Qat’muk and Jumbo to remain wild in Ktunaxa-led Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area

by Jan McMurray

The immense effort to keep Jumbo wild has come to a wildly happy conclusion. On January 18 at a celebration in Cranbrook, Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) Chair Kathryn Teneese announced that Qat’muk, an area in the Central Purcell mountains that includes Jumbo Valley, will become an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA). It will remain wild.

“The Jumbo Glacier Resort, a source of great conflict for the last 30 years, will not be built now, or ever,” says a press release issued by the KNC. All tenures and interests held by Glacier Resorts Ltd. have been bought out for $21 million – $16.1 million from the federal government’s Canada Nature Fund and a total of $5 million from the Columbia Basin Trust, Patagonia, the Wyss Foundation, Wilburforce Foundation and Donner Canadian Foundation. The agreements made with Glacier Resorts Ltd. mean that “development of the Jumbo Glacier Resort Municipality was unlawful and unconstitutional, even though we lost. We’re looking forward to hearing that the municipality will be dismantled.”

Montana Burgess thanking everyone for their efforts to keep Jumbo wild, including the grizzly bears and other wildlife that still roam freely in the Purcell Mountains.

According to the KNC press release, the creation of the IPCA will take several years of collaboration between the KNC, the federal and provincial governments, and other parties. The boundaries of the IPCA are expected to be finalized by the end of 2020, but the KNC envisions the area spanning about 70,000 hectares immediately north of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy and encompassing the Jumbo Valley and parts of adjacent watersheds. Background information included with the press release promises “comprehensive community engagement” with East and West Kootenay communities in IPCA planning.

The two overarching goals of the IPCA are to protect biodiversity and to support Ktunaxa cultural values, the back grounder says. The IPCA contributes to Canada’s target to conserve at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020. The Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality’s status will be determined by the Province in the future, the back grounder says. In a statement issued by West Kootenay EcoSociety Executive Director Montana Burgess thanking everyone for their efforts to keep Jumbo wild, she said, “I’m proud that we took the Province to court in 2012 arguing that the creation of the Jumbo Glacier Resort Municipality was unlawful and unconstitutional, even though we lost. We’re looking forward to hearing that the municipality will be dismantled.”

Wildsight was one of many organizations to receive a plaque in appreciation of their work to keep Qat’muk wild at a January 18 celebration in Cranbrook. L to R: Kathryn Teneese, chair of Ktunaxa Nation, Robyn Duncan, executive director of Wildsight, John Bergenske, conservation director of Wildsight, Chief Alfred Joseph, Akisqnuk First Nation.

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Companies involved in local Willa and Max Mines breach BC Securities Act

by Jan McMurray

The former owner (MX Gold) and the current owner (Cameo Industries) of two local mines – the Willa Mine near Silverton and the Max Mines and Red Mountain – have breached the BC Securities Act. Both companies, with the same man in a leadership role, disclosed information publicly that was not supported by appropriate scientific or technical evidence.

Akash Patel, former MX Gold vice president and former Cameo Industries president and CEO, was fined $20,000 as part of a settlement agreement that was announced in December 2019 in a press release issued by the BC Securities Commission. He must also take a course and is prohibited for one year from being a director or officer of any reporting issuer and from engaging in investor relations activities.

“It’s hardly even a wrist slap, but maybe a lesson to be somewhat skeptical and careful about junior miner adventurism in our area,” said Rick Tegeler, a member of the mines committee of the Kootenay Rockies Resource Alliance (RMRA) near Red Mountain. Tegeler added that the RMRA mining committee is “in 125 years, no one has any significance has been processed from the site.”

The RMRA mining committee has been around since the 1980s and has seen a string of owners at the Willa Mine, which is situated near residences and residential water sources on Red Mountain Road. Gibbons says the property is “the noise and all the implications of having a potential mine there,” Gibbons said. “They come in and make a mess and leave a mess. Then, after their stock market shenanigans, they just walk away and change their name for bankruptcy. That’s why we had to ask the ministry to clean up the mess left at Willa.”

Last fall, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources submitted the results of an independent investigation work at the Willa Mine after the RMRA alerted the ministry to some serious safety concerns. Gibbons says the mine had been in a dangerous state of neglect since MX Gold had abandoned it in late 2016. Huge rocks above the lower portal entrance were very unstable, the security at the pit was good, but over Aylwin Creek to the upper portal was disintegrating and the slope was severely eroded.

Open portals and damaged fencing are an invitation to curious explorers, so we were really concerned,” Gibbons said. “We’re thankful that the ministry has gone in and done a good job of mitigating the immediate danger.”

The mitigation work was done by local contractors. Gibbons says the aim is “that the mining company’s security deposit covered some of the costs, with the ministry picking up the shortfall.”

“ar mining committee at the RMRA mining committee is ‘as long as it is done correctly under the appropriate processes and parameters, particularly keeping in mind domestic and lake water quality issues. The real question that needs addressing in the Willa Mine is whether there are serious miners with adequate financial resources, or are they stock manipulators masquerading as mining companies?”

In October 2019, Cameo Industries filed a technical report for the MAX Mine and Mill that states re-opening the facility is viable, following environmental and safety concerns. Gibbons said the noise and all the implications of having a potential mine there,” Gibbons said. “They come in and make a mess and leave a mess. Then, after their stock market shenanigans, they just walk away and change their name for bankruptcy. That’s why we had to ask the ministry to clean up the mess left at Willa.”

Companies involved with local Willa and Max Mines breach BC Securities Act


dated February 15

submitted

The Provincial Trials Advisory Body, co-chaired by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRDO) and the Outdoor Recreation Council, began a process to complete a formal review of the trails strategy. As a result of the review, the ministry will examine the continued relevance and importance of the trail strategy to First Nations, recreationists, communities, stakeholders and the province as a whole. The process will engage with key stakeholders from across the outdoor recreation sector and government; gathering information and feedback from a variety of trail users and land managers throughout the province; reviewing literature on the importance and value of trails; identifying trends in trail usage including challenges and opportunities; and determining the status of implementation of the trails strategy’s 22 action items.

British Columbians are invited to provide their opinions and ideas on the provincial trails strategy by participating in the engagement process online. Feedback will be accepted until Feb. 28, 2020, at 4 p.m. For more information, contact Nadine at: nadia@netidea.com/250-608-0773 or Antoinette at alhalber@gmail.com.

National Trail Arts Council coffeeshop rescheduled for February 15

submitted

The Valley Voice January 30, 2020
Twelve Indigenous youth arrested outside Mungall’s Victoria office

by Jan McMurray

Twelve Indigenous youth were arrested just outside Michelle Mungall’s office in Victoria in the early morning of January 22, just hours before she was shuffled out of her post as Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The youth, standing in solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en, were protesting the Coastal GasLink Pipeline project.

The youth arrived at the BC government building on the morning of January 21 and delivered a letter to Minister Mungall asking her to do everything in her power to make sure four demands from the Wet’suwet’en Hereditary Chiefs were met. The demands are: that the Province cease construction of the CGL project and suspend permits; that the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the right to free, prior and informed consent are respected by the state and RCMP; that the RCMP and associated security and policing services be withdrawn from Wet’suwet’en lands, in agreement with the most recent letter provided by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination’s request; that the provincial and federal governments, RCMP and private industry employed by CGL respect Wet’suwet’en laws and governance system, and refrain from using any force to access Wet’suwet’en lands or remove Wet’suwet’en people.

Police were called in at 11 am, and, according to a Victoria Police Department press release, spent 15 hours trying to resolve the situation without arrests. “Despite numerous efforts over 15 hours to resolve the situation without arrests, officers were requested to remove the protesters by the building owner once negotiations failed. Officers acted under the lawful authority of the Trespass Act to effect these arrests.” The release goes on to say that the arrests took four hours, as police had to carry the protesters from inside the building to police vehicles waiting outside. It says police used “the minimal amount of force” and explained each step of the arrest process to each protestor.

Police report that additional protestors outside the building tried to impede the arrests, and one of these protestors outside was also taken into custody. All protestors were taken to the Victoria Police Department cells. There were no injuries and no charges have been sworn, the release states.

North Kootenay Lake to shape its own economic future

Submitted

Reinventing the economy of North Kootenay Lake is a top priority in 2020. Recent challenges in forestry, the changing landscape of agriculture, the rise of remote working and a wide range of tourism opportunities creates an exciting time for residents of North Kootenay Lake to look ahead together, and build a strategy to shape the region’s future.

The Village of Kaslo and Regional District of Central Kootenay Area D are teaming up to develop a shared vision for the region’s economy. In the fall of 2019, Factor 5, an award-winning social enterprise designed to co-create sustainable communities, was contracted to support the development of an economic development and marketing strategy for North Kootenay Lake.

“Thanks to the financial support of the Province of British Columbia and the Columbia Basin Trust, we have economic development experts working closely with staff, volunteers and local organizations to custom design a strategy that drives prosperity in the region,” said Kaslo Mayor Suzan Hewat.

North Kootenay Lake Economic Development and Marketing Strategy will be developed over the course of 2020. “At the heart of the strategy is constructive input from local businesses, community organizations and residents. Throughout the process, we will be looking for ways to involve everyone in choosing the future and charting the path forward for the region,” said Aimee Watson, Area D director.

The first public event is an Economic Development Open House scheduled for Tuesday February 11, 2020 at 1 pm at the Village of Kaslo Office. It will be hosted by the Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission (EDC), in partnership with the Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce. “Businesses, residents and community organizations are invited to connect with economic development experts, public officials and volunteers about economic development priorities and explore how they can be part of shaping the region’s future,” said Jeff Davie, treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce and EDC commissioner.

Early priorities identified by the commission include being proactive in fostering sustainable growth, developing key community features, addressing workforce challenges, building community capacity and promoting self-reliance and vitality across the region.

Following the open house in February, there will be a series of roundtables to pull together businesses and stakeholders to discuss key challenges and opportunities in some of the region’s most important sectors. To get involved in shaping the region’s economic future, visit www.northkootenaylake.ca or follow social media at Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

MLA Mungall named new Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness

by Jan McMurray

A small cabinet shuffle on January 22 saw Nelson-Creston MLA Michelle Mungall switch portfolios with BruceRalston. Mungall is now Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness while Ralston is now Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

The only other change was that Anne Kang was appointed Minister of Citizens’ Services.

“I am looking forward to building BC’s economic strength even further while also bringing my rural perspective to this important role,” said Mungall.

A government press release says that in her new post, Mungall will continue to promote BC’s tech sector, economic growth in communities around the province and support business competitiveness. She will be responsible for trade, and engage with industry associations and major sectors on government’s approach to quality economic growth.

Hired Equipment Registration West Kootenay District

The West Kootenay District of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is creating a list of registered Equipment for Hire for the 2020/2021 fiscal year, which begins April 1, 2020.

All individuals or companies who are currently registered through the ministry’s offices in Nelson or Grand Forks will receive forms by mail to re-register their equipment for the coming fiscal year.

Individuals or companies who were not registered in 2019; or who wish to have their equipment listed, are invited to visit or phone the Nelson or Grand Forks office to obtain this appropriate registration forms or visit the ministry website at the address listed below.

You will be required to have Commercial (Comprehensive) General Liability Insurance with minimum $2 million third-party liability and a WorkSafe BC clearance letter before starting work on any ministry project.

Only owned or lease-to-own equipment is eligible for registration. Equipment can only be registered in one area in any given year. Seniority is not transferable from area to area.

The deadline for registrations is March 18, 2020. Late registrations will be accepted, but may appear at the bottom of the open list. Note that there is no charge for registering equipment or for changing or deleting equipment information already listed.

For more information or to register, visit govt.bc.ca/hiredequipment

or call or visit one of these offices by March 18, 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>310 Ward Street, 4th Floor</td>
<td>7290 2nd Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson, B.C.</td>
<td>Grand Forks, B.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250 354-6798</td>
<td>250 442-4384</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

British Columbia
Open letter to MLA Katrine Conroy re: Wet’suwet’en

First, I want you to know that I voted for the NDP in the last BC election, and now I am wondering if I will ever do that again. I am dismayed at the attitude Premier Horgan is taking with the Wet’suwet’en, even after BC signed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples last November with much fanfare. I am not only one of my area appalled at the situation and how the BC government is dealing with the issue of the pipeline through Indigenous territory. I do not see the principles I voted for in this BC government

I urge you to do whatever is in your capacity to stop the militarized RCMP to resolve the situation through force, but rather through a negotiating table. The Wet’suwet’en have the right to have a say on what happens in their Indigenous territory.

Mariah Grau
Silverton

Marilyn Burгон – an inspiration

Marilyn Burgon is gone. I never met her, but I am devastated. She was so much more than a nice person, a good mother, and a good grandmother.

When Executive Flight spilled a truckload of jet fuel into Lemon Creek, the company reacted with not much more than, “Oops, Sorry.” Government agencies weren’t much better. Basically their reaction was, “Oh, That’s unfortunate.” Fish and songbirds were killed. Dozens of people and their animals were without water. Too bad.

Without water, there is no life. Water, clean drinking water, should be sacred. Should be protected. It isn’t. Not in British Columbia. If someone, anyone, pollutes, contaminates, diverts or destroys your source of drinking water, the authorities give you sympathy, but not much else. The Drinking Water Protection Act has no teeth. It has no sanctions. It is unenforceable.

When no one did anything about the Lemon Creek fuel spill, it was Marilyn Burgon who, with legal advice from Liliana Lysenko, brought criminal charges against both Executive Flight and the British Columbia government. ONE woman tackled not only a corporation but the provincial government.

Her death is a huge loss for all of us, including wildlife and vegetation.

The one way we can honour her memory is to stand up and fight. Fight for clean drinking water, intact watersheds, and that most precious carbon sink: our forests.

I will sorely miss your inspiration and your courage, Marilyn. May your indomitable spirit inspire all of us.

Elsje de Boer
Fauquier

Open letter to Minister of Transportation re: electric ferry proposal for Kootenay Lake

We have changed the date for full electric propulsion to 2030 from 2040, but we still find this completely unacceptable, in light of the dire climate crisis we are now in. How many thousands of tons of GHG will be emitted by the diesel motors between installation in 2022 and 2030?

We have such an opportunity here to mitigate those emissions by starting out as a fully electric ferry. We have the technology now, and in fact at Corvus Energy, right here in BC. Have our government marine engineers taken the trouble to travel to Norway to see the new electric ferries in action (now for several years) and talk with engineers there about any problems? And as you noted, they are using electric ferries in Finland, Sweden and Ontario already. We already have prototypes to follow; we just need the will. BBC News reports that operating costs of electric ferries are one quarter of the costs of diesel ferries, and electric motors need minimal maintenance.

We have an obligation to do this incremental improvements and a ‘long-term, systematic approach to electrification.’ We do not have a ‘long-term’ anymore in which to act, to mitigate the climate emergency. And any expense imposed now for electric ferries will pale in comparison to the massive expenses we are going to incur with the increasing extreme weather events now occurring and prognosticated to come. In fact, the UN’s annual emissions report released in November states that we are on track for 3.2 degrees of warming if we continue as we are, and we will have an unlivable planet.

It states that the world is not doing enough, that we must transition off fossil fuels as fast as possible.

We hope you will reconsider your configuration of this new vessel to an 100% electric ferry, and use the opportunity to have a prototype for the other inland ferries.

Mary Donald
Nelson-Creston Green Party Riding Association, Riondel

Honouring Marilyn Burgon

With an aching warm heart, I take a moment to honour Marilyn Burgon, who died on December 18, 2019. Marilyn had the qualities of an environmental Joan of Arc: persistence, tenacity and a reverence for nature. From her work in a Montreal law office and her subsequent apprenticeship as an activist under Colleen McCrory of the Valhalla Wilderness Society, Marilyn had a sophisticated appreciation for litigation as a weapon for social justice. Her belief in the rule of law did not stop her from blocking against the logging on Perry Ridge. Her fidelity was both to the law, the land and the community.

At the break of dawn, she and her beloved, Barry, would cross-country ski to the Valhalla Whole School to light the fireplaces in the depths of winter. When Eva Orr lead a renaissance of Sinixt presence in Vallican, Marilyn recognized the integrity of her movement, leading to decades of alliance with Marilyn James in the fight for Aboriginal consultation rights. I have said many times – I feel so honoured to have worked for those women.

The Burgoons fought tirelessly for the preservation of water quality at McFayden Creek and throughout Perry Ridge... ultimately working with the Sinixt to obtain an injunction against logging pending the determination of Aboriginal rights issues. When the 2013 fuel spill tragically hit Lemon Creek, Marilyn did not wait around for the regulator to hold the assailants responsible. Rather, she brought her own private prosecution, which was subsequently picked up by federal prosecutors in proceedings against the Province of British Columbia and the private parties allegedly responsible for the spill.

Marilyn was wise, effective and oh so cool. She did not wear her environmental activism as a form of community membership, personal identity or social status. She was in it for the cause and she had no patience for ego-driven activism. Marilyn was the real thing... a real example of what it takes to discharge our responsibility to the land and to future generations. I will miss her dearly.

David Aaron Nelson
Vaccination vs. natural immunity

What we really learn from the tragic Samos measles outbreak is that poverty and malnutrition kill the young and vulnerable in our communities. Lack of nourishing food, clean water, sanitation and lack of appropriate medical care are reasons why malnourished children living in squallid conditions die.

Here in the western world, we cleaned up the societal conditions that spawed the 1918 pandemic. Our society, far stronger and more resilient to the pandemic, is prepared with vaccines. It is this vaccine that will prevent the worst of the disease.

So I'm reminded of my experience with the vaccine, when I was about five – feeling delirious and out of body with high fever – my grannie put cool wet cloths on my forehead to help soothe my hot forehead. It was 1947, just after the war and we were refugees waiting to come to Canada. Staying warm in bed, drinking lots of fluids, drifting in and out of sleep under grannie's watchful eye, within a week the big sickness was over. Now that we can only imagine what some perspective on measles and the mass hysteria that breaks out every time a few cases pop up here and there.

I am a witness to the paradigm shift in medicine and health history – the capture of a once seemingly rational, mostly intelligently composed, even intuitive medical profession, by a ruthlessly global pharmaceutical industry that now dominates medical practice, medical journals, government health regulators, all mainstream and mass communications media. Its draconian censorship of the discussion about vaccines and their safety is Orwellian – exceeds even the mass mind propaganda tools used by authoritarian regimes against any elements that threatened the entrenched belief system.

In this context, measles is so important to understand because before the vaccine was created, doctors, public health departments viewed measles as a "self-limiting infection of short duration, moderate severity, and low fatality." (quote from Alexander Langmuir, MD, known as the father of infectious disease epidemiology.) No one feared measles. Lanmguir admitted that the measles vaccine was created because "it was in the experimental stage and had not been done, not because it was needed."

I watched my older children sail through measles in the 1960s without worry because everyone was immune. We all knew measles as a mild childhood illness that was usually over in a week or so and never required any medical intervention. Parents and doctors understood that the LEAST risky time for measles to occur is between age four and puberty and by 15 most were immune.

Babies rarely get measles as they were well protected in their first four years. Most adults were naturally immune, and able to bestow strong cross-placental immunity on their infants. Breastfed babies had the extra advantage of receiving specific protective antibodies through the living immune system of their mother’s milk. Today infants are once again vulnerable to measles because their vaccinated mothers can no longer protect them as effectively.

Vaccine immunity wanes over time. No one is protected for life. Five decades of mass vaccination with measles vaccines has dismantled the long-lasting broad-based societal immunity previously taken for granted by all. Recurring outbreaks of measles in fully vaccinated populations proved long ago that vaccine-derived immunity is fragile and unreliable.

As the older, naturally immune population dies off, an increasingly vulnerable vaccinated population is predicted. No matter how many vaccine boosters one gets, the artificially boosted vaccine immunity quickly wanes within a few weeks or months.

In a moment of collective confession at the global Vaccine Safety Summit in December, doctors and scientists admitted there is a big problem with vaccine safety science. It’s weak. The studies are “underpowered,” there’s the “tyranny of small members,” and concern about “relatively small sample sizes.” Most worrisome is “a very wobbly health professional ‘front line’ that is starting to question vaccines and the safety of vaccines.”

Dare we hope these confessions signal a move toward new and honest vaccine safety science and open dialogue with the Vaccine Injury Community?

Edda West

Fridays for Future Nelson stand with the Wet’suwet’en

We, the organizers of Fridays For Future Nelson support the actions taken by Indigenous Climate Action in peacefully occupying the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources on January 21 and 22 in Victoria.

We learned this morning that police raided the ministry during the early hours of January 22, removing the Indigenous youth. Instead of those who live by the sword, die by the sword, a modern update could be: Those who live by the Bomb will die by the Bomb. Is it going to be ashes, ashes all fall down; or can our human spirit find a way out of this horrifying mess?

Thanks America!

Nick Chaten
Crescent Valley

LETTERS

TFSAs – a ridiculous plan

It’s tax time again, and as we all know every government since Adam and Eve has promised their charges that they would establish a ‘fair’ taxing system. In Canada we largely tax labour, either by taxing workers directly, or by taxing goods and services provided by labour. So we really do ‘double down’ on tax workers.

We all know that people with a lot of money manage to make much more money, not by working themselves, but by manipulating those of us who are short on funds, and need to work to survive.

The Harper government came up with a grand scheme to make taxes fairer for everyone by allowing people to put some of their money in a Tax Free Savings Account. The money in that account, and any profits derived from investing that money, would remain untakable. So we were all allowed to put aside $5,000 per tax year... that made it fair, right? Now I know that there are many who can easily afford to save $5,000 per year, but I also know that there are those who simply cannot afford to do so. The TFSAs works great for those who can afford it. Currently anyone who has been paying taxes for 18 years is allowed to put away up to $70,000.

Now if, say, 20 million Canadians did so, there would be, and could be, a pool of one trillion, four hundred billion dollars available for investment in this country that wouldn’t earn a dime in tax revenue for Canada. That is assuming that all the investments were flat and did not grow over the last 14 years, which seems to me to be a highly unlikely assumption. The Tories tried to double the TFSA amount to $10,000, but that failed to win them the election, and the Liberals wisely stuck with the original $5,100.

Now the Liberals are raising the TFSA limit to $5,500.

So the people who work and produce something can pay taxes through the nose for earning their money, and never pay any tax on their investment gains.

TFSAs might be good for some, but they are crippling our government when it comes to taxing investment gains, and forcing us to go in debt to provide the services that Canadians need. This is a ridiculous plan, and the longer it continues, the worse it will get.

Rod Retzlaff
Glade

War drums beating

Am I the only one tired of the beating war drums south of our border?

With almost three million personnel, 4,800 defence sites on seven continents and an annual budget of more than $700 billion, the US military is considered the world’s premier fighting force.

The United States Armed Forces are the military forces of the USA, consisting of the army, marine corps, navy, air force, space force and coast guard.

The US Department of Defence is the largest employer in the world. The US military has spent a trillion dollars in the last 18 years with the war in Afghanistan.

There have been 1,624 people killed in mass shootings in the USA in the last 1,870 days.

Data collection from the gun violence archive reveals there is a mass shooting – defined as four or more people shot in one incident, not including the shooter – nine out of every 10 days on average (The Guardian reports).

When so much of your people and economy is tied up with military needs, the US needs perpetual wars. The USA has turned into a strange, hair-raising place indeed. Their footprint on the planet cannot be ignored. They have the largest economy. Half the printed money in the world is US dollars.

Not content with controlling the air, land and sea, President Trump has now created a space force. Outer space will soon be weaponized. The purpose of the space force is to protect the interests of the United States in space, deter aggression in, from, and to space, and conduct space operations.

The world is a little small for this overextended empire. The US military needs war, war, war.

Iran is now headstrong into starting a nuclear weapons program after the US government had General Qassem Soleimani killed in an airstrike. The world is a lot less safe now as the Middle East is a tinder box of religion, oil and hate.

It is wonderful to experience the eight billion humans who will survive the 21st century. If real steps are not taken to nullify these atrocious weapons, the mental and physical tolls are already crushing young minds with cold fear and anxiety. When the future is looking bleak, people crumble mentally and our military culture collapses in on itself.

What have we come to? Instead of those who live by the sword, die by the sword, a modern update could be: Those who live by the Bomb will die by the Bomb. Is it going to be ashes, ashes all fall down; or can our human spirit find a way out of this horrifying mess?

Thanks America!

Nick Chaten
Crescent Valley
This is a call for every political party, individual, community organization, business, cooperative, and corporation to respect the land we live on, and the Indigenous Nations who have never surrendered.

For these reasons, Fridays for Future Nelson will, from now on, be including solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en and an end to the violence against them as a message at our continuing weekly strikes (now in our 26th week). We call on you, the reader, to join us every Friday 1-3 pm in front of Nelson City Hall.

**Fridays For Future Nelson**

**Are BC’s trees going the way of Newfoundland’s cod?**

In 1992, Canada’s fisheries minister, John Crosbie, reasoning with struggling fishermen, said that “he didn’t take the fish from the goddamn water, so don’t go abusing me.” Today in BC, the forestry minister is under similar attack, his party is taking the fall from unions, workers and industry for decades of overharvesting, unfulfilled, inflated cuts, automation, and the overall mismanagement of our greatest Crown asset.

Are BC’s trees going the way of Newfoundland’s cod? As we mourn one controversial political leader we cannot help but recall the moratorium of 1992 and make comparisons to a similar natural resource crisis, our forests. Read any media from 1992 and it mentions today’s crippled forestry industry.

In 1945 when the Sloan Report by the chief justice of BC laid the policy foundation for the Forest Act including granting industry full access to our forests through tenure to ensure the taxpayers of BC a “supervisory supply of raw material for forest industries, with consequent stability of industrial communities and assurance of permanent payrolls,” it is doubtful he had today’s depleted industry scenario in mind.

In the past 10 years, energy demands in the 70s of the “fall down” effect precipitated by less harvesting. It’s time for this province to make sure that these things stop and have a plan in place.

We are all to blame for these failings, and are called to make this world right. We call on the City of Nelson, the Province of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada to respect the rule of Wet’suwet’en law by doing everything in their powers to stop Coastal GasLink and to shift society to a sustainable economy.

**LETTERS**

**Open letter to Michelle Mungall, MLAs and MPs from Indigenous Youth in Solidarity with Wet’suwet’en**

We, Indigenous youth, stand in solidarity with Wet’suwet’en Nations in defending their unceded territory from Coastal GasLink.

We are Indigenous youth of NuchahNR adultery. We are Indigenous youth of Ncisagash, Namgis, Heiltsuk, Lil’wat, Xwemel, Qeyit, Lue Chogh Tue, Shishalh and Sxívwxw, wul’Emshes Nations occupying Michelle Mungall’s political office to encourage you to stand by Wet’suwet’en Hereditary Chiefs representing all five clans of the Wet’suwet’en Nation in opposition to Coastal GasLink. Coastal GasLink (CGL) has never obtained free, prior, and informed consent to operate within unceded Wet’suwet’en territories. The decision from the BC Supreme Court to extend CGL’s injunction order is a criminalization of Wet’suwet’en law and directly violates their constitutionally protected rights to occupy their unceded lands, as articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

CGL has committed irreparable violence upon Wet’suwet’en territories through the destruction of archeological sites, hunting areas, and traplines, as well as brutalization of Indigenous land defenders by CGL exercising lethal watch over. The Wet’suwet’en and supporters continue to peacefully observe and respect ancestral laws that have governed them since time immemorial to protect their lands, waters, and climate for future generations. British Columbia, Canada, and the RCMP’s shameful response, including assault, military level invasion, criminalization, and unlawful injunctions is unconstitutional.

As Indigenous youth we stand with Wet’suwet’en assertion of sovereignty because we understand that Indigenous peoples will cease to exist without our forests, our languages, our cultures, and our future generations cannot exist without it. Indigenous youth are not only inheriting a climate crisis driven by fossil fuel corporations to capitalize upon Indigenous lands, both internationally and within Canada, it is Indigenous youth who will suffer the consequences. Multibillion dollar fossil fuel pipelines are paid for with our lands, lives, and futures. The Canadian government’s failure to uphold Indigenous consent in the interest of furthering CGL is a continuation of Canada’s warfare against Indigenous lands globally. Canadian politicians can no longer perpetuate Canada’s shameful socio quo in relation to Indigenous rights.

We call upon you to do all you can to opposing CGL and the harm it will bring to the people and the land. The Canadian government’s narratives of reconciliation and climate leadership become moot while simultaneously using lethal force to push a pipeline through Indigenous lands against the collective will of the hereditary leadership. Indigenous peoples defending their lands from destruction are not illegal or disposable. As Indigenous youth, we urge you to uphold Indigenous Rights and Wet’suwet’en law by advocating for the removal of CGL and RCMP from Wet’suwet’en unceded territory. British Columbia has recently committed to implement UNDRIP and follow free, prior, and informed consent. The world is watching to see how you will respond.

Our demands as Indigenous youth in solidarity with Wet’suwet’en are as follows:

1. That you do everything within your power as a Canadian politician to ensure that the following demands of Wet’suwet’en Hereditary Chiefs are met: We, the people, for the multi bilateral construction of the Coastal GasLink Pipeline project and suspend permits.
   a) That the UNDRIP and your right, free, and informed consent (FIC) be respected by the state and RCMP.
   b) That the RCMP and associated security and policing services be withdrawn from Wet’suwet’en lands, in agreement with the most recent letter provided by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) request.
   c) That the provincial and federal government, RCMP and private industry employed by CGL respect our laws and our governance system, and refrain from using any force to access our lands or remove our people
2. That the BC Premier and relevant Ministers meet with Wet’suwet’en Hereditary Chiefs to receive and adhere to these demands.

Until Canada demonstrates commitment to UNDRIP by meeting the demands of Wet’suwet’en Hereditary Chiefs, we will continue to occupy your political offices. We will do everything within our power to protect our future and Wet’suwet’en lands from destruction. It’s time for you to do the same.

Indigenous Youth in Solidarity with Wet’suwet’en
Kaslo based bat biologist Cori Lausen is on a mission to protect BC bats from white-nose syndrome. Kaslo-based bat biologist Cori Lausen is on a mission to protect BC bats from white-nose syndrome. Kaslo-based bat biologist Cori Lausen is on a mission to protect BC bats from white-nose syndrome.

Lausen is an associate conservation scientist with Wildlife Conservation Society Canada (WCS Canada), which has an on-the-ground project in the West Kootenays that aims to bolster bat populations pre-WNS and set the stage for quicker population recovery post-WNS. The project began by evaluating bat boxes as a tool for bat conservation. What Lausen has discovered is that while bat boxes offer an alternative roosting site when bats are evicted or barred from a building, these structures can overheat in the more frequent summer heat waves, leading to direct mortalities and may lower reproductive success.

“When it gets too hot, they can’t move around like they could in a building roost. They’re just sitting ducks.”

For bat boxes to be effective, Lausen is promoting the idea of placing four or five of them in different places on a property in different levels of shade; and making them bigger — but boxes instead of boxes — to better imitate the building roosts that bats find so beneficial. Several bat boxes have already been built in the Creston area.

The next phase of the project involves rolling out a probiotic spray that Lausen and partners have been developing. In natural roosting sites, bats come in contact with microbes in the soil, some of which can prevent the growth of the WNS fungus. Bats roosting in bat boxes and buildings made of plywood don’t come into contact with these natural anti-WNS microbes. A rock crevice environment is imitated by spraying a mixture of these soil microbes and powdered clay into empty bat boxes.

When bats roost in the box, the beneficial microbes become part of their natural wing flora, which could protect them from WNS.

“We’re doing this as a Robin Hood effect to make sure more bats get these good bacteria,” Lausen said.

The prototype kit consists of a spray can of 'good bacteria' and a vial of clay containing the probiotics. A field pilot was done in Vancouver in August 2018, but the project isn’t at the distribution stage yet. While it is, Lausen is hoping landowners will help.

“If we can get landowners to become citizen scientists and apply the spray to their bat boxes, this can help us save bats around the province,” she said.

Bats are protected under the BC Wildlife Act. Of the 16 confirmed species of bats in BC, half are listed as vulnerable or threatened. At least 11 bat species are found in the West Kootenays which is a hub for provincially significant maternity roosts.

Lausen’s background in bat biology and research is unparalleled. With a PhD in bat landscape genetics and roosting ecology and a MSc in bat ecology and behaviour from the University of Calgary, Lausen has captured over 15,000 bats and over 30 bat species. She has been contracted to do bat-related work for numerous Canadian and US agencies, led dozens of bat-related scientific projects, authored over 50 peer-reviewed articles and government reports.

To bring people on-side, Lausen likes to get across to landowners how long-lived bats actually are (they live 30 to 40 years) and how beneficial they are to have around. Bats are the primary predators of night-flying insects and important insect control for healthy ecosystems and resource conservation, including forestry. Declines in bat populations could negatively impact both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and even result in economic losses and increased pesticide use.

Her outlook on the future of Kootenay bats in the face of the imminent threat of white-nose syndrome? “Caustically optimistic,” Lausen said.

To learn more about BC’s bat boxes, visit the BC Community Bat Program website bc bats.ca. For more on Lausen’s bat program: wcsbats.ca, Facebook @wcscanadabats, Twitter @wcsbatscanada.

Kaslo council, January 14: Kaslo Racquet Club asks about renovations to the tennis courts

by Jan McMurray

• The North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Council presentation was a reading by Rod Dunnett from A Place in Time. In regards to a letter from the Kaslo Racquet Club informing council that the club would like to renovate the tennis courts and expand the facility, and ask council about the process to do so. Staff will reply with advice on how they may proceed, and the letter was referred to the Public Trails and Public Areas and Housing Committee for further consideration.

• The Kaslo Climate Action Team (KCAT) wrote to council to ask for a designated stop for Ride Share pick-up and drop-off, perhaps close to the bus stop shelter, and for a designated Carshare parking spot on the south side of the Kemball Building. Staff was asked to come back to council with recommendations on the requests.

• The CAO reported that Recycle BC has contacted staff about the Village’s Blue Bag Transition Plan. The Village’s plan is to allow residents to use their own containers for their recycling, as the contractor is flexible on the types of bins he can deal with. However, Recycle BC wants to see an option for residents to be able to buy a standard bin from the Village. Staff is working with Recycle BC on this to ensure that the solution remains flexible for residents and avoids additional taxation costs.

• Council approved an expenditure of $20,000 for the preparation of a grant application for upgrades to the water system. The money will be spent on grant writing, costing and design work.

• A letter from a couple who resides on Front Street urges council not to allow placement of a fire ring at Moyie Beach, as it “may only encourage late night partying at this location.” The CAO told council that this letter and all feedback from the public will be taken into consideration during the staff investigation into the proposed fire ring locations.

• A letter from Anne Malik asks council to engage with the Kootenay Lake Partnership members during the upcoming Official Community Plan review, specifically on the sections pertaining to Development Permit Areas and the Lakefront Protection Development Permit Area. The letter will be kept on file for the OCP process.

• The Fees & Charges Bylaw was read three times. The fees have been updated to keep up with inflation, but Kemball Building office space rates will remain the same as last year. In future, council will be able to change fees by resolution rather than a formal bylaw amendment.

• The Village will be the applicant for a Family Day grant on behalf of Winter in the Forest.

• Ward Taylor was appointed as a Village representative on the Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission.

• The CAO reported that the heavy snow in January kept the crew very busy, with many early morning starts to keep on top of it. The New Year’s storm and 10-hour power outage caused problems with the water system. Backup generator power had to be restored and a pressure relief valve had to be rebuilt from parts the Village had in stock. Council complimented the crew on their snow removal work.

• An invitation from the RDCK for the Village to participate in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment was referred to the Buildings, Village Assets and Housing Committee.

• Council agreed to the RDCK applying for a Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant on behalf of the Village of Kaslo. If successful, the grant funding will be managed by the RDCK and will be used to continue working on the Natural Hazard and Risk Reduction Strategy for the region. The grant would be used for a flood risk assessment, mapping and mitigation planning project. The GIS data would be shared with the Village.
New Denver council, January 14: Village to take the lead on affordable housing project

by Kathy Hartman

• The Village will submit an application to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for funding to assess the feasibility of developing a minimum of 10 affordable housing units on Village-owned property, currently the site of the recycling bins. The New Denver and Area Housing Society was originally going to apply for the CMHC funding for the project, but at a November 29 meeting between council, society and BC Housing reps, it was acknowledged but at a November 29 meeting that having the Village take the lead on the project may strengthen funding applications. The society has indicated a desire to continue collaborating with the Village on the project.

• If the CMHC funding application is successful, a feasibility assessment will be done that will include a business plan, financial analysis, geotechnical and engineering reports, appraisal and design. This documentation is required for an application for capital funding from BC Housing.

• The process and timeline for the Denver Boundary expansion was presented by Jessica Rayner, planning assistant. The Village will include Denver Sideling as well as areas north and east of the village currently serviced by village water. Boundary extension planning began in 2019, along with design work for water system upgrades. Staff now need to finalize the proposal to be completed by the end of January, an open house in March, and a review in the summer. A site visit is planned for later in the fall.

2020 UTILITY BILLINGS

Invoices for 2020 water and garbage charges have been mailed to property owners. Payments can be made in person at the Village Office (cash, cheque or debit) or through Kootenay Savings Credit Union’s online banking. Please note that a 5% penalty will be applied to all amounts that have not been paid by January 31, 2020. An additional 5% penalty will be applied to all amounts that remain unpaid at October 1, 2020.

DOG LICENCE RENEWAL REMINDER

Dog owners in the Village of New Denver are reminded that all dogs residing in the Village of New Denver are required to have a current dog licence, which can be obtained from the Village Office. In accordance with the Village of New Denver’s Animal Control Bylaw, there is a $15.00 reduction in the licence fees, if the licence for the current year is purchased prior to January 31st or within 30 days of the date that the owner first comes into possession of the dog.

BUSINESS LICENCES

A current Business Licence is required for all commercial undertakings of any kind within the Village of New Denver, including home-based businesses, professional, personal or other services for the purpose of gain or profit. Available for the first time this year is the Intermunicipal Business Licence (ICBL), allowing eligible businesses to operate across participating communities without having to buy a separate business licence for each community. For more information or to obtain a business licence, please contact the Village Office.

CASUAL/ON CALL LABOURER

The Village of New Denver is currently accepting applications for a Casual/On Call Labourer position. Duties include but are not limited to: groundskeeping, facilities maintenance, and operation of small tools and equipment.

Please submit a resume and cover letter to:

Village of New Denver,
Mail: P.O. Box 40, New Denver, B.C., V0G 1S0
Email: office@newdenver.ca
In person: 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver

This position will remain posted until filled. All applicants are thanked for their interest – only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

2020 BUDGET NOTICE

In accordance with Section 166 of the Community Charter, the Council of the Village of New Denver invites public consultation in the preparation of the Village’s 2020 Five Year Financial Plan. Council welcomes public input from residents of the Village with regards to items they would like to see addressed in the budget.

To ensure Council’s consideration please submit your comments to the Village of New Denver Municipal Office no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, February 21, 2020.

The Valley Voice January 30, 2020

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by Barbara Curl Malcy 

• After much discussion, council made five decisions about the Springer Creek Campground. The contract with campground operators Sandy Flynn and Sandy Hetherington will be renewed for 2020. The campground will open on May 1 instead of April 1 and an additional 100 hours will be added to the contract to cover the earlier start. Fifty hours also will be added to the extra staff time in July and August, needed due to the increasing number of campers. At the operators’ request, Public Works will fill the campground wood shed prior to July 1 instead of at the beginning of the season. Council also directed the mayor to “do a great job” they had done in creating a spreadsheet comparing Springer Creek campground operations with those of the South Okanagan. Public Works will look at remuneration to the rates at 12 campgrounds in the area. Decisions on whether to keep campfire services at the campground and add a laundry and bear-proof caches will be made after consulting with CIO Colin McClure to discuss the 2020 budget. 

• A letter from Keith Newberry asked if the Village was planning to install wired fibre optic networks and services. He wrote that wired networks and services would be “more full proof, more reliable, more sustainable, more energy efficient, safer, faster, more secure, and more efficient in terms of health, privacy, and security.” Mayor Lunn said the Village needed to discuss the option to lay fibre to individual homes, that “right now we don’t have a last mile strategy,” that is not clear what the “rate structure will be.” CAO Gordon said the Village would meet with its regional partners to be located in January and the conversation could then begin. Councilor Pelletier suggested the Village counters to be used by the new chief consultant to advise on the matter.

• Council agreed to support, in principle, the Kootenay Collective’s proposal to apply to the CBT Public Art 2020 Program for a grant to construct “magical” steel and reinforced concrete sculptures any would be mounted around the Kootenays. The collective said if its proposal is approved, it could help the local community and grant applications for a sculpture to be placed in Slocan. Last year, the Collective added Meadow Trail sculptures in the way and installed their giant sculpture, “Harvest,” on a property there. Councillor Perriere suggested sculptures be located in the campground. Councilor Pelletier suggested the Rail Trail terminus. During public participation, Councillor Lunn would ask if it was “fair” to propose this without calling for proposals from other artists. Mayor Lunn said the Village had a regional proposal for a series of sculptures to be placed in various communities and an artist could be brought to the Kootenays. Councilor Pelletier said the Collective had a proposal for an art project by local artists because Slocan’s proposed project was too small. Lunn also said other artists are welcome to make their own proposals for large-scale community-wide projects.

• Annual reports on building permits, transit sales, and higher a list. Council had ever received for information. Villagers were busy building in 2019 – two permits were issued for renovations, two for residential renovations, two for demolitions, and one permit was renewed. Business Manager Michelle Conley said a permit was issued for the new building on Harold Street with business spaces on the ground floor and apartments above approved. Council directed to pay for the new building on Harold Street with business spaces on the ground floor and apartments above approved. Construction for the new building on Harold Street with business spaces on the ground floor and apartments above approved.

Slocan Community Health Centre update submitted by Leonard Casley and Colin Moss

It’s time for another update on the Slocan Valley healthcare scene.

As many of you probably know by now, a contract was signed in late September 2019 between the three local physicians, the BC Ministry of Health and Interior Health. The contract is for 1.5 years and is basically a “test model” involving three physicians working on a rotational basis.

In addition to our long serving Dr. Chuck Burkholder, we’d like to officially welcome Dr. Sveta Gaertner and Dr. Sean Watchel. We thank our Slocan Valley doctors and the cover welcome given to both new physicians.

The new contract is the result of three years of hard work and long hours put in by the physicians and many community members. It is basically a new model being closely scrutinized by both the Health Ministry and Interior Health. If it’s successful, there is a possibility that it could be used as a model for other similar services and health care service catchments in BC.

In this era of health service centralization, the fact that we have managed to keep our 24/7 Emergency Department is no small feat. It is something we have all fought long and hard to retain.

The success of the new model will depend largely on ‘new attachments’ – new patients joining the practice. So far, things appear to be going well in that area but if we were to have but one recommendation, it would be that patients without a physician consider registering with the physicians at the Slocan Community Health Centre.

It would also be our advice that patients not use the Emergency Department just for the sake of it in hopes of getting the numbers up. That could actually be counterproductive, as the data gathered would show a surge in non-urgent cases.

It’s now up to you, the community, to show that the Slocan Valley needs the services provided from our health centre to at least remain the same, and hopefully to expand and improve.

Yes, you can book an appointment with any of the three physicians. Due to the physician rotation aspect of the new model, you may have to wait a bit to see a specific physician but most importantly, you can have immediate and continued access to basic primary care – something that many people in BC still do not have.

In addition to three physicians, we have Donna Gibbons, our nurse practitioner who also practices from the Slocan Wellness Centre on Thursdays.

It is our intent to hold a community ‘meet and greet the physicians’ on a Sunday afternoon sometime soon. Timing will depend on physician rotations so keep an eye out for ads, posters, Facebook news, etc.

Once again, thank you all for your continued support and hard work.

Leonard Casley is the mayor of New Denver and chair of the Village of New Denver Health Select Committee. Colin Moss is a New Denver councilor and chair of the Slocan Valley Chamber of Commerce Health Committee.
Gladys Cook

Gladys Cook passed away on January 10 at the age of 102 in the Pavilion, New Denver. Gladys was born and raised in Regina, Saskatchewan. She worked at various jobs – in a bakery, at Banff Springs Hotel, etc. before getting her nursing degree. She graduated as a Registered Nurse in Vancouver and later worked in the hospital in New Denver.

Gladys loved to garden and share her harvest and lovely flowers. She also loved baking and was well-known with the children for her gingerbread men, etc. Gladys had seven siblings, of which two sisters are still alive – Shirley Cardwell in Regina and Joan in Victoria.

Valley musician bands together with Food Bank

This holiday season Bill Hillary filled your ears with music at the Slocan Valley Co-op in support of WE Graham Community Service Society’s Slocan Valley Food Cupboard. Hillary will continue this three-year tradition of busking for the Food Cupboard and welcomes other musicians to join him next season. In previous years he has inspired other musicians to use their craft to encourage donations to the Food Bank. It is his hope that more talented folks in the Slocan Valley join in this joyous way of giving. He welcomes musicians to join him next year or invites them to start their own at another location.

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This year the Slocan Valley Food Cupboard gave out over 80 Holiday Hampers to families in need. The hampers included food for holiday lunch, dinner, warm beverages and more. Children and youth in these families also each received a gift. In 2019 the Food Bank served 1,036 food bank lunches, 342 senior’s lunches, and 632 food hampers to Slocan Valley residents. Bill Hillary and W.E. Graham Community Service Society would like to extend a big thanks to Slocan Valley Co-op staff, management and directors who so enthusiastically support this fundraising initiative. And thank you to all those who gave and volunteered this year!

WE Graham School in Slocan will be hosting a Winter Family Carnival on February 20 and welcomes everyone to participate.

WE Graham School announces Winter Family Carnival

submitted

The Grade 7/8 Outdoor Education and Leadership class at WE Graham Community School is hosting a Winter Family Carnival night on Thursday, February 20 from 4:30–7:30 pm. We will have exciting games such as Chicken Poop Bingo, Whack-a-Light, an inflatable boxing ring, a dunk bucket, a Cake Walk and more.

What better way to blow off those dark winter cobwebs than to duke it out with your family and friends in the boxing ring. Or take your chances on which square the chicken will decide to do its business. Guess correct and win cash. Play for prizes from local businesses and to support our class. There will be food served, including burritos, baked goods, and cotton candy at our concession.

All proceeds go toward our class trip to Vancouver. We are going on an educational and cultural adventure to Vancouver in May. Hope to see you there! For more information visit: https://weg.sd8.bc.ca/.
New Denver in need of intermediate care facility

A recent series of community meetings has brought to light the need to develop an intermediate care facility in the village of New Denver. At present, there is a locally developed independent care facility at Brouse Lodge, a full-time care facility at the Pavilion as well as improvements in stay-at-home care. An intermediate care facility allows residents to have a modicum of independent living, but at the same time, have help with meals, medical care and the safety of trained professionals on-site.

“What this village would benefit from would be a facility that would enable residents to transition between these two types of care,” says longtime local resident Jamie Barber, who is seeking support for the idea. “If you find this idea worthy of some of your volunteer time and feel you may have skills that would help the committee, I would encourage you to contact me,” says Barber, at jc_barber@yahoo.com.

The Langham features Bessie Wapp & Ellie Reynolds

Join these accomplished Kootenay performers for a theatrical double-bill: two remarkable solo performances that dwell at the nexus of memoir and musical theatre.

The first performance is a brand new play Matchmaker on the Roof, written and performed by Ellie Reynolds and directed by Bessie Wapp. It’s a true tale of bold love, border-crossing and the (re)discovery of tradition, using themes and music from the musical Fiddler on the Roof. The second show features Bessie Wapp’s true tale Jesus Christ Superstore, a piece of storytelling that recounts a surreal weekend where birth control, a cinematic cult classic and the big-box phenomenon converge, with hilarious results. “Clever and heart-warming with lots of laughs and a few tears, grand songs, great stories and excellent acting and singing,” noted one reviewer.

Reynolds and Wapp are bringing their acclaimed co-creation to Kaslo and area audiences as part of their fall/winter tour supported by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance.

Advance Tickets are $18 at the door (6:30 pm), advance tickets $15 at Sunnyside Naturals, 250-353-9667, or Willow Home Gallery 250-353-2257, both in Kaslo.

Save-On Foods Nakusp drew the winner of its TV fundraiser for the Children’s Hospital, Marsha, shown here with staff. The cards show the amount raised during December - $2,386 - all donated by local shoppers.
The lessons of sportsmanship and teamwork last a lifetime.

Celebrating Minor Hockey Week 2020

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Celebrating Minor Hockey Week 2020

Katrine Conroy, MLA
Kootenay West

The door to success is often locked.
One of the keys to that lock is teamwork, on the ice and off.
Best wishes to all our great local teams for Minor Hockey Week.

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Hockey helps kids learn teamwork

We’re proud of all our players!
Happy Hockey Week!

Welcome to HOCKEY WEEK 2020!
Keep up the hard work and remember to have FUN!


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New Denver • 309 6th Ave • 250-358-2500

Kids and hockey have always been a winning combination! We support Minor Hockey Week - players, coaches and parents!

The best thing about hockey is that it’s KID’S STUFF
Mike & Tracy and the staff at Hilltop Convenience and Valley Foods are pleased to recognize our minor hockey players, coaches, officials and fans.
Smith & Co. Ventures, Inc.
MINOR HOCKEY

Play hard. Have fun. Drink water!

Celebrating the young athletes in our community!
Minor Hockey Week, 2020

H&R Block thanks all the volunteers, coaches and players for a fantastic start to the 2019/20 hockey season.

H&R Block thanks all the volunteers, coaches and players for a fantastic start to the 2019/20 hockey season.


Save-on-Foods

13

Nakusp

Minor Hockey builds character!
Nakusp Minor Hockey is halfway through their season and having a great time. This year, Nakusp Minor Hockey bought lots of hockey equipment and has outfitted a large number of beginner players for them to try out the sport. The Novice group has really grown this year with lots of coaches out there helping them learn and have fun out on the ice. There were not enough players to have an Atom or Pee Wee team to play in the West Kootenay league divisions this season, but Minor Hockey didn’t want to see these players not getting any ice time, so this year they are having a practice once a week and a scrimmage once a week. There are several new players in this age group and they really enjoy playing twice a week with friends while learning a new sport. The teams got to show off their skills at the annual Falcon Cup in December by playing in between the tournament games.

The Bantam team consists of six Nakusp players and six Kaslo players. Coached by Mike Smith, Shane Pennoyer and Brandon Moffat, they are having a great season this year. So far they have gone undefeated in the West Kootenay league and sit in top spot. They won their home tournament in Nakusp in November, came in second with an overtime loss at the Chase tournament and just won the Vernon tournament. They have a few league games left with league playoffs happening in Trail February 28-March 1.

The Midget team has 10 Nakusp players and four Kaslo players, coached by Brandon Moffat and Mike Smith. The team has been battling hard in the West Kootenay league – they went to a 16-team tournament in Salmon Arm in November and the Nelson tournament in January. They are excited to be hosting their home tourney February 7-9, with teams from the West Kootenay and Okanagan attending. When league is completed, they will be going to Boundary for the playoffs March 6-8.

Nakusp Minor Hockey wants to get as many kids playing hockey as they can. Watch for info in the fall about an equipment swap and registration event to start off next season.

Play for the love of the game!
Play hard, play fair, have fun!

Minor Hockey builds teamwork and character!
We salute our minor hockey players and all the coaches, officials and fans who work so hard to support them!
Play the game is great. To win is greater. But to love the game is the greatest of all.

Go kids, go!
Don’t forget to have fun!

Practice good sportsmanship in both hockey and life!
Thanks to all the players, coaches, officials and fans for supporting hockey in our community!

Happy Minor Hockey Week 2020

The Valley VOICE wishes to acknowledge all the hard work of players, parents, coaches and volunteers to keep the game of hockey alive in our communities!

Enjoy Minor Hockey Week

Hug a referee! They’re part of the team that brings Minor Hockey to our communities.

Nakusp Minor Hockey
Nakusp, 250-265-4767

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Message from Nakusp Minor Hockey
submitted

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Nakusp council, January 13: Hot Springs location approved for caribou maternity pen

by Hannah Lingo

• The Arrow Lakes Caribou Society’s Caribou Maternity Pen Project has been given approval to proceed on Village land north of Nakusp Hot Springs. The plan is to construct the pen by March, when pregnant females will be captured and housed in the pen. The cows and calves will be cared for and monitored over the spring by one or two shepherds under the direction of vets, and released back into their natural habitat in July. The shepherds will stay in one of the Nakusp Hot Springs Chalets. The pen will be located on 8.5 hectares of land – 6.9 is owned by the Village and 1.6 is provincial Crown land. The proposed project term is five years with an option for a five-year renewal if all goes well. Only 24 of the Selkirk caribou herd remain.

Since the council meeting, Hugh Watt of ALCS told the Valley Voice that the society has almost raised enough money through cash donations, in-kind machine support, and material donations to build the pen. They are working on the necessary Wildlife Act permits and have applied for a number of grants to construct and operate the pen. The GoFundMe campaign is still active if people want to make donations. The link to the GoFundMe page is on the ALCS website: arrowlakescaribousociety.com.

• After reviewing results of a 2018 survey of village residents, council decided to approve the licence application for a non-medical cannabis retail store at 312 Broadway Street.

• Paula Rogers, chair of the Nakusp Library board and Marilyn Taylor, chair of the Arrow Lakes Historical Society attended to ask council for a decision on a new location for the historical Milk Delivery Wagon, which has sat in front of the Centennial building for many years. The delegation said their preferred location is adjacent to the Spencer Garden on the waterfront walkway. Council delayed the decision until the OCP process is complete.

• The annual licensing of dogs is now mandatory for all dog owners living in the village for more than 30 days. The fine for having a dog without a valid licence is $100. The annual cost of the licence is $15 for a neutered dog and $45 for an unneutered dog.

• Water and sewer rates are set to be raised 5% this year. Nakusp home owners will pay $426.89 for water and $452.24 for sewer in 2020.

• Council approved the request from Fire Chief Terry Warren to amend the department’s service level from Interior Operations to Exterior Operations. This means that Nakusp firefighters cannot enter buildings when fighting structure fires. In his written report to council, Warren gives three reasons for recommending this drop in service level. First, standards have changed “so drastically and require major training levels.” Second, more than half of the department’s members are new. Third, the costs for training are much less for an Exterior level department than for an Interior level department. Warren also points out that the average time to escape a house fire has been reduced to 3-4 minutes due to today’s construction standards compared to 17 minutes in the past.

• Council agreed to apply for $15,000 under the UBCM Age Friendly Community Program on behalf of Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services. If successful, the funds will be used for a weekly drop-in program that would provide physical activities and social connections for seniors.

• Council agreed to support in principle a mural project on the exterior side wall of Debra Rushfeldt’s studio/gallery at 206 Broadway. The proposed mural is of a western toad nesting among some autumn leaves. Council supports the project as long as no drastic changes are made to the image as presented. The Arrow Lakes District Arts Council Society is applying for CBT funds for the project, and has already secured some funding from NACFØR and the RDCK Area K.

• Council approved in principle Hugh Egener’s public art proposal. He is applying for Canada Arts Council funds to create two bronzed pieces that would be donated to the Village in summer/fall 2020. The first piece is called ‘Soldier – Thinking of Home’ and the second is called ‘Logger’.

• The Village is supporting a funding application, to be submitted by the RDCK on behalf of the Village, to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. The project includes flood risk assessment, mapping and mitigation planning. It will also include workshops for municipal staff on flood and hazard data and risk tolerance policies.

• In his report, Mayor Tom Zeleznik shared his vision of what he’d like to see accomplished over the next 10 years. This includes a utility co-op bringing an excellent high speed internet service to town, a completed park master plan, an expanded campground, more festivals, expanded trail network with Nakusp as the centre, a new industrial park with a focus on forestry value-added, many green initiatives, a good water supply with three new wells, and an affordable housing boom. “Now our hidden gem community has been found and we must share. Sorry!” he concludes.

At the January 13 Nakusp council meeting, Nakusp Mayor Tom Zeleznik presented Kathy Smith with a card from the Village of Nakusp in recognition of her years of service as NACFOR (Nakusp and Area Community Forest) president. The Village will also be donating a tree in her name on the waterfront.
Japanese Knotweed near Slocan Waterfront could be stimulated by development project

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

The City of Slocan's May 26, 2019, decision to declare a piece of property on the waterfront as a knotweed management area and to begin the process of removing it, has the Village of New Denver curious as to what will be done to treat the nearby Knotweed that is multiplying at an alarming rate. The knotweed is spreading across the car park area, the beach, and perhaps the road side that borders the lake. New Denver has a small beach area and the knotweed could affect the experience of visitors and create an unsightly and unsanitary situation if not controlled.

A lot of work has been done in the past by the local community to control knotweed, but it is growing back and becoming a problem. It has been suggested that the knotweed can be stimulated to grow and eventually be eradicated by a process called “annual stimulation”. This is done by just cutting the plants in late summer, so the plant is under stress, and then applying a chemical treatment in the fall. This could be a cost-effective solution for the village to control knotweed on their waterfront.

Community Paramedicine Program to start making emergency work a priority

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

Desiree Profili, the community paramedic in Slocan, has been busy with the Community Paramedicine Program. She has been working with clients who need assistance post-surgery or chronic illness, with transportation, and with people who have visited clients in their homes by appointment. She has also made presentations on healthy living in schools, to community groups like the Youth Action Network and the seniors, and to local government programs like the employment centre. Her presentations cover many topics, including first aid, hand washing, ambulance tours, why not all bugs need drugs, when to call 911, opioids and how to use Narcan, injury prevention, and BCAA seat car seats. Recently, she was discussing the possibility of offering regular blood pressure clinics at River Acupuncture in Slocan’s Wellness Centre.

Profili serves clients from the junction to Slocan. She gets referrals from doctors, the home health nurse, and the nurse practitioner. She has 18 clients at the present time. Profili said most of her referrals are from Nelson and for clients in the southern part of her service area. She thought possibly clients near Slocan were well-served by the nurse practitioner. How popular will the service be once it is known the paramedic might be called away before or during a presentation, clinic, or health visit? Profili said, “We’re not really sure it’s going to work” but the decision to make the changes was “not really up to us.” Emergency services, though, will be improved.

The community paramedicine service is expected to provide BC residents in rural and remote communities with better access to community health services and a more stable paramedic emergency response, has been fully adopted and is now available in 100 of the southern valley. They saw birds that we did not see here like Swans (114), Snowy Owl (1), Common Merganser (10), and American Goldfinch (20). They recorded 23 species and 253 birds.

New Denver Bridge Club invites players to join

Contract Bridge can be played in a variety of methods and styles, which are generally based upon the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). (Google it.) Experienced club members are welcome to play whatever styles and conventions they have become accustomed to. Over time most players will find, however, that bridge is most enjoyable when a particular club system is commonly adopted and regularly used. For new players and any other interested members, the Bridge Club has adopted the Audrey Grant approach to the game (www.AudreyGrant.com).

So, drop by for a game or learn anytwig or leaf about bridge and see for yourself. They are always interesting.

School District 8 releases results of water testing

Secondary and Jewett Elementary. Watch for a future announcement regarding the results. Brent Kennedy Elementary and Belsey Elementary are currently on bottled water restrictions. If your school is not under a water boil order, please check the SD8 water testing results website for more information.

Individual, couple and family therapy within a goal-oriented process to address your need to feel better, more in control, and free to make healthy decisions and live into them.

Alice Watson M.Ed. Counselling Psychology 250-265-3328 *Member of Canadian Counsellor and Psychotherapy Association, CPT certificate holder, 17+ years experience.
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY to live your dream and own your own business. Become the proud owner of the main street of New Denver. The newspaper business. Become the proud owner of the Slocan Valley Community Legacy 2020 GRANT APPLICATIONS. If you are so inclined, we would love to show you the ropes and stay connected. If you are so inclined, we would love to show you the ropes and stay connected. If you are so inclined, we would love to show you the ropes and stay connected. If you are so inclined, we would love to show you the ropes and stay connected. If you are so inclined, we would love to show you the ropes and stay connected.

VALLICAN WHOLE’S WINTER LOCAL HOLIDAY TOWN HALL Saturday February 8, doors at 5 pm. Local food potluck, silent auction & Six Slocan Miners’ Valentincards. READY, SET, LEARN! TREE preschooler (ages 3-5) program. Fridays: Jan 24-Feb 14, 9:30-12:30 at The Whole School – 5614 Highways, Winlaw. Whole School invites preschoolers, parents/caregivers and their families to a morning of crafts, cooking, songs, games, outside play, and story time dedicated to Kindergarten readiness with teacher, Rose Hodwitz. Drop-ins welcome: whole.school.ca; 250-226-7727; wholeschool@gmail.com.

LANHAM FILKS FILM SERIES presents KENNY Friday January 31, 7 pm. Hilarious ‘mockumentary’ featuring Kenny, a fearless Aussie plumber who is part philosopher and part comedian, with a hit of the size of a septic tank. Tickets $10 at the door 6:30 pm. www.thelanham.ca.

THE LANHAM PRESENTS ON THE OTHER HAND Sataturday February 8, 7 pm. An evening of musical theatre as Bessie Wapp & Ellie Reynolds present two remarkable original solo performances – true personal stories filled with humour, drama and music! Tickets $15 Willow or Sunnyside. www.thelanham.ca.

SLOCAN VALLEY THREADS GUILD is seeking donations of good clean fabric, yarn, notions and crafting equipment for our annual fundraising event, Yard & Yardage on April 29, Call Shawn 226-7703, Lynda 355-2267 or Julie in Nelson 778-463-1997 to arrange pick-up now.

COMING EVENTS

SQUARING DANCING! 5 piece band Eldorado Hoedown and live caller January 25, February 22, March 14, 6-9:30 pm at the Bosun Hall in New Denver. Beginners are welcome. Call 265-7155 for information.

JUDANCE NAKUSP: escape the cold and get your dance on to World Fusion music. Every 2nd Friday 7-9 pm (Jan 31 and Feb 14). The Old Firehall upstairs in Nakusp. BC. $10 suggested donation. www.facebook.com/groups/judancenakusp

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the rural West Kootenay region, and who is committed to writing informative and accurately 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.

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CBT supports increased well-being across the Basin

submitted

The CBT is supporting 31 projects that aim to improve quality of life in the Columbia Basin, focus on children’s development, and strengthen social service organizations, with nearly $680,000 from its Social Grants program. Locally, this will include a $40,000 grant to North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society in Kaslo to provide monthly nutritious meals to the most vulnerable and “food insecure” members of the community. The Hospice Society of North Kootenay Lake will receive $4,200 for its Hospice Training for Rural Volunteers program. The Lardeau Valley Community Club will offer a weekly seniors’ programs in Meadow Creek aimed at reducing social isolation and increasing community connection. The program includes a combination of gentle exercise, to help with mobility and balance, and a tea social, which gives participants time to socialize.

investing in projects that encourage children and youth to get involved in sports and physical activity was a priority,” said Aimee Ambrosone, Columbia Basin Trust Executive Director, Delivery of Benefits. “These projects improve accessibility and expand the quality and diversity of relevant infrastructure and equipment to get kids moving.”

The PLAYS grants are spread across the Columbia Basin, with new playgrounds, purchases of ski-grooming and other sports equipment, and a wide array of improvements to recreational infrastructure. In addition to capital improvement grants, Basin PLAYS offers grants that help coaches and officials get accredited training, as well as helping groups improve and build trails. This initiative is just one of the ways the Trust supports recreation and physical activity for people of all ages in the region. To learn more about the Trust’s programs and initiatives, and how it helps deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the Basin, visit outtrust.org or call 1-800-805-8998. To learn about everything Basin PLAYS supports visit outtrust.org/basinplays.

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dan@canadiangardensupply.com

- **Wired by Alex Electrical Contracting Ltd.**
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  - Certified Electrical Contractor
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  - 250-226-7334
  - 1-800-991-4461

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  - 250-226-7441
  - www.leafcabinetry.com

- **Curiosity Painting**
  - Residential & commercial painting.
  - Castlegar
  - 250-726-1527
  - E: jz@unsink.com

- **Silver Ridge**
  - Residential & commercial cabinet work.
  - Winlaw, BC
  - 250-305-1371

- **Rennorak Construction**
  - Specializing in Timber Framing
  - 250-305-8001 Home; 250-305-2278
  - silversidemature@outlook.com

- **Kaslo Window & Gutter Cleaning**
  - Neil Johnson
  - 250-333-3291
  - KasloRenee@outlook.com

- **One Time Electrical**
  - Certified Electrical Contractor
  - 7030 Powell Road, Winlaw
  - 250-226-7334
  - 1-800-991-4461
  - mobile (250) 551-TIME (8463)
jacob@onetimetechnical.com
www.onetimetechnical.com

- **Tim Pownall & Co.**
  - LOG & TIMBER FRAME HOMES
  - New Denver
  - 250-358-2566
  - jnpownall@telus.net

- **Café & Crafts**
  - Art & Crafts • Gelato
  - • Crepes • Pizza & More
  - • Licensed
  - 302 6th Ave
  - New Denver, BC
  - 250-358-7702

- **K & A Yard Care Services**
  - Residential & commercial landscaping, gardens, snow clearing.
  - Castlegar
  - 250-358-2508 • 358-7785 • 505-8210
  - Dan@canadiangardensupply.com

- **Canadian Garden Supply**
  - 280 Lower Inonoaklin Rd.
  - Castlegar
  - PHONE 250-226-7441

- **Madden Timber Construction, Inc.**
  - Licensed Residential Builder & General Contractor
  - Design • Concrete and Excavation
  - • Painting • Lanscaping • Basic Renovations & Construction •
  - • Road Crush • Sand & Gravel •
  - Crescent Bay Construction Ltd.
  - Eric Waterfield — Septic Planning/Installation
  - Nelson, BC Vll 4B7
  - 250 265 1807
dave@maddentimber.com

- **Indian Timberworks Inc.**
  - Registered Septic System designers and installers
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  - • Look Blocks • Drain Rock •
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  - • Dump Trucks • Excavator •
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  - • Site Preparation •
  - • Box 1001, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0
  - Ph. 265-4615 • vieriac@telus.net

- **TruChoice Timbers**
  - Log & Timber
  - Crane Service
  - New Denver
  - 250-358-2566
  - jnpownall@telus.net

- **Capitol Building Materials**
  - Nov 19

- **TCR Timbersworks**
  - Licensed Residential Builder & General Contractor
  - Suite 3, 622 Front St
  - Nelson, BC V1L 4G7
  - 250-358-2508 • 358-7785 • 505-8210
  - Tim Reilly
  - www.trctimberworks.com

- **Kent & Arlene Yardcare Services**
  - Residential & commercial landscaping, gardens, snow clearing.
  - Nelson, BC V1L 4G7
  - 250-358-2508 • 358-7785 • 505-8210
  - K & A Yardcare Services
dan@canadiangardensupply.com

- **Leaf Cabinetry**
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  - 250-226-7441
  - www.leafcabinetry.com

- **Green Ridge**
  - Residential & commercial cabinet work.
  - Winlaw, BC
  - 250-226-7441
  - www.leafcabinetry.com

- **Rennorak Construction**
  - Specializing in Timber Framing
  - Castlegar
  - 250-304-2911
  - 1730 Hwy 3, Selkirk Spring Building
dan@canadiangardensupply.com

- **Wired by Alex Electrical Contracting Ltd.**
  - Alex Joseph
  - 250-358-7721

- **Arrow Lakes Ready Mix**
  - Alex Joseph
  - 250-358-7721

- **Indoor Garden Supplies**
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  - 250-304-2911
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  - Arts & Crafts • Gelato
  - • Crepes • Pizza & More
  - • Licensed
  - 302 6th Ave
  - New Denver, BC
  - 250-358-7702
by Jan McMurray

• The board agreed to form an in-house construction crew for the RDCK’s 20 water systems and one stormwater drainage system. This is estimated to save the RDCK $142,800 per year in labour and equipment costs. Staff was directed to hire a site superintendent, labourer and equipment operator, and purchase an excavator, service trucks, portable office, and all associated equipment with a capital budget not to exceed $355,100 in 2021. A dedicated service will be created in the 2021 budget.

• A response was received from Environment Minister George Heyman to a letter from 18 Regional Districts, including the RDCK, asking that the Recycling Regulation include recycling from business, industry and institutions (CI). He says the ministry has done research on “additional products that may prove suitable to manage under the regulation” and “any work to explore regulatory amendments involving CI materials would be accompanied by further consultation in advance of any such changes.” RDCK Board Chair Alnew Watson and the three RDCK resource committee chairs are arranging a meeting in Victoria with ministry staff on this issue on Monday, February 3.

• The board agreed to a request from the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC) for a letter of support for its proposed fibre optic backbone project from Fruitvale through Park Siding, Meadows, Eerie, Ymir and Hall and ending in Nelson. The letter will indicate the RDCK’s intent to provide $400,000 (11%) to the project. CBBC is planning to apply for funds from the Connecting BC program and the ORTC Broadband Fund.

• The RDCK will apply to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to purchase Emergency Support Services IT equipment. This will enable the RDCK to access the new ESS registration system being developed by Emergency Management BC. The new system will be used, starting spring 2020, to register evacuees and will result in evacuees accessing services more quickly and efficiently. The application will be for the purchase of two laptops consisting of five devices each, and for training for volunteers on the use of the devices and the new online registration forms.

• The Nelson Cannabis Lets Get it Right Foundation continued as a delegate to inform the board about Section 37 of the Cannabis Control Regulation. They suggest that it is “contrary to the Charter, poor policy, not popular and no fun at all!” Section 37 prohibits farm sales of cannabis and cafes where cannabis can be consumed.

• The RDCK will submit six resolutions to be considered at the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government’s convention in August. They are:1. Opposing the creation of a Land Bank, 2. Calling for the establishment of a process for Improvement Districts to have access to provincial and federal infrastructure grant funds, and still maintain their autonomy. Others are about private land logging, creating a ministry to look after BC’s water resources, dike improvement districts, subdivision of ALR land into smaller, more affordable lots, and removing section 37 of the BC Cannabis Control Regulation, which prohibits farm production of any place to consume or to spend time after consuming cannabis.

• Director Gerry Jackman provided a report on a session at the Mercer-Celgar Popoff, and calls for the establishment of a process for Improvement Districts to have access to provincial and federal infrastructure grant funds, and still maintain their autonomy. Others are about private land logging, creating a ministry to look after BC’s water resources, dike improvement districts, subdivision of ALR land into smaller, more affordable lots, and removing section 37 of the BC Cannabis Control Regulation, which prohibits farm production of any place to consume or to spend time after consuming cannabis.

• A study to investigate the feasibility of a new recreation service on the Campbell Field (adjacent to Mt. Sentinel School in South Slocan) was approved. RC Strategies was hired to do the study at a cost not to exceed $20,000 plus taxes. A total of $50,000 will be budgeted for the project in 2020, with $80,000 coming from the RDCK Feasibility Study Reserve Fund and $150,000 coming from the Area H South Recreation Service.

• The board provided a letter of support to the Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association for a project to replace aging boardwalks at Winlaw Regional and Nature Park.

• The Special Events Permit Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2691, 2019 was adopted. This bylaw is for Areas H (Slocan Valley) and E (Balfour and area) only, and will impose a licence fee and other conditions on any gatherings that have an entrance fee. The next step is a regulation bylaw that will provide details on the conditions, and on how the service will be funded.

• The RDCK will install bus shelters and bus stop lighting in the Slocan Valley and will coordinate improvements to traffic signals along Highway 3A by March 31, 2020. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will pay up to $179,000 for the work, with the RDCK covering 100% of the costs.

• Mike Koolen was appointed as Slocan representative on the Rosebery Parklands and Trails Commission until December 31, 2022.

• Recreation Commission No. 6 appointments were made: Arlene Yofonoff (Silverton council), Tanya Gordon (alternate), Eva Shandro (Silverton resident), Monique Wood (alternate).

FLIKS film series returns to The Langham

The popular FLIKS film series returns to The Langham Friday January 31, 7 pm with Kenny, a “mockumentary” about a fearless Aussie plumber who has never met a drain he couldn’t conquer. Filmmaker Clayton Jacobson profiles one of the key cogs in society’s massive machine. Combination philosopher and comedian, Kenny (Shane Jacobson) has a heart the size of a septic tank. Though he may hold one of the most thankless jobs in modern society, he never lets the dirty work get him down.

As Kenny juggles family tensions and leaking porta-johns while preparing for the upcoming Pump and Cleaner Expo in Nashville, Tennessee, he and his loyal “Splishdown” crew are profited by a documentary crew that isn’t about to let some dirty overall get in the way of a good story.

According to the popular film review website Rotten Tomatoes, “Kenny uses its seemingly lowbrow mockumentary premise as the foundation for a well-acted and surprisingly thoughtful character study.”

Tickets are $10 at the door 6:30pm. For more information visit: www.thelangham.ca