation or enough time.

“The conversation at the district level is about numbers, statistics, birth rates. It’s a dry, numerical analysis of the situation. As far as I know, district staff and trustees haven’t spent any time at the school, so it’s not a satisfying way to incorporate the intangible values of the community and school into their planning... Quotes like ‘cluttered spaces lead to cluttered minds’ don’t jive with my experience of Winlaw as a learning environment, so some of the rationale doesn’t feel carefully researched or based on real experience on the ground... That was what so many people talked about at the last meeting in Winlaw. The intangible qualities and the value of the school and the age range and the transition into young adulthood that happens in Winlaw is hard to quantify through the methodology the school district is using.”
Retallack applies to expand ski tenure and to offer limited ski touring and heli-skiing

by Art Joyce

Retallack has applied for an expansion of its backcountry ski tenure, and to add limited ski touring and heli-skiing to its current commercial cat skiing activities. Public comments on the application are being accepted until January 16. See the ‘Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land’ advertisement on page 8 to find out how to view the proposal and provide your comments.

As outlined in the proposal, 1.382 hectares would be added to Retallack’s existing tenure of 4,400 hectares if the application is approved. Called ‘Retallack East’ in the proposal, the new terrain is immediately to the east of the company’s tenure that surrounds the lodge on Hwy 31A between New Denver and Kaslo. The proposal includes a new, permanent radio repeater site on Femur Ridge in ‘Retallack East’ to augment Retallack’s existing seasonal repeater on Robb Ridge.

“The overall intent of Retallack’s request for expansion of their existing tenure area is to provide additional ski terrain for their guests, as ongoing climate changes, including changes to winter temperatures and precipitation levels, are creating challenging issues for Retallack, as well as most other heli and cat ski operators,” the proposal says.

In keeping with the goal of providing additional ski terrain – and different ski experiences – for their guests in the face of climate changes, Retallack is asking for approval to offer “a limited amount of guided ski touring” within its existing tenure and the proposed expansion area, and for “very limited” use of a helicopter to access the higher alpine areas of its existing and proposed additional tenure.

“It is important to note that only the upper alpine areas of Retallack’s existing tenure area, and the proposed expansion area, are appropriate to access by ski touring and there is not enough terrain to support a full-time heli-skiing program with either this new area or Retallack’s existing operating area,” the proposal states. “As such, limited helicopter activities will only take place sporadically as conditions allow.” The proposal excludes the new area from the proposal and there is no opportunity for the guest to ski in the new area or Retallack’s existing tenure.” Retallack acknowledges that improved access to ‘Retallack East’ will result in increased public recreational use of the area, and says it is “committed to continuing to engage in open, constructive dialogue so as to identify mutual strategies to mitigate any future conflict.”

Retallack also raises concerns in this section with “the ongoing commercial activities of North Valley Huts and the newly proposed ski resort (www.zincton.com) adjacent to its operations in a sustainable manner to actively care for the backcountry we use, the wildlife habitat we share, and the local communities in which we live, work and play.”

In this section, Retallack shares its concerns regarding climate change and the use of the land for commercial recreation activities. Retallack shares these concerns as it seeks to continue its operations in a sustainable manner to actively care for the backcountry we use, the wildlife habitat we share, and the local communities in which we live, work and play.”

Woodstove exchange program recipients announced

The annual program has helped governments, the Province and health experts all work together on this program that reduces carbon and other forms of pollution by switching to cleaner burning stoves or different technologies entirely.” Eligible British Columbians can apply for the following incentives: $250 for changing to a cleaner-burning wood stove; $400 for changing to a qualifying electric or heat pump, gas or propane stove, or pellet-fuelled stove; and $500 for those who live in “red zone” communities, which are areas where fine particulate matter exceeds the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards. Residents there can use the money to change to a heat pump, gas or propane stove, or pellet-fuelled stove.

The program has helped replace more than 8,000 old stoves with cleaner options. This year’s fund will distribute $300,000 through the British Columbia Lung Association, which also educates the public about alternatives to wood stoves.

Provincial Wood Stove Exchange Program: www.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air-air-pollution/smoke-burning-exchange.

BC Lung Association educational resources, including a pamphlet about wood stoves: https://bclung.ca/protect-your-lungs/air-quality-lung-health/ wood-smoke.
New technology protects local caribou herd, allows sledders access

submitted

A new way of using GPS tracking data will help minimize interactions between the Central Selkirk caribou herd and snowmobilers in our area.

By tracking the local caribou herd’s location using data transmitted by GPS collars on some of the animals, provincial biologists can now keep some parts of the Central Selkirk Snowmobile Management Area (CSSMA) closed to snowmobiling, while keeping open other parts that contain no caribou.

The new approach is a result of a stewardship management agreement between the BC government and two outdoor recreational clubs: Trout Lake Recreational Club and the Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders.

“This is a great example of how we can use existing technology in a new way to help protect caribou, while still allowing British Columbians to access the backcountry in this region,” said Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. “The members of these clubs will continue to enjoy their sport and the caribou in this herd will remain undisturbed.”

Under the Wildlife Act, all caribou habitat within the CSSMA is closed to snowmobiling year-round. Through this agreement, however, limited access by exemption permit is being granted to new and existing members of the two clubs. Members need to carry their club card (showing their name and membership number) and photo identification to enter areas of the CSSMA that are open for snowmobile use that day.

Conservation officers patrol the Central Selkirk Snowmobile Management Area regularly and have the authority to stop snowmobilers to check for compliance. Any snowmobiler found in the area who cannot produce a valid club membership and photo identification could face a $575 penalty. Any snowmobilers found within an area that is closed to snowmobiling (regardless of the documents they carry) could also face a $575 penalty.

For more information about the Central Selkirk Snowmobile Management Area and recreational club membership online, visit snowmobileselkirks.ca.
It takes a community to raise a caribou herd

by Kathy Hartman

The local Central Selkirk herd, otherwise known as the Nakusp/Duncan herd, is in trouble. Big trouble. It may soon be extirpated like many of the caribou herds south of Revelstoke.

But, help is coming. The Arrow Lakes Caribou Society (ALCS) and the Provincial Caribou Recovery Program are on board to build a maternity pen near the Nakusp Hot Springs this January.

ALCS Chair Hugh Watt is determined to get the maternity pen built this winter, because “the alternative of waiting another year to begin the project is that it may be too late for recovery. The logic is that with only 24 animals remaining, and potentially more difficult predator control conditions than other parts of the province, we must do everything possible, including penning, to halt and reverse decline in caribou numbers.”

Watt says a lot of background work has been done on the project, including choosing and verifying a site, mapping, planning, budgeting, sourcing materials and grant writing – “so that we can be ready with a solid plan and financial resources to carry out a program late this winter.”

Unfortunately, decisions on the grant applications won’t be made until March, so the community is stepping up with volunteers, cash and materials to give the project a jump start.

ALCS has started a GoFundMe campaign for the project, with a goal of raising $60,000 for construction materials, equipment rentals and labour to build the maternity pen.

Other efforts by the community to help save the herd include a collaboration between the Trout Lake Recreational Club, the Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders, the BC Snowmobile Federation and FLNRORD to reduce the stress and displacement on the herd. Under the Wildlife Act, all caribou habitat within the Central Selkirk Snowmobile Management Area is closed to snowmobiling year-round. With a new ministry website and a GPS tracking system pinpointing the location of the herd, snowmobilers of those two clubs will be allowed into restricted areas when the caribou are elsewhere. This is a pilot project to see if it can be expanded to other clubs.

The Central Selkirk herd has a lot of people rooting for their survival, including community members, local business, local and provincial scientists, recreationists, environmentalists, Indigenous Nations, local and provincial politicians. Darcy Peel, Director of the BC Caribou Recovery program had this to say about the community’s efforts, “We look forward to working more with you and your community to advance Central Selkirk caribou recovery efforts. Developing such partnerships are key to building successful approaches that will endure through time.”

According to provincial biologists, the Central Selkirk herd had 227 animals in 1997, and 25 in 2019 – an 89% decline. ALCS has counted 24 healthy animals, which they say is not enough to maintain a herd. The South Selkirk herd was extirpated earlier this year. Of the six herds south of Revelstoke, three are extirpated and in decline.

A donation to the ALCS maternity pen project is a great Christmas giving idea. Since reindeer and caribou are actually the same species, Rangifer tarandus, you can say you helped save Santa’s reindeer this year. Find the GoFundMe page here: https://www.gofundme.com/f/s3w67-arrows-lakes-caribou-society-maternity-pen-project
New shelter at Nakusp Community Forest storage yard

by Jan McMurray

A celebration and tour of the new shelter at the NACFOR storage yard on Nakusp Hot Springs Road was held December 10.

Frances Swan of NACFOR gave a speech to describe the project and thank the many project partners. “The project supports NACFOR’s mandate to provide social and economic benefits to Nakusp and area. It’s truly a community project and is a showcase for local workmanship, community partnerships and connections,” she said.

The construction of a shelter at the storage yard was proposed in January 2018, to provide a secure storage area for NACFOR equipment and supplies, as well as a covered work area for community projects such as the Community Firewood program run by Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS). The project was funded by NACFOR, ASLCS and the Columbia Basin Trust.

Swan said the building is “a showcase for local value added wood manufacturing.” It is built from logs from the community forest, which were manufactured at Rick Dyck’s mill in Burton. Crescent Bay Construction manufactured the metal fasteners and bracing. Other materials and services were provided by local businesses and the Village of Nakusp. Selkirk College helped with the design.

Brian Weatherhead was the project supervisor, with John Guild as construction helper. A Nakusp Secondary student also pitched in, and Warren Belfry volunteered to assist with installing the beams. ASLCS contributed funding for a job coach and diversity client to help with the construction, as well.

In spring 2020, NACFOR plans to construct an enclosed storage area at one end of the shelter. They hope to involve NSS students, who could mill some of the smaller components for the enclosed area using the new small mill in the school’s woodworking shop. The Village of Nakusp leases the storage yard land to NACFOR to sort and store logs, and to provide a space for NACFOR and other community projects.

Kathy Smith resigns as NACFOR president

by Jan McMurray

Kathy Smith stepped down as president and director of the Nakusp Community Forest (NACFOR) board on November 27.

Mayor Tom Zeleznik, in his report to Nakusp council on December 9, thanked Smith for her service, and spoke about her “vast knowledge” of forestry. “Her involvement with the Community Forest movement began in 2002 and she is one of the remaining founding members,” he said. “Thank you, Kathy, for all you have contributed to make our own Community Forest NACFOR a strong asset for our community and area.”

Smith says she has told the NACFOR board that she would be interested in some committee work and to assist as needed.

“I thoroughly love(d) my involvement with NACFOR, but I felt it was time for a change – not only for me but also for NACFOR,” she wrote in an email to the Valley Voice.

The board has seven seats and currently has two vacancies. To apply for a position on the board and to learn more about it, visit nakuspcommunityforest.com.
Crisis in the woods

Those who were familiar with the comedian George Carlin may remember his parting words: “Ladies and Gentlemen! It’s all B...!!!”

And so it goes for the most damaging industry in this part of the province: promises with no substance aimed at maintaining the status quo, bolstered with carefully studied “green language” to mislead and deceive the public; and the static, corrosive colonialism still at work in the arrogant decision-making over entire ecosystems.

The crisis in the woods has reached the tipping point and still it is not enough. The insatiable destruction of forests and watersheds shows a singular lack of honour and respect which subtracts from the honour already eroded among timber merchants who call themselves foresters and ministers, still willing to deny reality.

Angelica Herlihy
Grand Forks

Oppose 5G

The short story is: RF radiation causes health problems; 5G is being introduced and has not been proven safe; 5G RFR high frequencies are known to be harmful; many states, countries, and scientists concur and want 5G radiation of the public to be terminated.

My recommendations for our area from the junction to Nakusp are:

1. Do not allow 5G to be operated in our area; push for fibre optic delivery of data directly to the building or home, no wireless; if 5G is proven to be safe in the future, maybe three years from now, then allow 5G.

It will happen very little if you proceed with caution. If you burgeon ahead with 5G, which has not been proven to be safe, then you may be blamed for problems resulting.

Wulf Mense
Winlaw

Climate change and the military

I hate to be repetitive, but ongoing issues sometimes demand it. As I listen to CBC radio and read the papers online and off these days, the most prominent stories seem to be in regards to climate change. Still I have yet to hear one journalist, activist, politician, scientist, or climate expert mention the military’s huge carbon footprint, and their clear environmental destruction cause by their warring ways. I can find a little information regarding the US military’s CO2 contribution, but no analysis of the total effect of their military activities, and absolutely no analysis of the total contribution of all the world’s militaries to our current climate crisis. For some reason everybody who should be alerting the public to the fact that the military is totally exempt from doing anything to help solve the problem, have been struck dumb. Do they all think that the military is so righteous that we are better off to allow them to indiscriminately destroy the earth than to expect them to cut back on their activity? Where is the analysis of the total contribution to climate change bestowed on us by the world’s military? Do we really love war so much, that we quietly agree to this deafening silence?

Rod Retzlaff
Gladie

Response to ‘IUFRO article cause for concern’

I understand from a letter to the editor published December 5, 2019 that readers of the Valley Voice are passionate about forests, ecology, governance, and education. This is heartening to hear because interest in these topics is the basis for enthusiasm and participation in seeking knowledge, finding solutions and taking action to overcome forest-related challenges. However, after thoughtfully reading the letter, I am curious to better understand the concerns that have been raised. In particular, it would be nice to discuss forest-related education, youth engagement, and opportunities for mentorship. Therefore, I invite readers to contact me at burns@iufro.org to start a conversation.

As it seems that there was a misperception that IUFRO is a European organization, it should be clarified that IUFRO is a global network connecting forest scientists in 127 countries worldwide. Scientists collaborate on a voluntary basis.

The Slocan Valley is where I grew up. While actively engaging in international dialogues on forests, our valley and our community are always close to my heart. Therefore, I am open to exchanging knowledge on any forest-related topic – for example: approaches and trends from other countries, such as those identified by the author of the letter to the editor in his 2017 BC provincial election campaign as an independent candidate: “Boom and bust resource extraction economic values is the biggest issue facing BC political parties. We need to get involved in the emerging ecological and economic trend as Germany and other European countries have embraced. I would inspire folks to demand change.” (April 27, 2017 thenelsondaily.com)

Janice Burns
Vienna

BC’s uncertain forestry future: turning it around

The December 1, 2019 Canadian Press story on the uncertain future of BC forestry, with mills permanently closing across the province, confirmed it is past time to assess what is working, and what is not.

EF Schumacher, author of Small is Beautiful (1972) wrote “One of the most fatal errors of our age is the belief ‘the problem of production has been solved.’” Important policy questions include:

1. Is the goal of planning a sustainable timber supply achievable, given the predicted volume decline (fallfallow) and continuing value depletion in our forests? If not achievable, what problems will remain?

2. Has the root cause of mill closures been diagnosed (understood)? When the root cause is not identified, and effective corrective action not taken, more mill closures will occur.

3. Is existing forest legislation and regulations part of the problem? If so, this can be corrected.

In 2012, the BC Auditor General said no forest stewardship plan in law was required in BC’s public forests. BC’s Forest Practices Board recommissioned the serious consequences of this failure in 2015 and 2018.

Prudence requires more volume and more value of wood in our forests than being logged out of our forests, with a safety margin to allow for risk and uncertainty.

Neglect of the future has serious consequences for both people and forests. Especially in this time of climate change, bold effective action by the Province is needed to restore ecological diversity, productivity, water quality, value, commercial timber supply, revenue and jobs in/ from our vast public forests.

Ray Travers, retired Registered Professional Forester

Victoria
Is the science ever in?
Being neither a physician nor a biostatistician, I have my misgivings about how we contribute to the discussion of vaccines. But as a layman, I do have some opinions about the form this discussion is taking. The two aspects that bother me is that the discussion is frequently not about the science per se but a single discussion and the statement “the science is in.” Such an utterance cannot possibly come from a qualified scientist, especially one coming from the biological sciences.

With respect to our present dialogue—or lack of it—I am reminded of a similar dialogue in the 1950s about antibiotics. During that period there was considerable enthusiasm over antibiotics and their role in saving lives. But besides hearing about their praise, I was also exposed to their criticism and the growing realization that antibiotics were not a panacea.

These people were especially distressed about the issues of antibiotics into livestock feed, which, I believe, at one point constituted 70% of all antibiotic use.

During the decades that followed, the main position was that antibiotics had served us well, and we could have a battle with infectious diseases. But I did learn of a doctor who already during the 1970s felt uncomfortable with the so-called full prescriptions. He advised using a mini-dose and letting the immune system do the rest. The argument, I presume, was that the immune system adapts and evolves with the bacteria, whereas the antibiotic is static.

I have recently learned that such an approach is now considered by some. During the 1980s, I encountered more antibiotic hesitancy by physicians.

Now, after over half of my lifetime, antibiotics are vaccine. As far back as 1972, the Supreme Court of Canada has acknowledged vaccine injury. Nathalie Lapierre, aged 5, was left severely disabled from an MMR vaccine. There was no dispute in the courts that it was the vaccine that caused the injury. Vaccine injury is not a myth. It is a case law in Canada. This led to the formation of a vaccine compensation program in Quebec. If vaccines are safe, then does Quebec have a program to compensate those who receive injury from vaccines? Why is Quebec the only province in Canada without a vaccine compensation program?

I personally have a relative who was injured from vaccines. This child’s parents are both hospital emergency room nurses with three decades of experience between them. The mainstream media has launched a campaign of propaganda and fear to prop up the idea that those who choose not to vaccinate are somehow misinformed. The idea simply is not true. I know doctors and lawyers who choose not to vaccinate when nurses wear masks, it is likely because they chose not to get a flu shot. Many nurses choose masks during childbirth. They are choosing not to vaccinate themselves against the flu. Is it because nurses are ignorant or misinformed? Who knows the pros and cons of a flu shot better than a nurse? I know a nurse who wore the mask for seven years.

If vaccines are safe, then why does the vaccine compensation program in Quebec exist? If they are effective, why are people who are vaccinated against measles, whooping cough, the flu, etc. still able to contract the illness? If vaccines are effective, why do they require others to also be vaccinated to work? Ask questions.

If you decide to vaccinate, that choice is and should be yours. However, it is important to consider how the risks of the vaccine compare to the risks beforehand. Ask questions.

Health authorities have been grossly wrong before. Cigarettes, DDT, Asbestos. Have the over prescription of antibiotics and antibiotics been mistakes in good health? Why does vaccine injury be the next health crisis?

Whether you choose to vaccinate or not, make an informed choice. There are two sides to every story. Where there is risk there must be choice. Educate yourself. Health is important and worth a bit of time and research. Ask questions. Find answers. Make the best decision for the health of you and your community.

Leigh Brown
Winlaw

Why parents worry about vaccines
As the mother of vaccine-injured children, I take exception to Rory Lindsay’s one-sided glorification of the benefits of vaccination. For those whose loved ones are vaccine-injured, there is no glory or benefit, only suffering and grief as they witness their previously healthy child succumb to brain and immune system injuries inflicted by a medical procedure that was supposed to protect them. I know about this because two of my children are vaccine-injured. In 1962, the notorious wholecell pertussis vaccine was marketed to young babies with brain injury and learning disabilities. My youngest daughter suffered a severe reaction to MMR vaccine in 1977 that dramatically affected her development.

The DPT vaccine (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus) has caused severe neurological injuries and died the lives of countless children over the many decades of its use. In western countries, it was eventually replaced with a less reactive “acellular” pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine in the 1990s, but is still used in developing countries because it’s cheaper to produce. Recent studies by Dr. Peter Aaby review over 30 years of vaccination programs in Africa, which reveal that babies injected with the DPT vaccine have a five to ten times greater risk of dying from measles as those who chose not to vaccinate or who have not been vaccinated. The DPT vaccine weakens their overall immune resistance to infectious diseases and substantially increases risk of mortality.

Recent studies acknowledge that the acellular DTaP vaccine is responsible for the ongoing outbreaks of whooping cough. Full-term, long-term health outcomes can be seen in the disease many times over and remain asymptomatic. They then unknowingly spread whooping cough to infants and other vulnerable people in the community. The most recent medical literature says there is nothing to be done that can resolve this terrible dilemma of fully vaccinated people spreading whooping cough.

My own research study involving 271,495 children found that 1 in 168 children injected with MMR vaccine and meningococcal-C vaccines at 12 months end up in ER with adverse reactions. Several children died during the study period, yet the number of deaths has never been disclosed not followed up to discover if the deaths had nothing to do with the months or years later. Other studies show that MMR vaccine increases the risk of seizures, which can lead to epilepsy in some cases.

The sweeping claim that vaccines have saved countless lives has no basis in reality. Risk benefits analyses have never been done to determine the long-term health outcomes in vaccinated and unvaccinated populations. Adding insult to injury, vaccines are NOT tested against neutral/ inert placebo, nor do they undergo the same rigorous testing under the glare of the public. Once licensed and on the market, it is we, the public and our children, who are the test population, while government health agencies use a 10-1% of adverse vaccine reactions.

Medical history shows that the dramatic decline in mortality from infectious diseases happened long before modern mass vaccination programs were established in the mid-20th century. Vaccines had an insignificant effect on this decline, which in fact was due to improved nutrition, public sanitation systems and better hygiene. The ineffective smallpox vaccine was discontinued precisely because of the injuries and death it inflicted while epidemics raged on. Long after the smallpox epidemics had ended primarily due to strict quarantine measures, the vaccine was considered too reactive and too dangerous to activities. It was then eventually removed from the standard vaccine arsenal.

As a result of my two children’s vaccine injuries, I have spent a lifetime researching the topic, it was the vaccine, and scientists, and advocating for other parents through Vaccine Choice Canada (originally Vaccine Risk Awareness Network).

Edda West, Vaccine Choice Canada
Winlaw

Reflections on democracy and community
As a candidate for the Green Party in the recent federal election, I had the privilege of speaking to community members across the Kootenaya Kootenay Electoral District over the course of my campaign. What is striking and what we have in common across each of our communities is the immense diversity and the shared desire and commitment to live here. What is also striking, however, is the diversity in the opinions of what we need to do in order to live here.

Meeting people and listening to the stories, issues, needs, successes and sources of pride in each community was humbling and inspiring. Common themes I heard across our region include housing, the environment, reconciliation and employment vulnerability, each with their own local flavour. Equally inspiring were the youth with whom I was able to spend time, many of whom are leading efforts in their respective communities to create an exciting and enable livable futures for themselves and all creatures.

Elections, like social media, can bring out the best and the worst in people. During the campaign, I was especially impressed with the huge efforts that Canada’s first past the post system is capable for a two-party system and necessarily creates division and dysfunction in a multi-party political system. My hope is that a multi-party system is a sign of a healthy democracy that allows the space for a multiplicity of perspectives and priorities. I was reminded of this in that of the all the candidate forums that were held across the Kootenay Columbia, where I had the opportunity to listen to and reflect on the policies, priorities and perspectives of each candidate. Each candidate in this election secured votes, demonstrated the diversity of political agendas amongst our area’s residents. The art of politics— and what now falls to Rob Morrison as our elected Member of Parliament, to discern the path forward that achieves the best compromise that seeks to enable all of us to work together to create a liveable future.

Living peacefully and, alongside our fellow citizens, is harder to do when elections and social media generate acrimony and discord. I hope that we can all draw on the communities that are not just the people and places but also the people who connected with me over the course of the campaign and shared your thoughts and hopes. A special thank you to my extraordinary campaign manager, Devon Caron, who kept me sane and on track. I am profoundly grateful to all those who volunteered on my campaign, to those who chose to talk to me regardless of my signs, and to those who voted for me, sharing my excitement for the vision held by the Green Party of Canada. As for me, I shall continue to find ways to work within and contribute to the people and communities of this precious place we all call home.

Abra Brynne, former Green Party Candidate, Kootenay Columbia

Opposed to Retallack expansion proposal
Retallack Cat Skiing has proposed to amend their current license to increase the size of their tenure along highway 3 and to include heli-skiing. The proposal can be reviewed online at: https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/applications and by searching the ID number #4402411. The application is currently under review and public comments will be accepted until January 16, 2020.

I am opposed to this proposal. Here is a short list of my concerns, observations and questions.

The application states that the intent of expansion is to provide additional ski terrain as ongoing climate changes are creating challenging issues for Retallack. To mitigate these climate issues, Retallack proposes to use helicopters to transport their clients. In this time of climate awareness and the known need to reduce carbon emissions, the increased use in helicopters to mitigate climate change is absolutely preposterous.

Highway 3A has the only highway-accessible ski touring in the area, making it a valuable asset for locals and visitors without the need for a snowmobile. As the use in the tenure and the use of helicopters will further limit our community’s recreational opportunities. Currently Retallack operates on public land but those who annually recreate within their tenure are often disappointed. I have been asking local residents about their relationship with nature and the majority of responses have been negative.

In the proposal, Retallack claims to be concerned with ongoing commercial activities including North Valley Huts and the Zincton development. North Valley Huts provides affordable accommodation on Highway 3A and welcomes families, and outdoor enthusiasts of all types. It’s hard to see how this development but surely if it gets built it will provide more inclusive access to the great skiing in our area with a much smaller carbon footprint. Retallack is very expensive and based on my conversations with locals, seems to want to limit public access to their tenure.

Retallack claims to be a significant local employer and to sponsor local public recreation and volunteer groups. How many locals currently work for Retallack? How many more locals will be hired if the proposal is approved? My guess is a local benefit of the increased tenure will be non-existent. Who are these local recreation and volunteer groups? I have been asking these questions for the past week and nobody knows. Retallack’s current license to operate is valid until 2040. Can’t they be satisfied with what they have? Must they disrupt more wildlife, on eco-sensitive BC public land, just to expand the operation? As a candidate for the Green Party of Canada, I will continue to fight ways to work within and contribute to the people and communities of this precious place we all call home.

Dennis Lynch
New Denver
Kootenay Thunder tournament was a huge success

Tournament next year. Sheila Seaton, one of the main organizers of the event, said the backing from businesses and individuals was the major factor in the huge success of the inaugural ‘Thunder in the Valley’ tournament. This was the first women’s hockey tournament in Nakusp in nearly 30 years.

Eighty-five players in all suited up for the six teams – Nakusp, Revelstoke, Golden, Kaslo, Fruitvale and Armstrong. Play started November 22, with Fruitvale wrapping up the tourney taking the championship game on Sunday.

Unfortunately, the home team, Kootenay Thunder, did not win a single game but they had a blast playing. In their final game on Sunday against Kaslo, the starting lineup (Sarah Sanders, Tracy Smith, Tawny Sidwell, Lisa Goosen, Sheila Seaton, and goalie Stephanie Stenseth) decided to have some fun with their losing streak. At first puck drop, they dropped to the ice onto their backs and waved white flags. It took a moment for everyone in the arena to figure out what was going on before laughter erupted from both team benches, everyone on the ice, and the spectators. The game was then started over and Thunder battled hard, playing their best game of the weekend but were unable to get the puck past Kaslo’s fantastic goalie.

Saturday night, the teams were treated to a dinner catered by DehGuest where the MVP awards from Friday and Saturday, along with Unsung Hero awards, were presented. The doors opened to the public at 9 pm when DJ Fuzzy Logik took over keeping the dance floor full for the night. Kootenay Thunder was praised for how well organized everything was and how welcome all players felt in the arena and in the community. Teams were impressed with how many spectators there were, the arena and the guys working over the weekend, and some even said it was the best ice they had ever skated on. All five visiting teams are looking forward to next year’s tournament already.

Kootenay Thunder has decided that their home tournament each year will be a fundraising event with half of their proceeds going to an individual or group in need. This year, the team will be donating proceeds from sponsorship to Kim Dupius and proceeds from tournament fees to Krystal Fisher, both of whom are battling cancer.

A huge Thunder thank you to the huge number of local sponsors. The tournament organizers were Sheila Seaton and Tracy Smith, with a lot of help from Sarah Sanders, Leah Gilliland, Karlee Cooke, Tawny Sidwell, Shannon Huyber, Stephanie Stenseth, Codie Jones, and Ali Spavor.

New Denver council, December 10: New Denver might budget more for Bosun Hall

by Katrine Campbell

• Councillor Gerald Wagner was in the mayor’s chair, and Councillor John Fyke attended by Skype.

• The Village will apply for a building permit for repairs to Bosun Hall. The east wall of the kitchen needs modification to install a new, larger stove and to ensure a plumbing leak is fixed and the wall rebuilt. This year, New Denver spent more than $6,000 on the hall and had budgeted only $5,000. Two unexpected expenses were having to test for asbestos, due to the building’s age, and trenching, graveling and installing flashing on the north wall for drainage. Allaway said some line items in the Recreation and Culture section were under budget, freeing up money this year to spend on the hall.

LACE, which manages the hall, received a grant to help purchase the stove, and asked the Village for a grant-in-aid to buy a range hood. Allaway suggested council defer the request, and take a second look at the amount traditionally budgeted for ongoing maintenance on the Bosun because “it’s maybe not sufficient.”

• Councillor Vern Gustafson noted the revenue and expense report for 2019 showed “a little wiggle room.” Acting CAO Catherine Allaway said “we didn’t overshred ourselves this year.” There were some areas where the Village could make purchases it had been putting off until year-end, such as office computers whose operating systems expire in January, she added.

Gustafson also pointed out that the revenue from the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre was down from the previous year; Allaway explained that in 2018, they had an employee who was a “stellar salesperson.” The combination of someone who loves history and is a great salesperson was lacking in 2019, she said.

• Council received for information an invitation from West Coast Environmental Law to join the cities of Vancouver and Victoria in investigating possible joint legal strategies to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for climate costs. Victoria announced that one of Canada’s top litigators is drafting a legal opinion about the potential class action lawsuit against those companies seeking compensation for climate change. Victoria noted that “this type of pressure could benefit our children and grandchildren.”

• Grant Thornton was appointed as the Village’s auditors for the 2020 fiscal year, and Kootenay Savings Credit Union was appointed as its banking institution.

• As it usually does, council cancelled the second December meeting. This year, it falls on Christmas Eve.
Nakusp will loan radon detection kits

The Nakusp Public Library is offering a radon detection kit for patrons to borrow to measure radon levels in their homes or businesses. The aim is to increase awareness about radon and encourage people to test their homes, where people spend most of their time.

The kit will be available for a three-week loan period. The digital monitors are extremely easy to use: place the device in a specific area of the home, or business, for three weeks to determine the radon level. The kits come with information about the gas, factors that influence indoor levels, and strategies to reduce exposure.

Radon gas is radioactive and comes from naturally occurring uranium in soils and rocks; it is an odourless, tasteless, and colourless indoor air hazard that can lead to serious health issues. There are several regions in Canada that have higher levels of uranium than others, and parts of the Kootenays / Boundary region fall into that category.

A group of SFU researchers have been working with Health Canada and the BC Lung Association in order to raise awareness of the dangers of radon exposure. Through a grant, this group has made available radon detection kits to all public libraries in the Kootenays.

The Nakusp Public Library is offering a radon detection kit for patrons to borrow to measure radon levels in their homes or businesses. The aim is to increase awareness about radon and encourage people to test their homes, where people spend most of their time.

The kit will be available for a three-week loan period. The digital monitors are extremely easy to use: place the device in a specific area of the home, or business, for three weeks to determine the radon level. The kits come with information about the gas, factors that influence indoor levels, and strategies to reduce exposure.

Radon gas is radioactive and comes from naturally occurring uranium in soils and rocks; it is an odourless, tasteless, and colourless indoor air hazard that can lead to serious health issues. There are several regions in Canada that have higher levels of uranium than others, and parts of the Kootenays / Boundary region fall into that category.

A group of SFU researchers have been working with Health Canada and the BC Lung Association in order to raise awareness of the dangers of radon exposure. Through a grant, this group has made available radon detection kits to all public libraries in the Kootenays.

Testing of lead levels in water underway at SD8 schools

Although the investigation is in its early stages, RCMP do not suspect criminality was involved in the individual’s death at this time. They are seeking any witnesses who may have observed a vehicle matching this description in the area.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Nakusp RCMP at 250-265-3677 or anonymously at Crime Stoppers 24 hours a day at 1-800-222-8477, or on-line at www.bccrimestoppers.com.

The water at all SD8 sites was last tested in July and August 2016. McLean said data from the 2016 tests was reviewed, and any sites with readings between the new maximum level of 0.005 mg/L and the old maximum of 0.01 mg/L have been asked to flush their water systems daily. Daily flushing is happening at five schools: Mount Sentinel Secondary, LV Rogers, Prince Charles Secondary, Redfish Elementary and Rosemont Elementary.

Superintendent Christine Perkins reports that bottled water is still being supplied at WE Graham School, where lead levels were found to be elevated during the 2016 testing. Upgrades to some fixtures and water supply lines were made in August 2017, but tests in September 2017 showed higher than acceptable lead levels persisting at one fountain and one curb stop. Perkins said no further direction had been provided by Interior Health and no further remedial work had been done. “We will wait until the current test results are received and determine the requirements and/ or options at that time,” she said.
School District 10 Arrow Lakes: Nakusp climbing/bouldering walls taking shape

by Jan McMurtry

• Construction has begun on the long-awaited bouldering and climbing walls at Nakusp Secondary. The goal is to have them completed by the end of February. The climbing wall is being built in the gym by district carpenters Jamie Peterson and Riley Gerber.

• The Goat Mountain Child Care Centre project at Lucerne School is progressing. Architect Chris Fairbank has been hired, and work has begun on the RFP for a general contractor. The Goat Mountain School Society, which will operate the centre, has a new slate of directors after the December 3 AGM. Nick Gravett, Jess Rayner, Nynne Caton, Valerie Piercey-Wilson, Michael McLellan, Jessica Bernholf, Chelsea Lada, Richelle Johnson.

A district-wide waste audit was held December 3, initiated by NSS and Lucerne students on the environmental education committee. The committee includes students, teachers and district staff. Eight students from three schools – NES, NSS and Lucerne – participated in the audit along with some teachers and district staff members. In one day, the garbage collected from all the schools in the district weighed over 89 pounds, and two-thirds of it could have been recycled or composted. The team has come up with nine recommendations, and is planning to do another audit in the spring. The recommendations are: use smaller garbage bags and cans in all schools; re-use garbage bags for two weeks (currently one week); encourage the use of reusable lunch containers; set up composting programs at all schools; install paper towel recycle bins in all washrooms; create lists of recyclable items to educate students and staff; put paper recycling bins in school hallways along with current plastic recycling bins; recycle washroom soap-dispenser containers; rinse recyclable food containers so they are not contaminated and can be recycled.

Students on the environmental education committee have also initiated the development of a climate action plan for the district.

• Superintendent Terry Taylor recently attended a meeting where there was discussion about school districts pilotering electric buses. SD10 is due for two or three new buses in 2021 and is exploring the possibility of participating in the pilot.

• SD10 may host five international students next school year, in grades 8-12. The district is exploring a partnership with the SDF Kootenay Lake international ed program, which has been around for 20 years and has administrative and recruitment infrastructure in place. SD10 had 8-10 international students in 2016-17, but hasn’t been able to sustain the program since. The district will be looking for homestay families in the new year, once the partnership has been finalized, as well as a homestay coordinator.

• Aniti Vibe’s NES grade 6 class will be going to Victoria, Quebec, on an Encounters Canada Exchange Program in May, and the Victoria students will come to Nakusp in June.

• A Supercluster technology grant will cover the costs of a Hackathon on February 13 for grades 6-10 students from across the district. The students will create a mobile app, along with tech industry experts. A session will be held the next day for all SD10 teachers, focusing on technology applications and careers in the tech sector.

• With assistance from the Growing Innovation Grant, students and teachers at Edgewood Elementary, Nakusp Elementary and Lucerne Elementary Secondary Schools will connect virtually and share short films documenting their place.
Kaslo council, December 10: Kaslo agrees to aim for 100% renewable energy by 2050

by Jan McMurray

• Ahead of the meeting, David Cheateley gave a PowerPoint presentation about his photography. Council has agreed to a brief arts/ cultural presentation at one council meeting per month, coordinated by the North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Council. 

• Donna Grace-Campbell and Lynn van Deursen attended as a delegation to speak about Kaslo’s Climate Discussion Group. The group supports initiatives such as a plastic bag ban, adopt a tree program, banning pesticides and herbicides, activating all electric vehicle charging stations, community composting, expanded carshare and rideshare, and Kaslo signing on to the West Kootenay EcoSociety’s 100% Renewable program.

Eight letters were received in support of the 100% renewable initiative, including one from the Chamber of Commerce, and two from local children.

Council passed the following resolution: That the Village of Kaslo aims to transition to the use of 100% renewable energy in all sectors in the community including heating and cooling, transportation, electricity and waste management by 2050; and that the transition planning be included in the upcoming Official Community Plan review process, which will include collaboration with other local governments, community stakeholders, and experts in the region.

• Council received a report by Stu Heard and Marie-Ange Fournier-Beck about steel fire rings that have been purchased by the Village for placement in the park. The report reminds council that permission from the Province is required to install infrastructure below the natural boundary, lists several considerations in choosing the sites for the fire rings, and suggests nine sites. Staff will investigate and report back.

• Council received the new Mumby tree report and mapping, and referred it to the Parks Trails and Public Art Committee.

Staff will report back on implementing recommendations from the Mumby tree report, and will investigate options for no camping under the cottonwood trees south of the picnic shelter in the overflow camping area.

The Parks, Trails and Public Art Committee recommended that council include trees identified in the Mumby report as heritage trees in the Heritage Registry. Creating a heritage tree registry was referred back to the committee.

• The terms of reference for the Parks, Trails and Public Art Committee were approved. This committee is tasked with advising council on public art policy, a long-term plan for improvements to campground and ball diamond area, the Village tree policy and how to make it more manageable, and the Mumby tree report. The scope includes Village parks (Vimy, Kaslo Bay, Legacy, Front Street Park), open spaces (public boardwalks, waterfront and trails, Logger Sports grounds), and art installations on Village lands. Committee appointees are Councillors Knoll and Leathwood, David Stewart, Steve Fawcett, Marie-Ange Fournier-Beck, Jo Davies, Stu Heard and Dana Gallinger. The maximum number of committee members is nine.

• CAO Dunlop reported that FortisBC has been in touch to say they are not at all sure about ownership of the streetlights in Kaslo. They had previously told Dunlop that they wouldn’t be replacing the lights with LED seeing as how the Village owned all the streetlights. “What we know is that our billing and our mapping count contradict each other. We are not at all sure what is correct and we are going to work with the Village to get it right,” says the email from FortisBC. They plan to start working with the Village on this after Christmas. Until then, they are working with Creston on a similar issue.

• Council received information on renovation plans for the Perwinkle Children’s Centre in the Vimy Park Pavilion – to expand the covered deck and upgrade the cabin room. More detailed plans will be presented to council when they are ready.

• A letter from a resident asks council to reconsider and improve the media outlet for posting items for public input. This was raised at public time at the November 26 council meeting, where people objected to the use of the Village Facebook page for soliciting public input. CAO Dunlop says in his report that staff will make improvements to the Village website home page, including updating the calendar with both council and committee meetings.

He says a budget request may be made for a professional redesign of the website in 2020. He also reports that the bulletin board outside City Hall has been moved to a location beside the side doors, with a concrete sidewalk in front of it.

• A letter from a couple asking if a “no parking from here to corner” sign could be erected across from the school was received. Staff will look into these parking concerns and report back.

Councillor Leathwood excused herself for this item, citing a conflict of interest.

• Council approved the Building Village Assets and Housing Committee’s terms of reference. The committee will provide advice and recommendations to council on the maintenance, repair, management, acquisition and disposition of all municipally owned buildings and facilities. Committee members will include councillors and members of the public.

• Correspondence from Anne Mulik regarding sewer issues was referred to staff for consideration in 2020 financial and bylaw planning.
While the federal government talks about climate change in the throne speech and world leaders meet in Madrid for the United Nations climate change convention, communities in the West Kootenays are taking action in their backyards.

On December 10, the Village of Kaslo became the third West Kootenay local government in the past month to make the commitment to 100% renewable energy, the sixth this year and the ninth in the region.

“Kaslo is proud to be part of the 100% renewable energy movement across the West Kootenays and beyond. We’re looking forward to taking the next steps in this transition and joining our other local government partners and the public in working toward this goal,” says Mayor Suzan Hewat.

Kaslo joins the Villages of New Denver, Slocan, Silverton and Warfield, the Cities of Castlegar, Nelson and Rossland, the Regional District of Central Kootenay and eight other local governments across Canada in their commitment to use renewables in all energy use in the community, including heating and cooling, transportation, electricity and waste management.

“Kaslo has always been a forward thinking community,” says Councillor Molly Leathwood. “Past history shows that we have been ahead of our time in addressing global issues. We appreciate the effort by community members championing these types of issues.

“We recently did a walkabout with the Chamber of Commerce, and many businesses were already looking at alternatives to plastic bag use. Issues such as banning the use of pesticides have already made it to the council table and over the years we have tried to reduce our carbon footprint in municipal buildings and equipment.”

“I am proud to be a part of Kaslo’s Climate Action Team, a group of determined citizens who are helping to increase awareness about climate change and the need to shift towards 100% renewable energy in our own backyards. It takes a village!” says Lynn van Deursen, who helped lead this effort on the ground and will work to achieve this vision with the Village council, the Climate Action Team and Kaslo residents.

In the recent federal election, more than 60% of Canadian voters chose parties promising more action on the climate crisis. Canada’s new Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson is in Spain at the UN climate conference and has the opportunity to show the world that Canada is ready to transition to a renewable energy economy that protects workers and communities.

And while Canada just pledged to be net zero by 2050, the real ambition to embrace a renewable energy future is found at the local government level. Towns and cities that are stepping up to prove 100% renewable energy use is possible are setting the bold precedents that others can follow.
Slocan council, December 9: Water rates increasing by 5%

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

The Village’s new Financial Plan calls for a 5% increase in water rates, as well as a 3% increase in garbage rates. The amendment was read to the council for the first and second time, and will be read a third time on December 23. The Village will have to allocate its 25% share of the $100,000 2019 expenses for the Village Water Plant, which will be funded from income earned on the Water Reserve, and a transfer of work responsibilities from the Main Street waterline project, and on the Village’s $59,000 portion of the cost for an unanticipated overland Public Works to the contractor, and $46,885 for repairs in June and an expected to increase by $840. The amendment will authorize the Village’s 2019-2023 Five-Year Financial Plan.

The amendment will be available for public inspection and comment. The Village’s $90,500 portion of the $530,020 2020 expenses will be funded by the Gas Tax Reserve. The Village will post notice of its intention to amend the Financial Plan Bylaw. Copies of the amendment will be available for public inspection and comment.

The amendment will be available for public inspection and comment. The Village’s $90,500 portion of the $530,020 2020 expenses will be funded by the Gas Tax Reserve.
**Kaslo Community Acupuncture Society offers community clinic**

**by Jan McMurray and Art Joyce**

A barrier-free community acupuncture clinic is starting up in Kaslo in January. Every Friday starting January 10, acupuncture treatments will be offered by donation (suggested $20-$40) at the Kaslo Seniors’ Hall from 1 to 4 pm. Everyone is welcome, and no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

The idea for the clinic came from two local acupuncturists, Leni Neumeier and Elise Arnaudin. “Elise and I felt very strongly that we needed this in Kaslo, so we formed the Kaslo Community Acupuncture Society,” Neumeier said. “Elise and I will give the acupuncture treatments at the clinic, but we have an excellent board of directors behind us, too, with people who have worked in public health care.”

Neumeier has also scheduled public presentations to explain the benefits of acupuncture and inform people about the community clinic. There will be a talk given at the Seniors’ Hall on December 20 and at the Youth Centre in January.

“The reason I came up with this idea is because people would say, ‘I would love to come but don’t have the finances,’” says Neumeier. “Here in the Kootenays it’s very real that people can’t access private health care because of finances. The society is raising money now so those who can’t donate can still be treated.”

Acupuncture is helpful in treating many illnesses, Neumeier says, but is especially valuable for addiction, mental health issues and pain management. It is also good for chemo and radiation support and pregnancy support, she adds, “but the three big ones where we see acupuncture being really very helpful are addiction, mental health and pain.

Neumeier says regular acupuncture treatments are very beneficial. “The body begins to understand that it can heal,” she says. “This is one of the strengths of the community approach – people can afford to come every week.”

Treatment takes 30-60 minutes and there are ten seats available, so Neumeier and Arnaudin can treat quite a few people during a three-hour session. Patients first complete an intake form and have a brief chat with the acupuncturist before sitting in a recliner chair for the treatment. It takes about 10 minutes to insert the needles. Patients are asked to wear loose clothing so pant legs and sleeves can be rolled up. Acupuncture points targeted include ears, head, hands and lower arms to elbow as well as from the feet to the knees.

Neumeier also says healing is enhanced in a community setting. “When you start healing together, you start plugging into another healing modality that’s in the room. The community approach is amazing and very helpful.”

She adds that intergenerational connection has also been shown to enhance healing. “We really want to have a mix of ages – it’s been shown to have positive effects when there’s interaction between younger people and older people.”

Lenis is advocating for integrating acupuncture into the public health care system. “My vision is that acupuncture becomes a public health service covered by the medical services plan, but we’re not there yet. I hope we can prove how important it is, for rural communities especially.”
The majority of the students who participated in Student Vote Day at Lucerne Elementary Secondary and Nakusp Secondary Schools recently visited the schools to thank them for their votes.

Tara Howse, Green Party candidate in the South Okanagan-West Kootenay riding in the recent federal election, visited Lucerne School on December 12 to thank the students for voting for her in the mock election at the school.

Students also had a chance to ask ‘rapid fire’ questions and find out about Howse’s favourite hobby (biking), favourite colour (green), favourite sandwich (Reuben), favourite season (fall), favourite book (George Orwell’s 1984), her pet peeve (littering), and her dog’s name (Shasta).

Howse garnered 19 votes (45%) at Lucerne’s student election, followed by Richard Cannings (NDP) with 13 votes, Sean Taylor (People’s Party of Canada) with four votes, Helena Konanz (Conservative) with four votes, and Connie Denesiuk (Liberal) with two votes.

At Nakusp Secondary, Howse received 32 votes (35%), followed by Richard Cannings (NDP) with 22 votes, Helena Konanz (Conservative) with 14 votes, Connie Denesiuk (Liberal) with 13 votes, Sean Taylor (PPC) with eight votes, and Carolina-Marie Hopkins (independent) with three votes.

Student Vote is made possible by Elections Canada and provides students with an authentic election experience. Schools that register for the program receive educational materials and election supplies. Students set up and work the polling station, and cast their ballots for the candidates running in the local riding.

submitted

The donations came in from all directions – in the mail, online and in person. The Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society is very pleased with the results of its Giving Tuesday campaign – fundraising of over $7,000, 20+ people signing up as members, and two new monthly donors.

“Thanks to all our generous donors for once again supporting the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund and your community during our Giving Tuesday 2019 campaign,” said Val Mayes of the society.

“If you haven’t yet made a donation, that’s okay! We will accept gifts and count them towards the Giving Tuesday total throughout December. Every gift helps us to make a difference to groups and projects in the Slocan Valley. Visit the ‘Donate’ page on our website,” says Val Mayes of the society.

The Apple Tree in New Denver, Sleep is for Sissies in Winlaw and the Everbean Café in Crescent Valley hosted ‘Coffee and Conversation’ events on December 3 with musicians the Wrights, Fiddle Dee Dee, and Charles Curtis.

Donations to the Legacy Fund are invested in an endowment fund, and the interest earned is used for grants. The 2020 granting cycle gets underway in early January. Application forms and guidelines will be available on the website right after the holidays, with a deadline in March and cheques presented at the society’s AGM in May.

“It’s not too early to start thinking about your idea for a project,” said Mayes. “You can help those Giving Tuesday gifts keep on giving.”

For more information and list of previous grant recipients, visit www.slocanvalleylegacy.com.
Season’s Greetings from the NACFOR
Board of Directors and Management Team

SEASON’S GREETINGS
FROM ALL OF US AT SAVE-ON FOODS

This Holiday season, shop
Save-On Foods for all your
Holiday entertaining needs.

Serving the community in Nakusp
Open 7 days a week 8 am – 7 pm

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 8 am to 6 pm
Christmas Day, Dec. 25 CLOSED
Boxing Day, Dec. 26 8 am to 6 pm
New Year’s Eve, Dec. 31 8 am to 6 pm
New Year’s Day, Jan. 1 8 am to 6 pm

The Valley Voice  December 19, 2019
COMMUNITY

Happy Holidays from all of your friends at Kootenay Savings.

www.kscu.com

The Senior Singers was one of the many musical acts at the 33rd annual Community Christmas Carol Sing hosted by the Nakusp Rotary Club at the Nakusp Secondary School gym. The event was started by Rotarians Dennis and Lenora Morehouse 33 years ago as a way of thanking the community for supporting Rotary. Dennis and Lenora have both passed on and are greatly missed by the Rotary Club and the community.

PHOTO CREDIT: JOEL PELLETIER

Slocan’s Light Up celebration took place December 1 at the Wellness Centre.

On behalf of the Staff and Board of Directors at Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services we would like to wish you all a very Merry and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Holiday Schedule:
Main Office will be open regular hours on Tues. Dec. 24
Re-opening with regular hours Fri. Dec. 27
Work BC Office will be open regular hours on Tues. Dec. 24
Closed Dec. 25 & 26
Re-opening with regular hours (8:30 - 4:30) Fri. Dec. 27
Christmas Hampers will be distributed from the Nakusp Arena on Fri. Dec. 20 between 10 am and 12 noon.
Christmas Hampers will be delivered to the Burton, Fauquier and Edgewood areas on Fri. Dec. 20.
Selkirk College launches new Indigenization plan

Submitted

The importance of continuing to strengthen Indigenization and decolonization efforts at Selkirk College has been laid out in a new document that will help the regional post-secondary institution work towards strengthening relevant programming and services for students, staff, and the greater community.

In the last week of October, Selkirk College held a launch event at the Castlegar Campus that brought together those who helped create the plan: Elders, First Nation and Métis partner governments, students, scholars, and community leaders whose support will be key to a successful and remarkable future. The focus of the speeches, drumming, singing, inter-tribal dance, live art and music, and speaker’s panel was the 12-page Indigenization Plan 2019-2024.

“This living document brings together the vision of how Selkirk College can improve participation and success in post-secondary education for Indigenous students, continue the work of decolonizing the college, and attract more Indigenous faculty and staff to the college,” says Selkirk College President Angus Graeme.

The plan is the result of several years of consultation, relationship building, and research into best practices on decolonizing and indigeneity in post-secondary education. It focuses on five main areas: governance and policy; curricula and programs; supports and services for students; employee development and tools; and facilities and infrastructure.

With learners at core, the plan provides a framework for action and desired results. The details of the plan are comprehensive with examples of measures that include further research on governance models and strategies, expansion of the Elders Program, exploring development of land-based learning in a variety of disciplines, professional development for staff, and Indigenous language being reflected in signage and campuses.

Guiding documents like the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the recent decision by the Provincial Government to pass the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Bill 41), and several already existing memoranda of understanding signed between Selkirk College and Nation governments in the region are reflected in the overall scope of the plan. “I am proud to be part of a college that is taking the steps to integrate Indigenous history and teachings into its curriculum,” says Sophia Wattnee, a student in the Human Services Diploma Program. “It was an honour to watch the unveiling of Selkirk College’s Indigenization plan, brimming with true care and respect for all.”

The entire Indigenization Plan 2019-2024 is available at selkirk.ca.

KLH Light Up campaign for cardiac ultrasound submitted

Donations to this year’s Light Up the Hospital campaign will allow the Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation to purchase a machine to perform cardiac ultrasounds.

A cardiac ultrasound, or echocardiogram, is a painless test which uses sound waves to provide detailed images of the heart to aid in diagnosis, treatment and follow-up in patients with suspected or known heart disease.

Echocardiograms are one of the most widely used diagnostic tests in cardiology, and are essential to early diagnosis of cardiac issues. Currently, approximately 95 echocardiograms are performed every month at KLH, and the wait list for this test is up to four months. The addition of another machine will allow medical staff to perform more than twice the number of echocardiograms, reducing the wait time for this essential test.

Any funds raised in excess of the goal will be directed to the purchase of other priority medical equipment for Kootenay Lake Hospital.
Season’s Greetings from the staff at Gaia Tree Whole Foods

Closed Christmas and New Year’s Day
Open 9 – 5
Christmas Eve, Boxing Day & New Year’s Eve
250-226-7255 • Hwy 6, Winlaw

Ruby Restrick of Winlaw had luck on her side at New Denver Merchants’ Night December 5. She won both the Merchants’ Night basket and the New Market Foods gift certificate and poinsettia. Pictured here is Ruby’s mom Jessica Coonen with the basket.

Ruby Restrick of Winlaw had luck on her side at New Denver Merchants’ Night December 5. She won both the Merchants’ Night basket and the New Market Foods gift certificate and poinsettia. Pictured here is Ruby’s mom Jessica Coonen with the basket.

New Denver Princess Stephanie Smith with Santa Claus at New Denver Merchants’ Night, December 5.

EAT WELL
be merry
visit the kootenay co-op for nutritious + delicious ingredients to craft your holiday feast.

Kootenay co-op

Holiday Hours: 12/24 7:30 am - 6 pm | 12/25 CLOSED | 12/26 10 am - 7 pm
12/31 7:30 am - 7 pm | 2020/01/01 CLOSED

SALES ON ALL GIFT ITEMS & SELECT FOOD ITEMS
Body care products, jewellery
DEC 23 & 24
Open Dec 24 9:30 am - 4 pm
Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day
HAPPY HOLIDAYS & BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!
Broadway St., Nakusp • 250-2650-3188
by Kathy Hartman

Eight years ago, Jennifer Cross arrived in Nakusp from Costa Rica to begin a new life. She arrived with her enthusiasm, a Professional Chocolatier Certificate and her Zobel family support. Originally from Toronto, she spent her summers at her grandmother’s in Burton and when it was time to settle down, it was Nakusp she chose. Anyone who has walked into her pink and purple building on 4th Avenue and experienced any of Jennifer’s chocolates knows Nakusp is one of the luckiest little towns in BC. Jennifer’s business has done so well that she has had to downsize this year in order to maintain her quality of life and her products. She has closed out the online store and now, aside from her retail space, sells only to the Nakusp Hot Springs.

How has a master chocolatier survived and thrived in a small Kootenay mountain town for over seven years? Jennifer and I sat down over some delicious ‘naked turtles’ to tease out what variables may have led to her success. As many a small businessperson knows, having a quality product and wonderful service does not always guarantee success. One need go no further than inside Jennifer’s Chocolate Shop or read the reviews on her website to know that her product and her customer service is superb. Jennifer attributes much of her success to great community support, solid backing from her family and her personal philosophy.

Jennifer talked about her first year working a variety of part-time jobs around Nakusp while trying to start her home-based business. She sold Valentine’s Day chocolates out of her mom’s foyer. “I did not love selling,” she said, but on days off she visited shops in Nakusp handing out chocolate samples “flashing my fancy box.” Jennifer carried that sample box everywhere and received her first sale while waitressing the Kuskanax Lodge lunch shift. Her first big break came from the community when Hoss and Jill offered her a spot in their shop for Easter 2012 and she pulled in $700. That July, she was able to move into the shop on 4th Avenue. Jennifer virtually lived in the back of the shop for the first three years, with display cases from the old general store, a used computer and a $100 bag of quality chocolate. She opened in October 2012 and has been there ever since.

I asked Jennifer what she would recommend to other businesspeople starting out. “I’m not sure I could have succeeded without the Community Futures program,” she said. She had nothing but praise for the program and the people. She talked about not just the monetary support and help with her business plan but also the emotional support they offered. Even after the program was over she was able to receive advice on accounting and payroll when she hired her first staff people.

Jennifer also stressed that keeping the business in line with her modest means was one of her keys to her success. In her first year, she would not allow herself to buy another $100 bag of chocolate until she sold $100 worth of finished chocolates. “If you are going to start a business, make the money first,” she emphasized. “Don’t go into debt.”

She is often asked by tourists if she knows how much money she could make in a place like Victoria. “Before I answer them, I ask them to read ‘The Fisherman and the Businessman’ story on my wall by the door,” she says. It’s the story of a businessman trying to talk a fisherman into working 20 years to achieve what the fisherman already has. As Jennifer says, “I didn’t come here for a hard life. I came here for a good life.” Nakusp is the luckier for it.

Jennifer Cross of Jennifer Chocolates, what is your secret?
20 COMMUNITY

Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season!
Wishing you all the best in the New Year

Holiday Hours:
December 23 - 9-6
December 24 - 9-4
December 25/26 - closed
December 27/28 - 9-6
December 31 - 9-5
January 1 - closed
January 2 - 10-5

On Tuesday, December 3, members of the Arrow Lakes Health Care Auxiliary presented a cheque to staff at Halcyon House in the amount of $25,000 to purchase new furniture.

Oriah Leeson of Nakusp played her ukulele and sang at the Rotary Christmas Carol Sing. Oriah has made it to the second round of ‘Okanagan’s got Talent.’

The Valhalla Community Choir’s Winter Concert was held on December 13 at the Silverton Memorial Hall.

Charlie’s Needful Things
Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas & Boxing Day
• Open New Year’s Day •
Otherwise Regular Hours

Season’s Greetings to all
Thank you for your support!

250-777-3789
Downtown New Denver

Raven’s Nest
Happy Holidays!
Annual Holiday Sale
Clothing & Blankets 10% Off
Everything Else 5% Off
Open Every Day thru Dec. 24

250-368-2178 • Main Street, New Denver

Happy Holidays
Columbia Basin Trust Board and staff
wish you a joyful holiday season and successful 2020

Columbia Basin trust
ourtrust.org

Kaslo Adventure Centre
344 Front St. - Kaslo
FOR ALL YOUR WINTER ADVENTURES
CLOTHING, GEAR, ACCESSORIES & MORE
STOCKING STUFFERS & GIFTS
NORDIC SKI AND SNOWSHOE RENTALS

BOXING WEEK SALES EXTRAVAGANZA
DEC. 26TH - 31ST
We Wish all our Customers a Healthy & Happy Holiday!

Open Sunday Dec 22, 10-3
Monday Dec 23, 9-5:30
Christmas Eve 9-5
Closed 25 & 26
Friday Dec 27 10-4
Saturday Dec 28 9-5

The Arrow Lakes Community Choir at the Nakusp Community Christmas Gala on December 15, sponsored by the Arrow Lakes District Arts Council Society. Local vocal artists and musicians, and visual artisans brought Christmas cheer to a full Bonnington Arts Centre.

Holly Hughes was a hit at the Rotary Christmas Carol Sing on December 4.

PHOTO CREDIT: BARBARA JANKOLA
COMMUNITY

Silverton council, December 11: SIFCo announces innovative wildfire project

by Moe Lyons

• Stephan Martineau from the Slocan Integral Forestry Co-op (SIFCo) appeared before council to provide background information on an initiative they will be undertaking in the near future—a new approach to viewing fire mitigation and prediction as a major factor in reducing carbon emissions. They will be asking Silverton to sponsor funding applications for the project.

Martineau said the project will have an even greater effect on carbon sequestration than the current regime of planting trees, because preventing wildfires will mean there will be considerably less carbon in the atmosphere. He pointed out that in 2017, BC released 65 million tons of carbon into the atmosphere, but in the big fire year of 2018, 107 million tons were released. SIFCo intends to prove that landscape-level fire mitigation plans reduce potential carbon output. Martineau says this is very complex science, and that SIFCo’s work is leading edge in this field. They will be working with computer modelling, business analytics, and behaviour analysis. He says this is effectively “creating a Word document suite where people can input their own data and predict what will happen where they are.” He says this work has not yet been done anywhere.

• Rev. George Meier and Eleanor Spangler led a delegation regarding the taxation status and sale of the former Zion United Church building.

The building now houses the Lift co-work space and is being purchased in the spring by a young couple from Tsawwassen, who will be transforming it into a second home. Council has stated its intention to change the building’s tax exemption status because they view it as no longer being used as a place of worship, but the delegation contends that its current non-profit use is in fact worship, a form of social justice ministry. Meier asked that the tax status stay as is until the sale closes in the spring. He said the funds from the sale of the church will go towards funding other activities of benefit to the community.

To facilitate the sale of the building, the property must be rezoned. Council gave staff the go-ahead to begin the rezoning process.

• The Silverton Arts Council’s request that the Silverton Gallery’s name be changed to the Slocan Lake Arts Centre was approved. In the arts council’s letter to council, they say they are “turning a new leaf on many levels” and would like the name of the building to better reflect what it offers—not just a gallery but also performance, workshop and rental spaces. Council pointed out there is no municipal funding for new signage, so it will be up to the arts council to create signage in accordance with the Village signage bylaw.

• Council approved the RDCK’s application for $150,000 for a Regional Housing Needs Assessment. The funding will be managed by the RDCK. There will be no cost to the Village.

• Appointments for 2020 were made as follows. RDCC: Barbara Fuhrer (community member); Rec Commission #6: Arlene Yofonoff, Kerry Gordon (alt.); Municipal Emergency Management: Kerry Gordon, Tanya Gordon (alt.); WKB Regional Hospital Board: Leah Main, Barbara Fuhrer (community member); Rec Commission #6: Arlene Yofonoff, T. Gordon (alt.). Community members: Eve Shandro, Monique Wood; Rosebery Parklands Community Commission: Leah Main; Slocan Lakes Art Council Liaison: Jason Clarke, Arlene Yofonoff (alt.).

• It was noted that starting on January 1, all regular council meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of the month, except for November’s meeting, which will take place on Tuesday, November 10 because of Remembrance Day.
Nakusp council, December 9: Nakusp to bring in required dog licensing

by Kathy Hartman

• The Animal Control Bylaw was amended to add dog licensing. Once the bylaw is adopted, all dog owners who reside in Nakusp for more than 30 days will be required to purchase a license for any dog older than six months. This will allow the Village to track dangerous dogs and return wandering dogs to their owners. Currently, around 25% of dogs are licensed in Nakusp. The fine for unlicensed dogs will be $100.

• The Village of Nakusp will apply for grant funding from the Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program on behalf of the Old Fire Hall Collective to create a food security plan for the Arrow Lakes Valley. The collective has several programs that address food security: the soup kitchen, community garden, Kids Can Cook program, Healthy Eating for Seniors program, Root and Branch Harvest gleaning program, seed saving and food preservation education workshops, and the Fifty-mile farmers market. The collective plans to engage individuals and organizations to develop a comprehensive food security plan.

• Council approved a recommendation by staff that the Village enter into the Bylaw Notice System for minor bylaw infractions within the Village of Nakusp. This system replaces the provincial court as the venue for resolving disputes of some minor municipal bylaw breaches, such as animal control, violation of water restrictions, refusing to obtain a business license, dumping household garbage in public bins, etc. It will not replace the Municipal Ticketing Information bylaw, which can be used for more serious infractions. Under the Bylaw Notice System, the Village will work with the BC Ministry of the Attorney General to appoint an adjudicator and establish a dispute adjudication system.

• Mayor Zeleznik reported that the December 6 ‘Celebration of Lites’ was a huge success. Many businesses reported to the Society for Nakusp Community Events (SNCE) that their shops were busy. Now that the Village owns Broadway, the SNCE (SNCE) that their shops were busy. Now the Village council, December 9: Nakusp to bring in required dog licensing

by Kathy Hartman

• The Animal Control Bylaw was amended to add dog licensing. Once the bylaw is adopted, all dog owners who reside in Nakusp for more than 30 days will be required to purchase a license for any dog older than six months. This will allow the Village to track dangerous dogs and return wandering dogs to their owners. Currently, around 25% of dogs are licensed in Nakusp. The fine for unlicensed dogs will be $100.

• The Village of Nakusp will apply for grant funding from the Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program on behalf of the Old Fire Hall Collective to create a food security plan for the Arrow Lakes Valley. The collective has several programs that address food security: the soup kitchen, community garden, Kids Can Cook program, Healthy Eating for Seniors program, Root and Branch Harvest gleaning program, seed saving and food preservation education workshops, and the Fifty-mile farmers market. The collective plans to engage individuals and organizations to develop a comprehensive food security plan.

• Council approved a recommendation by staff that the Village enter into the Bylaw Notice System for minor bylaw infractions within the Village of Nakusp. This system replaces the provincial court as the venue for resolving disputes of some minor municipal bylaw breaches, such as animal control, violation of water restrictions, refusing to obtain a business license, dumping household garbage in public bins, etc. It will not replace the Municipal Ticketing Information bylaw, which can be used for more serious infractions. Under the Bylaw Notice System, the Village will work with the BC Ministry of the Attorney General to appoint an adjudicator and establish a dispute adjudication system.

• Mayor Zeleznik reported that the December 6 ‘Celebration of Lites’ was a huge success. Many businesses reported to the Society for Nakusp Community Events (SNCE) that their shops were busy. Now that the Village owns Broadway, the SNCE now has a radon detector available for borrowing by the public. She met with the Better at Home coordinator and Seniors’ Association president, and brought forward a concern about poor lighting on 2nd Street.

• Councillor Miller was appointed to Recreation Commission #4.

Nakusp & the Arrow Lakes

The BC Community Forest Association Conference and AGM is coming to Nakusp in May 2020. There are 25 community forests in BC and Nakusp can expect at least 100 guests that week.

Councillor DeSandoli reported that the Nakusp Library now has a radon detector available for borrowing by the public.
RDCK board, December 12: Kootenay Timber Supply Areas Coalition report

by Jan McMurray

The Kootenay Timber Supply Areas Coalition had its first meeting on November 26 at St. Eugene Resort near Cranbrook. RDCK Director Garry Jackman attended and provided a report to the board. The session was set up by Canfor at the request of the premier. A Ministry of Forests representative outlined the premier’s vision for the coalition: to optimize timber supply and provide stable jobs and economic benefits to communities while maintaining competitiveness, addressing reconciliation with indigenous peoples and moving to a sustainable management framework. Participation must include forest industry, indigenous communities, local government, labour/unions and other key stakeholders including the general public. The Kootenay Coalition is made up of three timber supply areas: Invermere, Cranbrook and Kootenay Lake. Jackman asked why other timber supply areas such as Arrow Lakes are not included in this coalition, and was told the coalitions will be self defining and there will be no limit to the size they can be. Jackson said questions about the size of the territory dominated the question period. A committee was struck to propose a terms of reference, communications plan and a date for the next meeting of the entire group. The RDCK board appointed Chair Aimee Watson, Director Jackman and Director Ramona Faust to the coalition.

The board will send a letter to Minister of Environment George Heyman, requesting a meeting in early 2020, to discuss the issues regarding inclusion of the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sector in the Recycle BC program.

The board approved a contribution of $10,000 to the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society to develop an invasive species strategy for RDCK properties, such as landfills and transfer stations, fire halls, water treatment plants, recreation complexes, offices and parks. The $10,000 will come from the General Administration budget.

Staff will work with BGC Engineering to prepare an application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for $150,000 to develop an RDCK Risk Tolerance Policy.

The board agreed to extend the moratorium on the RDCK acquisition of water and wastewater systems until June 30, 2020. The moratorium has been in place since 2012.

Governance options for RDCK-owned water systems were discussed. A staff report explains that the RDCK owns 20 systems, eight of which are governed by commissions. A report done in 2013 and updated in 2017 recommends that the RDCK establish a Water Supply Board to oversee all the water systems, with RDCK staff in charge of operation and administration of the systems. This governance model would lessen RDCK exposure to risk and would allow for more efficient use of staff time. It could also facilitate the lifting of the moratorium on the acquisition of water systems. Staff will prepare a report for the board that looks into the steps for establishing an RDCK Water Supply Board.

The board approved new Regional Fire Chief Nora Hannon’s recommendation to restructure the RDCK Fire Services staffing. There continued on page 25
RDCK board, December 12: Kootenay Timber Supply Areas Coalition report

continued from page 24

will now be a full-time Regional Deputy Chief Operations, a full-time Regional Deputy Chief Training and a .71 (almost three-quarter time) Regional Assistant Fire Chief Prevention working under Hannon. The Regional Deputy Chief Operations will be responsible for operations at the RDCK’s 16 regional fire departments. The Regional Deputy Fire Chief Prevention will be responsible for the development and implementation of regional and local training programs for the 16 departments. The Regional Assistant Fire Chief Prevention will be responsible for a regional fire prevention program. This model is estimated to cost each fire department $29,431 in 2020. The previous district chief model was expected to cost approximately $31,000 per fire hall.

• The board approved the hiring of a permanent full-time Resource Recovery Operations Coordinator in January 2020. Annual salary and benefits would total $80,350.

• The board approved the hiring of one permanent full-time purchasing agent, with a start date no later than April 1, 2020, at a cost of $104,000 annually. A purchasing agent would allow the RDCK to realize significant savings, but the impact on local businesses would need to be considered, the staff report on this item says.

• Staff asked that the board approve a permanent full-time Community Services Communications & Marketing Administrator with a start date of January 2020 at a total salary and benefit cost of $72,116.38 in the first year. The board decided to consider this request by including it in the draft budget, and to make a decision on it in the context of the full budget process. The board did the same thing with the staff request to hire seven temporary staff in 2020: one corporate administration summer student ($11,000); four project site inspectors; one water operator tech for the east ($33,000); one water operator tech for the west ($19,000). These will be included in the draft budget and considered during budget discussions.

• The floodplain management bylaw was amended in response to a recent legal opinion, and to provide clarity. The staff report on this explains that a full review of the floodplain management is expected to start in 2020, and will include collaboration with municipalities.

Area D North Kootenay Lake

• Chair Aimee Watson reported that construction of the Gar Creek water system in Johnsons Landing has been completed. Eight years after the devastating landslide took out the water system and many many volunteer hours later, the water system has been replaced. “Kudos to all who worked endless hours on this massive project,” Watson says.

The Gar Creek Water Users Association wrote a letter to the RDCK board, thanking them for their help with the project. “We are happy to be now drinking fresh clear water from upper Gar Creek where it runs through a deep forest into an intricate intake leading to 1.5 kilometres of waterline, which is buried 4 feet underground and monitored by 2 engineered pressure reducer valves. It was a long, exhausting and expensive project. It is now a reality with the help of several professionals, hired local workers, many, many volunteers, a dedicated board, and first of all the funding opportunities that you helped manifest.”

• Richard Brenton, Area D resident and life member of the West Kootenay Woodlot Association, submitted a petition. The petition asked for a report to be made to the board. “Since Local Government is increasing its interest in forest tenures in accordance with manifest,” Brenton explained in an interview: “Ron’s job hasn’t changed, but how he is supervised has. His jobs to Community Futures and Community Futures will report to us. He is still ultimately responsible to the Slocan Valley local governments, but the channels of communication and supervision have changed.”

Area K Arrow Lakes

• The Fauquier water project will cost $58,000 – substantially more than expected. The original project scope involved replacing three valves ($20,000) plus a treatment plant pilot project ($15,000). As it turns out, two more valves need to be replaced, and the pilot project has been postponed to 2020. The project cost is being covered by funds in reserve for the water system.

Futures will now administer the contract and supervise the work of Ron LeBlanc, Slocan Valley Economic Development Coordinator. Originally, the local governments in the Slocan Valley had formed a partnership to manage the program. Leah Main, chair of the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, explained in an interview: “Ron’s job hasn’t changed, but how he is supervised has. His jobs to Community Futures and Community Futures will report to us. He is still ultimately responsible to the Slocan Valley local governments, but the channels of communication and supervision have changed.”
**Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom.**

http://eckankarblog.org/sound-of-soul

generally of age, background, or religion. and attitudes. Anyone can work with the HU

tings happen the way they do in your life. It

deepen understanding of yourself and why

**SINGING HU EACH DAY**
can lead to a

**HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU**

**NEW MARKET FOODS**

319 6th Ave • New Denver

250-358-2759 Fax: 250-358-2760

email: newmarketfoods@rogers.com

Our hours are 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

**Gaia Tree Whole Foods**

Community Market

• All Organic Produce
• All Organic Grains

– Bulk Ordering –

Community Discount Day: Last Friday of the month

Mon-Sat 9:30 to 5:30

Downtown Winlaw • 250-226-7255

**Glassy**

**RESTAURANTS**

**HOURS**

9 AM - 9 PM

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY

PIZZA & BURGERS ANYTIME!

265-4880

Air Conditioned

93-5 Ave. Nakusp

**GROCERY • HEALTH FOOD • MEAT**

**SINGING HU EACH DAY** can lead to a deeper understanding of yourself and why things happen the way they do in your life. It opens your all awareness to new viewpoints and attitudes. Anyone can work with the HU regardless of age, background, or religion. http://eckankarblog.org/sound-of-soul Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom.

**ARE ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS a problem in your life? AA, NA, or AL-ANON (family) meetings can help. For information on AA: in New Denver, 250-358-7158; Nakusp, 362-4216; Kaslo, 353-9617; Pymoor Junction, 226-7522. For NA: New Denver, 538-7265. For AL-ANON (family): New Denver, 260-531-6540. Please, if you can’t get through, try another number.**

**CARPENTER CREEK LAST WISHES SOCIETY** provides information on preplanning for death and advice for alternative funeral arrangements. Ph: 250-777-9764. www.carpentercreeklaswishessociety.ca


**HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW been sexually assaulted and want help? Call the Interior Crisis Line 24/7 at 1-888-353-CARE to discuss your options or help?**

**Next Valley Voice Deadline: January 10, 2020**

**SECOND TO LAST PAGE**

**Business Classifieds**

ad space available until January 10.

**Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription**

Only $10-$30

Email cover letter and resume by January 6 to valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca.

degree/ diploma and/or experience required. writing informative and accurate articles

**Valley Voice** to cover primarily the news of

**PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED**
at the

**HELP WANTED**

FULL TIME REPORTER/ PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED at the Valley Voice to cover primarily the news of Nakusp and Kaslo. The job entails writing all types of community news stories, and includes covering council meetings, school board meetings, court hearings and community events. We are looking for a self-starter with a desire to live in the rural West Kootenay region, and who is committed to writing informative and accurate articles in a clear and engaging style. Journalism degree/diploma and/or experience required. Email cover letter and resume by January 6 to valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca.

**NOTICES**

**SINGING HU EACH DAY** can lead to a deeper understanding of yourself and why things happen the way they do in your life. It opens your all awareness to new viewpoints and attitudes. Anyone can work with the HU regardless of age, background, or religion. http://eckankarblog.org/sound-of-soul Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom.

**ARE ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS a problem in your life? AA, NA, or AL-ANON (family) meetings can help. For information on AA: in New Denver, 250-358-7158; Nakusp, 362-4216; Kaslo, 353-9617; Pymoor Junction, 226-7522. For NA: New Denver, 538-7265. For AL-ANON (family): New Denver, 260-531-6540. Please, if you can’t get through, try another number.**

**CARPENTER CREEK LAST WISHES SOCIETY** provides information on preplanning for death and advice for alternative funeral arrangements. Ph: 250-777-9764. www.carpentercreeklaswishessociety.ca


**HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW been sexually assaulted and want help? Call the Interior Crisis Line 24/7 at 1-888-353-CARE to discuss your options or help?**

**Next Valley Voice Deadline: January 10, 2020**

**SECOND TO LAST PAGE**

**Business Classifieds**

ad space available until January 10.

**Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription**

Only $10-$30
Inge Geneg, Silverton’s Ice Lady, is still at it. “Again I am enjoying my winter swim twice a day,” she says.

The Silverton Community Club provides $400 to the New Denver-Silverton and area Christmas Sharing program.

The Kaslo Christmas Faire at the Legion Hall in Kaslo on December 7 offered lots of local arts and crafts.

Sandra and Cedric McPhail participated in the LEGO building session at the Angry Hen Craft Brewery in Kaslo as part of the Kaslo Light Up celebration on December 7.
From the Hill: Parliament reopens

On Sunday December 1, I returned to Ottawa to prepare for the opening of the 43rd Parliament. Last week I was given my shadow cabinet roles – critic for Natural Resources and deputy critic for Transport. I was the critic for Natural Resources for the last four years so know that file well, and issues of transport intersect natural resources in many ways.

On Monday I met with a diverse group of people from the energy sector across the country at the Positive Energy lunch. We had a spirited debate over the “go big or go home” question – should future energy projects concentrate on large infrastructure such as hydro dams and pipelines, or should we instead promote distributed energy production such as roof-top solar and energy efficient buildings? My take-away was that the smaller production initiatives would be both sufficient and quicker, if combined with critical efficiency programs and large-scale distribution projects and smart grid regulation changes.

On Tuesday I met with a Senator to plan the roll-out of KBRH access changes due to construction submitted by Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan-West Kootenay

On Sunday December 1, I returned to Ottawa to prepare for the opening of the 43rd Parliament. Last week I was given my shadow cabinet roles – critic for Natural Resources and deputy critic for Transport. I was the critic for Natural Resources for the last four years so know that file well, and issues of transport intersect natural resources in many ways.

On Monday I met with a diverse group of people from the energy sector across the country at the Positive Energy lunch. We had a spirited debate over the “go big or go home” question – should future energy projects concentrate on large infrastructure such as hydro dams and pipelines, or should we instead promote distributed energy production such as roof-top solar and energy efficient buildings? My take-away was that the smaller production initiatives would be both sufficient and quicker, if combined with critical efficiency programs and large-scale distribution projects and smart grid regulation changes.

On Tuesday I met with a Senator to plan the roll-out of KBRH access changes due to construction submitted by Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan-West Kootenay

On Sunday December 1, I returned to Ottawa to prepare for the opening of the 43rd Parliament. Last week I was given my shadow cabinet roles – critic for Natural Resources and deputy critic for Transport. I was the critic for Natural Resources for the last four years so know that file well, and issues of transport intersect natural resources in many ways.

On Monday I met with a diverse group of people from the energy sector across the country at the Positive Energy lunch. We had a spirited debate over the “go big or go home” question – should future energy projects concentrate on large infrastructure such as hydro dams and pipelines, or should we instead promote distributed energy production such as roof-top solar and energy efficient buildings? My take-away was that the smaller production initiatives would be both sufficient and quicker, if combined with critical efficiency programs and large-scale distribution projects and smart grid regulation changes.

On Tuesday I met with a Senator to plan the roll-out of KBRH access changes due to construction submitted by Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan-West Kootenay

Patients and visitors are advised that access to Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital (KBRH) has changed to the walkway that runs around the construction zone. Signage will be in place to direct people to the right place.

A shuttle vehicle remains available to drive anyone who requires assistance from their cars in the parking lot to the hospital access.

Interior Health is urging anyone coming to the hospital to follow signage and direction from flaggers if they are on site. Please allow for additional time for parking whenever possible prior to a scheduled appointment or visit to the hospital.

The overall project will result in significant improvements to emergency department care and other care at KBRH, says Interior Health, and it “will continue to do everything possible to minimize the impacts to patients and visitors during construction. We regret any inconvenience residents may experience due to this temporary change and the ongoing construction work.”

患者和访客被通知，进入库特内边界区域医院（KBRH）的方式已改变为绕过施工区域的步道。将会有指示牌以指引人们至正确地点。

一辆专车仍可用以运送任何需要帮助的人员从其车辆到医院。

 Interior Health 表示，医院正努力尽一切可能将对患者及访客的影响减至最低。“我们将继续尽一切可能确保医院的紧急科和其他科室照常运作。我们对此期间的任何不便表示遗憾。”
Our Ferry Matters pleased to have Kootenay Lake ferry back to regular hours

Our Ferry Matters, the grassroots group that has advocated for months for safe, reliable and sustainable ferry service on Kootenay Lake, is excited that an official agreement has been reached in the labour dispute between Western Pacific Marine and the BC Government and Service Employees’ Union (BCGEU).

“Our members are thrilled and relieved to know that we now have stability for the long-term on this essential transportation route between Balfour and Kootenay Bay,” says Megan Rokeby-Thomas, an initiator of Our Ferry Matters and owner of Ladybug Coffee by the Kootenay Bay ferry terminal. “Thank you to everyone involved!”

Our Ferry Matters is advocating for the speedy creation of a Kootenay Lake Ferry Advisory Committee as a mechanism for ensuring community input to the ferry operations. The committee is stipulated in the Province’s past contract with Western Pacific Marine but was not active. Disruption of ferry service throughout the summer had significant negative effects on local businesses as well as citizens with concerns about essential access to healthcare and education services.

“We brought together people from all areas and interests around the lake through our Unity Sailings, website and Facebook communication, media presence and ongoing monitoring and discussions – all encouraging speedy resolution,” says Rokeby-Thomas. “We thank the community for all its support and efforts to provide a strong neutral voice during this labour dispute!”

Our Ferry Matters included support from many members of the East Shore community, the Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Ballour & District Business & Historic Association as well as Chambers in Creston, Kaslo, Nelson, Castlegar, the International Selkirk Loop, Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism and many others.
COMMUNITY

All of the management and staff of Spectrum Home & Family Care wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

by Jan McMurray

Bass players and drummers were the lucky targets of Selkirk College’s Contemporary Music & Technology program this year. The college offered scholarships to students who entered the program in September. One of the recipients was bassist James Lerch of Slocan Park, who graduated from Mt. Sentinel Secondary School in June.

“The Selkirk music program has been such a great experience,” Lerch says. “Everyone, from faculty to student, has been very supportive which makes for a unique and epic learning experience. The support of the college and getting awarded the bass scholarship has been a huge help in achieving my dream of writing music that will resonate with people so I can help make the world shine a little bit brighter.”

Lerch says he wants to start a band, become an audio engineer, or do both. After completing the two-year program at Selkirk, he says he is considering staying on for a third year and producing an album with the help of the instructors and students.

When he was 12, Lerch started playing acoustic guitar but was “forced to switch to bass” when his bass playing brother wanted a turn on the acoustic. “I didn’t enjoy it at first, until I started to realize that bass isn’t about the notes – it’s about the groove,” he said. “Now playing bass is my favourite thing to do. It’s funny how sometimes something you don’t like at first ends up being one of the best things that ever happened to you.”

Lerch used to suffer from anxiety and depression, and he found listening to music relaxed him and gave him motivation and confidence. “I would love to think that someday music I write or produce will help someone the same way it’s helped me.”

Melody Diachun, music program coordinator at Selkirk, says these new scholarships were set up to attract strong players on instruments other than guitar and voice. “Rhythm is the most important thing in music. Together, a bass player and drummer are the heartbeat of a band,” she says. “Music programs tend to be heavily populated with singers and guitarists. These new scholarships were set up to attract strong players on other instruments, this year on bass and drums. The greater the variety of players in the program, the better!”

For nominations, the music faculty considered applicants’ auditions and entrance test scores. Other recipients were Ryan Palm of Parksville and Dexton Gibson of Trail, and bassist James Still of Williams Lake. They were awarded the scholarships at a semester kick-off concert during orientation week at Shambhala Music & Performance Hall.

Bassist James Lerch of Slocan Park, who graduated from Mt. Sentinel Secondary School in June, has won a scholarship from Selkirk College.

Award-winning author Terry Fallis coming to Slocan submitted

The Slocan Community Library hosts celebrated Canadian novelist Terry Fallis on Saturday, January 18 at 1 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion in Slocan. He will read from his latest novel, Albatross.

Fallis is a two-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour for his novels The Best Laid Plans and No Relation. After self-publishing his first novel, Fallis came to Slocan back in 2010 for the library’s inaugural reading. Since then he has penned six more novels and has garnered much acclaim in the literary world. He is an articulate and engaging speaker and will undoubtedly have you laughing in the aisles.

Albatross is a clever and funny book about a nerdy Toronto high schooler, Adam Coryell, who is obsessed with writing and fountain pens. Becoming a golf prodigy is not what Adam aspired to – in fact, he finds the sport rather boring. Nonetheless, he soldiers on with golf and struggles with the fame and fortune that follows him, when all he really wants is to become a writer and, of course, win over his high school sweetheart.

The novel will keep you laughing and of course cheering for Adam in his pursuit for a meaningful life.

A book signing follows the free event.

Village of Silverton
Holiday Schedule
December 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPEN Garbage</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 Office CLOSED</td>
<td>NO garbage</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Office CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Office CLOSED</td>
<td>27 Garbage</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Office CLOSED</td>
<td>NO garbage</td>
<td>JAN.1 Office CLOSED</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Office CLOSED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please Note: Garbage pick up will be moved to Fri. Dec 27, 2019.

The Village Office will be CLOSED December 24 – Jan. 2, 2019. And will re open January 7, 2020! Season’s Greetings!
Please Call Me Out and Post Me in Your Home!

Willet Solar Energy

Frozen battery in your boat, golf cart or off grid solar system? We have just received a shipment of Silicate Gel Batteries. These deep cycle batteries are sealed and have a life cycle exceeding twice that of conventional lead acid batteries. They are maintenance and corrosion free. Available in both 6 volt and 12 volt.

12V 19AH
24V 9AH

Providing solar energy systems in the Kootenays for over 5 years.

Same folks, different name.

willetsolesarenergy@gmail.com

250-366-4290

Village of Silverton
Holiday Schedule
December 2019

Please Note: There will be NO garbage pick up on Dec, 24 or 31, 2019.

The Village Office will be CLOSED December 24 – Jan. 2, 2019.
And will re open January 7, 2020! Season’s Greetings!
Please Call Me Out and Post Me in Your Home!
Call for submissions: mountain film fest

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival returns to the Silverton Memorial Hall on February 29. This year marks the 14th anniversary of this annual community event. Thanks to the People’s Choice Award sponsors

submitted

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival returns to the Silverton Memorial Hall on February 29. This year marks the 14th anniversary of this annual community event. Thanks to the People’s Choice Award sponsors

submitted

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival returns to the Silverton Memorial Hall on February 29. This year marks the 14th anniversary of this annual community event. Thanks to the People’s Choice Award sponsors

submitted

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival returns to the Silverton Memorial Hall on February 29. This year marks the 14th anniversary of this annual community event. Thanks to the People’s Choice Award sponsors

submitted

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival returns to the Silverton Memorial Hall on February 29. This year marks the 14th anniversary of this annual community event. Thanks to the People’s Choice Award sponsors

submitted

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival returns to the Silverton Memorial Hall on February 29. This year marks the 14th anniversary of this annual community event. Thanks to the People’s Choice Award sponsors

submitted

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival returns to the Silverton Memorial Hall on February 29. This year marks the 14th anniversary of this annual community event. Thanks to the People’s Choice Award sponsors

submitted

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival returns to the Silverton Memorial Hall on February 29. This year marks the 14th anniversary of this annual community event. Thanks to the People’s Choice Award sponsors

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Short Films & Digital Slideshows

Submissions deadline

JANUARY 31, 2020

Cash Prize
for best three films

People’s Choice Award

Touched by you

Valhalla Mountain Touring

Ambler and Ice Creek Lodge

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO

NVFF

Box 419, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

SUBMISSION INFO

northvalleyfilmfest@gmail.com

250 353 8694

NorthValleyFilmFestival.com

Facebook.com/NorthValleyFilmFestival

Fundraiser for

North Kootenay Trails Society

SPONSORED BY

Saddles Mountain

Dental Clinc

Season’s Greetings

from the

Saddle Mountain

Dental Clinc

Holiday Hours:

Office Closed December 20 – January 6

Office Reopens 9:00 am, January 7, 2020

Dr. Tanner Dobson will be around to deal with dental emergencies

Christmas hours:

Dec. 24 – 8 am - 8 pm

Dec. 25 – Valley Foods closed & Hilltop Convenience open 12-4

Dec. 26 – 8 am - 10 pm

Dec. 31 – 8 am - 9 pm

Jan. 1 – 9 am - 9 pm

Wishing all our customers a safe and happy holiday season and all the best in the New Year from the Smiths and Staff.