COVID-19 pandemic has New Denver Medical Clinic “on high alert”

by Jan McMurray

With the COVID-19 coronavirus spreading quickly throughout the province, the New Denver Medical Clinic is “on high alert, but everything is good so far,” reported Dr. Chuck Burkholder on March 20. “I think people are heeding the advice to stay home as much as possible.”

Dr. Burkholder said all routine appointments at the clinic are being cancelled. However, follow-ups can be done by phone. “We’re really trying to limit face to face contact unless people are sick,” he said.

Patients who require a refill of their regular medications do not need to visit a doctor or nurse practitioner for an updated prescription. Instead, a pharmacist can provide patients with a refill or emergency supply of their medications.

Many people are experiencing anxiety during this unprecedented time. Dr. Burkholder says there are a lot of self-help online resources for this (www.cdc.gov), but severe anxiety is a legitimate reason to go to the clinic.

Anyone with respiratory symptoms should take the self-test online (www.bccdc.ca), Dr. Burkholder said, or call the Nurse Line at 811. If you have any symptoms, the self-test will instruct you to call your doctor or 811. Doctors and 811 nurses can then refer people to a testing centre if deemed necessary. Burkholder says there are testing centres in Nelson and Trail – but not in the hospitals, as people are being encouraged to stay away from hospitals unless absolutely necessary.

“Not everyone who wants to be tested will be tested,” Burkholder said. People with no symptoms or mild symptoms probably won’t be referred for testing. People who are sick enough for hospitalization will be referred for testing, and health care workers and long-term care residents with symptoms will be prioritized for testing.

“There’s quite a worldwide shortage of swabs and a lack of personnel qualified to do the testing,” he explained. “Results take multiple days, so the testing is more useful for public health purposes than for individual cases.”

People are being advised to wash their hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer, avoid touching their faces, practice social distancing (stay two metres away from others), and stay home if they’re not feeling well. Public health officials urge anyone who has travelled to a foreign country to self-isolate for 14 days, stay away from work or school and going out only for essential errands, such as obtaining medication or food, and with a mask or tissues.

On March 17, there were 7 cases in the Interior Health region and 100 cases in BC. As of 10 am on March 23, 13 British Columbians with the virus had died. The first presumptive case was confirmed in BC on January 27.

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry declared a public health emergency on March 17. This allows her to act swiftly to the rapidly changing situation and to enact orders to protect British Columbians. The first time a public health emergency was declared in BC was in 2016, in response to the overdose crisis. On March 18, a provincial state of emergency was declared to support the public health officer. Provincial states of emergency were declared in 2017 and 2018, in response to wildfires.

The government has suspended K-12 learning in all classrooms. A decision on when and how to return will be made in partnership with school districts and independent schools.

Travel has been severely restricted. Dr. Henry has banned mass gatherings of more than 50 people. Businesses with liquor primary licenses (bars, pubs, nightclubs, etc.) have been ordered to close. All restaurants have had to move to take-out or delivery only, or close. All personal service establishments, such as barbershops, beauty parlours, health spas and massage studios have been ordered to close.

These measures are having a huge impact on the economy. Both the federal and provincial governments have announced economic response plans. Check websites for the federal Department of Finance and the Office of the BC Premier for details.

1 888 COVID-19 has been launched to provide non-clinical information about COVID-19. This number is available seven days a week, from 7:30 am to 8 pm, in over 110 languages. People can also text 604-630-0001 for non-clinical support.
The Valley Voice
March 26, 2020

NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of the Area H North TV Society which was scheduled for 7 pm, March 30, 2020 has to be cancelled to maintain social distancing, slow the spread of COVID-19 and because the Knox Hall is closed to public events.

If you have any questions or comments about the operation of the Society, or wish to see the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2019, please email me at <aardsaw@gmail.com> and the other directors and I will try to answer your questions.

DAVID EVEREST, Board Chair, Area H North TV Society

Inquest postponed into death of Peter John De Groot

The BC Coroners Service will reschedule the inquest once all COVID-19 public health measures are no longer required.

Due to the privacy of the deceased, under the Coroners Act, the deceased’s name will not be released.

The BC Coroners Service has been notified and is now investigating. The Coroners Service’s fact-finding investigation will look to determine who died, how, where, when and by what means.

At this stage of the investigation, criminality is not suspected in the blaze or in the individual’s sudden death, adds Cpl. O’Donaghey.

The inquest is scheduled to begin on May 19, 2020, at the Rossland Courthouse.

The BC Coroners Service has postponed the inquest into the death of Peter John De Groot, in response to the provincial public health measures currently in place to help contain the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The decision to postpone the inquest is in line with the Supreme Court of British Columbia’s approach to COVID-19. As part of the court’s efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the chief justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia has ordered the closure of all courthouses and suspension of all regular operations, effective immediately, until further notice.

The inquest was scheduled to begin on May 19, 2020, at the Rossland Courthouse.

Slokan Valley resident recovering from snowmobile accident in our last issue, we reported that Judy Kanigan was with the Slocan Valley Snowmobile Association group on the day Sharon Milton was injured. In fact, it was Jody Kanigan.

Also, we reported that when Lee Bontje arrived at the Snowwater/Powdercats staging area to ask for help, the Powdercats guests were loading onto the snowcat to return to base. This is what we had understood from Neil Milton’s account of the story, which he sent to us by email. However, the Miltons say that the Powdercats guests had already left the mountain when Lee arrived to ask for help. When we contacted Patric Maloney, owner of Snowwater Heli Skiing, to check with him, he just reiterated that it is not the job of the company to respond to public rescues. Although the company has responded to many public rescues, their obligation is to their staff and guests. It is the job of local Search and Rescue teams to respond to public rescues.

In ‘Slocan Valley resident recovering from snowmobile accident’ in our last issue, we reported that Judy Kanigan was with the Slocan Valley Snowmobile Association group on the day Sharon Milton was injured. In fact, it was Jody Kanigan.

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Sump pumps, hoses, septic tanks & pipe, fence & fencing

We are limiting people to 5 customers in the store at any one time. Social distancing of 6 feet is required. Please no sickness allowed in the store.

#4 sunshine mix spring special $900.00 for 30 bales/$30 each/ pallet pricing only/ must take whole pallet for this price.

Animal feed for chickens, horses, pigs, sheep, dogs, cats & more

Potting soils, flats, inserts, pots, rakes, wheelbarrows, wagons

4” azaleas, lilies, roses, primula, cut flower bouquets

PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES
March 26, 2020  The Valley Voice

Area H opinion poll shows majority support for dog control, noise control and unsightly premises bylaws

by Jan McMurray

Results are in from the Area H (Slocan Valley) opinion poll on dog control, noise control and unsightly premises bylaws, with a slight majority in favour of all three.

The dog control bylaw was supported by 53% of all respondents, and the noise control and unsightly premises bylaws were each supported by 54% of respondents.

About 1,240 packages were sent out, and a total of 902 were received back, for a response rate of 48%. There were 692 mailed responses and 210 online responses.

The RDCK board received the results of the opinion poll at its March meeting, and directed staff to do an in-depth analysis on a dog control bylaw for all of Area H, and to prepare an amendment to the RDCK noise bylaw to include Area H and Area I (rural Columbia-Shuswap). Area H Director Walter Popoff said the “service case analysis” for the dog control bylaw would determine the estimated costs of the service to Area H residents through taxation. He said staff would look into the possibility of sharing the costs with the Villages, if they are interested in joining the service. The Village of Slocan has expressed interest, he said.

“The there are reports being received by the Regional District of dangerous dogs and incidents of residents being bitten, so I feel a bylaw is appropriate because it’s a public safety issue,” Popoff said. “If we bring in a bylaw, it will be complaint driven – there won’t be officers on patrol. A bylaw would enable the RCMP to provide assistance to our Bylaw Enforcement Officers and contractors, too. Right now, they have no authorization to do that, although they’ve been helpful in addressing dangerous dog issues.”

Popoff explained that complaints about dangerous dogs would be handled by RDCK Bylaw Enforcement Officers closely with the Columbia Basin Trust to explore an online engagement tool. More information will be available soon, and applicants will be notified by email. For the most up-to-date information, visit the website: http://rdck.ca/central-rockies-dog-control.

RDCK reduces 2020 budget, cancels public meetings, closes facilities in response to COVID-19

The RDCK shaved more than $1.25 million off its proposed 2020 budget at the March board meeting.

“There has been an urgent request prior to budget adoption to reduce tax and expenditures. The board has decided to take these steps towards an unsightly premises bylaw because he feels the existing RDCK bylaw is not a great fit for rural residents,” Popoff said. “If we bring in a bylaw, it would complement a special events permitting bylaw, which is in the works. This is an opportune time to have our noise bylaw amended to include Area H.”

Popoff explained that no action was taken on the unsightly premises bylaw because he feels the existing RDCK bylaw is not a great fit for rural residents. He said he’s been talking to RDCK staff about this before he takes any further steps towards an unsightly premises bylaw.

Don Cherry

Hockey Night in Canada is the name of the game

Without Don Cherry “I’ll never be the same”

Goalie David Ayres laid his claim to fame

Flipped his pen and should have said

But CBC showed him the door…

He had the guts to say what we felt

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Money talks. And “Bull” only walks…

The first one to stand and support our troops

Our ancestors thought we were crazy

Our descendent think we’re stupid

Smoky Creek Salvage 24 HR TOWING

New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work,

WE BUY CARS & TRUCKS

24 HR TOWING

FISH SENSES

All fish pick up low-frequency sounds through their bodies and/or an internal ear. Dense skull bones sense particle motion. Gas-filled swim bladders connect to middle ear bones. There’s a life raft in lateral lines down their sides to pick up particle motion and pressure gradients in the water, helping fish twist together in tightly synchronized schools. Human ears evolved from fish. gills.

news/POETRY

Mary Joy O’Bryan (née Preston)

April 22, 1947 to February 27, 2020

The O’Bryan clan sadly announces the loss of our beloved Mom and Oma, Mary O’Bryan, who was taken from us suddenly on February 27th. Mary grew up in Creston, BC, but was part of the Silverton/New Denver community for 37 years until moving to Prince George for health and family. Some might remember her as Silverton’s unofficial florist, creating and donating floral arrangements for every occasion, or recall her brief stint as one of Lucerne School’s most popular substitute teachers, or as a friendly face behind the counter at Home Hardware and later Mountainair, among other places.

She leaves behind her older brother Donald Preston; her four children, their spouses, and six grandchildren: Janice O’Bryan; Julie O’Bryan & Kevin Phillips and grandson Riley; Eric & Dana O’Bryan and grandsons Hayden and Liam; and Dan & Susan O’Bryan, grandson Connor and granddaughters Cara and Hannah, along with many loving friends.

One of her proudest accomplishments was the yard and garden she planted and landscaped at the home in Silverton she shared with her partner, Chris Latto. Her lace trugs, tulip trugs, and yellow wisteria trellis are truly spectacular in the spring, and we hope that will be Mom’s lasting artistic legacy that everyone can enjoy for years to come.

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Surviving COVID-19

It's a strange time to be publishing a community newspaper. Normally this is a time of year where business picks up. Garden supplies, spring fashions, events and public meetings need to be advertised. Reporters need to write stories about the things that we’re doing. There’s a lot of news going on, and a lot of advertising.

Not so this year. COVID-19 has largely shut all of that down. The wheels of commerce have ground to a halt. While local politics continue through video links, the spirited public meetings that we so enjoy covering are, for the moment, a thing of the past. The Arts and Cultural events that we showcase every two weeks have been cancelled.

Necessarily that makes for a smaller paper.

COVID-19 is a difficult story for a newspaper like the Valley Voice to cover. New developments are happening every hour. We go to press on Monday night. You don’t get the paper until Thursday. It would be wrong to bury our heads in the sand and pretend that it’s not happening. But we can’t cover the story adequately. By the time that you get the paper, much of the information will be obsolete.

Over the coming weeks we plan to increase our web presence. Expect semi-regular updates on our Facebook page. We intend to continue our print edition for as long as possible. Many of our readers rely on the print edition for their local news. However, distribution will have to change.

We’ll continue to mail the paper to everyone who lives in the area, but are discontinuing our drop-offs at local businesses for the duration of the crisis. If stopping in at your local coffee shop on Thursday morning to have a java and read the Valley Voice has become a ritual for you, we apologize.

If our supply networks break down, we will continue to publish on-line. Thank you for your on-going support of local, independent journalism.

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lakes from South Slocan/Playmor Junction to Edgewood and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake.

Rome is burning

Starting right now, all those entitled people going on cruises should be fined. Being that those megaships are the bane of the oceans, and being that we always feel the need to flee our lives of relative luxury, getting rescued off the ships seems like an absurd act of government benevolence. We have humans living in dire conditions in this nation. Just when are we going to invest in our neighbours without expecting a return of oh more fun. Just when are we going to stop wanting more and more and having to flee all that accumulated stuff, and needing more superficial pictures to post on Facebook, never satisfied. Rome is burning. We keep on fiddling.

 Angloa Herity
 Grand Forks
 Where is COVID-19 in the Interior Health region?

I feel like we are being kept in the dark. I look for information that tells me where the virus is. I am concerned and not knowing makes me worry. Why is this information not available to us? I think the lack of information is making it too much more paranoid. We don’t need to know the exact location, just approximately where it is. The number in the IH region is nine today. Likely that means there are at least 18-27 people in isolation who have it. But who really knows how many more because we are in the dark.

Jeanette Lee Edgewood

Silverton

Campground trees

On March 4, 2020, at approximately 3:20 am, a tree from the Silverton Campground fell over onto our house and almost killed my wife, Barb. When called at about 3:30 am, Leonard Caseley (Village foreman) and Derek Hicks (fire chief) responded immediately. Later, with Mel DeRosa, they worked very hard to top the roof and later clean up debris so we could get in and out of our house. Huge thanks, guys.

Mayor Clarke said that the trees that fell had huge root balls. He made it sound like the wind was the only reason they fell. How could he know? When Barb asked the mayor and the CAO to come down for a first-hand look, she was told they had pictures and didn’t need to look. At the March council meeting a week later, I was told council had no idea what they were going to do about the campground trees. What was most disgusting, though, was that they hadn’t even had a meeting about the issue. That almost died a week later! A week later all the Village had done was send a letter denying any liability.

Our lives and campers’ lives are at risk. We have asked many times about root rot and were told the trees were safe. Well it almost took a death to prove it, but now we know. It was root rot! And the root balls aren’t huge. Councillor Main, Mayor Clarke, and CAO Elliott all need to resign. I have many reasons why anyone would care to talk about it.

Don Broughton
Silverton

Settlers have responsibility to support Indigenous autonomy

What do genocidal practices against Indigenous people, ecocidal exploitation of natural resources and the ecocidal effects of climate change and pollution have in common? During the Wet’suwet’en resistance, many of their spokespersons have insisted that this is not a pipeline protest. I take them at their word. Five centuries of colonial land theft, exotic diseases, physical and economic violence and, in this region, extinction struggles for autonomy and sovereignty have in common.

The Trudeau government’s failure to acknowledge Indigenous sovereignty, despite the legal and moral imperative to do so, and the recognition of colonially installed government structures over the hereditary leadership gives the lie to the Canadian government’s illusion of ‘reconciliation’. Premier Horgan’s declaration that the project through unceded Indigenous land will proceed, no matter what, confirms that the NDP along with the Liberals and Conservatives are enthusiastic supporters of the destructive corporate development agenda. And the continued deployment of militarized police forces clearly demonstrates the government’s intent to protect these corporate interests with lethal force.

The natural gas they want to pump over Wet’suwet’en territory is not the benign substance their public relations program would have us believe it is. Natural gas may be free of toxic compounds found in coal and oil, but it still produces carbon dioxide when burned. And, it is produced by fracking, leaving destroyed water sources and destabilized land behind. The BC government’s pipe dream of a provincial money machine based on this project, even in the unlikely event that it pans out, comes at great expense to many people, not to mention the atmosphere.

As settlers on other people’s land we have, at the least, the moral responsibility to support Indigenous struggles for autonomy and sovereignty over their lands. As human beings, who need clean water and air to live, we have a human responsibility to end our ecocidal exploitation of natural resources and pollution. What do genocide, ecocide and omnicide have in common?

Extinction and death… that’s what.

Jim Herring
Nakusp
Small towns, small businesses, COVID-19

If you are in your house reading this, then I know you love your town or village... you’ve probably spent the winter there. You know how important small businesses and services are to our communities. They support us locally year-round and tourism in the summer months. Small shops often run very close to the edge financially and when unforeseen disasters strike, they suffer through it at great cost to their personal bank accounts. COVID-19 is particularly brutal. People being asked to stay home except for essentials. Grocery stores and pharmacies are doing okay but cafes, pubs, R&Bs, hardware stores, insurance operators, health food stores, and all those little funky shops that make our villages unique are suffering. Even our local newspaper is suffering badly because there are no events or announcements for their advertising budget. Many businesses, if they have employees, have laid them off, or closed up, or are staying open and going into debt.

How can we help? We all know, especially in mid-winter, how nice it feels to be able to go out with friends and be able to purchase that thing we need without having to drive to a larger centre. Let’s find creative ways to support our small businesses in this current crisis. Can we order take-out food? Is there a new online market that can begin to require some supplies from some of our funky stores now that we are stuck near our homes? Can we buy local gas instead of the cheaper stuff down the road? What needs fixing that the hardware store can help with? Even if we don’t need something from them today, thank them for staying open. Emotional support can sometimes be as invigorating as financial support.

The new Economic Response Plan is great but it doesn’t put direct dollars into the accounts of small businesses like it promises to do for workers. It does open up opportunities to borrow money and defer payments in order to keep business going. For those who choose to keep their doors open, they will have to pay these debts in the future.

These family-run businesses are our neighbours. They give life to our little towns and villages. Who has other ideas to keep them open and flourishing?

Kathy Harrison, New Denver
Leah Main, Silverton

Response to Valhalla Foundation for Ecology
A road has not been asked for by the motorized sector. The idea is seen as sentimental and makes for fake news. ATVS/SSVS would use existing Bonanza FSR plus an extension thereof into two BCITS blocks, planned for 2019. The motorized sector has consistently used existing FSRs, logging roads and mining cat tracks. This is good stewardship and common sense.

The due process of arriving at this stage of implementation of rail trail usage was a cooperative effort by Mike Koolen, Bill Beavin, Richard Allin, and Ernie Knecht. The process has John Cahro as the appointed facilitator. This group was formed in the fall 2015 to find a solution to the rail trail usage (motorized and non-motorized) between Summit Lake and Rosebery. January 2017, Recreational Sites and Trails advertised to the public for input and opinions on the section from Summit Lake to the old Girl Guide camp near the top end of Slocan Lake. It is noted that the section of rail trail from the Girl Guide camp to Rosebery had been removed from the mandate of this working group. This input process was open for several weeks. Of the numerous submissions, there was no submission from the Valhalla Wilderness Society, Valhalla Foundation for Ecology, Wayne McCory and Lorna Visser. They missed the deadline and have attempted to have a submission received.

Spring tour of 2018 had the group (paragraph 1) plus professional consultants do an onsite appraisal regarding a crossing of the rail trail to Bonanza FSR. Viewing maps showed two crossings over sensitive wetlands. Bill Beavin and Ernie Knecht outright rejected these locations. Also, Mike Koolen and Richard Allin supported this rejection. Consultant agreed. Upstream from the wetlands/marsh area was an old bridge crossing of Bonanza Creek. Historically, the bridge decades ago was used for getting logs to a mill close to the CPR siding. The old bridge has aged to disrepair and disappeared into history. Interesting enough, in the centre of the creek is an old washing machine tube full of concrete, used to help span the creek for Hills country skiers. You would think they would have removed this possible environmental hazard a long time ago.

Yes, now there will be a two trail system. The motorized sector believes and supports a ‘shared trail’ concept and would be happy to share the rail trail. We support and respect trail closures for wildlife migration. The rail trail from Nakusp boundary to Summit Lake is a shared use trail under the tenure of Nakusp and Area Community Trails Society and RSTBC since 2013. As a shared trail, it is a success.

If Valhalla Foundation for Ecology is so concerned about the second trail, get on board, promote a shared trail of the railbed. ATVS have never objected to a shared rail trail.

Jerry Van Immerzeel
Nakusp

Pandemic pluses
Perhaps this virus could lead to a better way for humanity. Clearly jet travel has gotten out of hand, and many of us have recognized for a long time that it is not a sustainable thing to do, and also that it is very detrimental to our world’s environment. Now it’s pretty evident that it is also not safe, due to its tendency to rapidly spread disease. Maybe it can help us to learn to live within our means. It is not necessary for every human to strive to personally see every last beautiful thing. We have the technology to see those things remotely, know about them, and marvel at their existence. We don’t have to all flock there and spoil them all in the process. It is still a beautiful world, let’s stay home and keep it that way.

My raisins are up in the cold frame. The snows are back this morning checking out the accommodations. Last evening, I went outside to take a look around before sunset. I saw a beautiful thing, something I have not seen for decades. A clear sky with absolutely no trace of jet trails, or any form of human manufacture.

Rod Retzlaff
Glade
The meeting opened with a presentation by Carmen Proctor of the Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP), launched in April 2019. Proctor provided an update on the energy-renovation portion of the program, which is available to all residents in the region. Residents who sign up get an energy evaluation of their home, with recommendations on energy-saving improvements. The evaluation, worth $450, costs only $165 through the program and is free for income-qualified households. Once the evaluation is done, many of the recommended improvements can be implemented at no charge.

Proctor stressed that more needs to be done to increase the number of participants. They have only signed up 328 participants out of the 774 they hope to have by December 31, 2020. In Silverton and the surrounding area, four households have participated. Council and Village staff were encouraged to promote the program and spread the materials around. For more information, go to www.rdck.ca/reep or email ecoave@nelson.ca.

The next item of business was the upcoming new recycling system and the proposed hours. The recycling depots will be staffed, and the hours considerably curtailed. Proposed hours for Silverton are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Friday; for New Denver, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The new system will be for residential recycling only. Businesses are required to find alternate arrangements. Mayor Clarke described the incoming system as the “best of a bad situation.”

Councillor T. Gordon remarked on the strength of the feedback he has received on the system. He was encouraged to know that residents are willing to participate.

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Kaslo council, March 10: Kaslo Racquet Club proposal for new court to be discussed in OCP review

by Jan McMurray

• The North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage presentation was a theatrical performance by Lynn Van Deursen, with Paul Van Deursen providing stage management.

• After attending the Parks, Trails and Public Arts Committee meeting of February 26 as a delegation, the Kaslo Racquet Club (KRC) wrote to the committee to propose that the Village lease the land between the fire hall and Riding Club grounds to the club for a new court facility. The letter states that the club understands the Village is willing to consider this, and that it would be part of the discussions during the upcoming Official Community Plan review. KRC will provide the committee with a preliminary site plan for the facility at the proposed new location. Council asked staff to prepare a report on the feasibility of leasing the land to the KRC, once the preliminary site plan is received.

• A Village of Kaslo Business Continuity Plan: COVID-19, 2020 was presented by the CAO and adopted by council. The plan outlines regular disinfecting procedures in the City Hall, public works building, and the water and wastewater treatment plants. It also outlines plans for office staff to work from home and for contractors to do public works jobs if necessary. It acknowledges that maintaining water and sewer service is “the essential priority” for public works.

• A letter from Heike Reeg-Smith of the Periwinkle Children’s Centre informs council that CBT has agreed to fund a child care needs assessment for Kaslo, which is required for Periwinkle’s application to the BC New Spaces Fund.

• A Village of Kaslo Parks, Trails & Public Spaces Committee meeting of February 5. Committee members Chris Temple and Pete Chomitz did a tour of the new May Days coordinator is Pat Desmeules.

• A Request for Proposals will be issued for a Tree Planting Master Plan for boulevards and public spaces. It will identify what types of trees to plant and where, and serve as a guide for the Village crew. This project will be funded with $5,000 from the Parks Reserve.

• Council approved the sewer extension to the campground and Vimy Park. Leftover funds (about $39,000) from the phase one project will be used for this. In phase one, sewer main was laid along the lane from the Legion to the campground, serving the properties between A and B Avenues and 2nd and 5th Streets.

• Council consented to the adoption of RDCK Bylaw 2707, which amends the Kootenay Lake West Transit Service Bylaw. It increases the annual taxation limit to $650,000 or $0.058 per $1,000 of net taxable value of property in the service area. The way the cost is apportioned among the participating areas is also amended in the bylaw to make it more equitable.

• The Kaslo & District Arena Association is applying to the Farm Credit Canada Agri Spirit Fund for new condenser equipment. Council passed a resolution in support of the application, and agreed to receive the funds and issue a receipt to the funder if the application is successful.

• Council received four letters on the topic of seasonal light displays in the Village. The letters ask council to address streetlight pollution before spending money and time on seasonal lighting.

• A letter from Kate O’Keefe expresses her disappointment with Recycle BC’s “dictate” that Kaslo residents use very large containers for their recycling pick-up service.

• The Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel was appointed. Mayor Suzan Hewat, Councillor Van Mill and Molly Leathwood, with Rob Lang as the alternate. Their first meeting will be April 28 at 5:30 pm.
**New Denver council, March 10: Support requested for proposed Zincton Mountain Village**

by Kathy Hartman

- Council received a letter and information from Zincton Farms about the proposed Zincton Mountain Village development. The letter, from David Harey, founder of Zincton Farms as well as CEO/ founder of Valhalla Pure Outfitters, asks council for a letter of support for the development. Harey also asks council to consider a Village of New Denver boundary extension to include the Zincton development.

- Although council members acknowledged the benefits of an economic driver such as this in the area, they agreed that a report on the potential risks, costs and benefits of the proposed development to the Village would be prudent, and would help them make informed decisions. Council asked staff to prepare a report.

- In the information provided to council, Harey says the proposed mountain village will be a four-season resort – “an internationally-acclaimed, small-scale, mountain destination,” that includes: powder skiing, mountain biking, hiking, and outdoor music. Our development will be very close to Carbon Zero, low tech, and non- mechanical.” The location for the proposed development is 12,000 acres of private land, approximately 15 km east of New Denver along Hwy 31A towards Kaslo. Harey says 85% of Zincton terrain is backcountry, for self-powered, minimal impact activities, and 15% will be lift serviced. Plans include a 4-star 24-bed backcountry lodge and a gondola. The information says there will be no condos or hotels, but rather privately owned accommodations.

- Council agreed to a Committee of the Whole meeting with the New Denver & Area Housing Society (NDAHS) to discuss options for collaboration on the development.

**COMMUNITY**

**Nelson area man arrested in Slocan Park break-ins**

by Jan McMurray

Break-ins occurred at the Slocan Valley Co-op, the Slocan Park Post Office and the Slocan Park Hall in the early morning hours of Sunday, March 22. Nelson RCMP responded and arrested a man who was found inside the co-op. Police report that the male is from the Nelson area.

“Almost all the missing items were recovered, and the man cooperated with the police, so there was no major loss,” reported Chris Sapriken, general manager of the Slocan Valley Co-op. “But it caused a lot of stress, on top of all the stress around COVID-19. These types of incidents are unusual in the valley, and this is not the time we should be seeing it.”

The co-op was closed all morning to clean up and re-security the building. One of the front glass doors had been smashed. “He took some snack food and consumed some alcohol on the premises, and he stole a small amount of money from the bulletin board fundraiser,” Sapriken said. “The guy seemed to be just taking advantage of an opportunity.”

Sapriken reports that he got an alarm call at 4:30 am, so he went to the store to wait for the RCMP. An officer arrived quickly. Later, a second officer arrived some 20 minutes later, and told Sapriken an individual had been located in the store but he wasn’t cooperating. He advised Sapriken, and the staffperson who had arrived, to leave the property until the RCMP notified them that all was clear. About an hour later, the call came that the situation was under control.

Sapriken says he examined the footage from the co-op’s security system later that day, and saw that the RCMP had four or five vehicles and many members on site. “They were dealing with a potential standoff, but there was not much of an incident in his arrest. They were gone before 6:15 am.”

Sapriken reports that a duffle bag full of sound equipment and a garbage bag full of mail was located across the highway on the railroad tracks. The cleanup, it became clear that there had been entry made to the post office in Slocan Park as well, and then we learned the post office in Kaslo was also broken into.

“From a man who was found inside the co-op. The co-op was closed all morning to find out what happened, call PALS today at 250-265-3792,” reported Chris Sapriken, general manager of the Slocan Valley Co-op. “The guy seemed to be just taking advantage of an opportunity.”

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

A Province-wide State of Emergency has been declared and all individuals must follow the Orders issued by the Provincial Health Officer. General information regarding COVID-19 is available from the BC Centre for Disease Control at www.bccdc.ca or 1-888-268-4319. For non-emergency medical advice please call 8-1-1 for guidance.

The Village of New Denver continues to work closely with the BC government, Interior Health Authority and other partner agencies to monitor the COVID-19 situation and respond appropriately. All Village-owned buildings are closed to the public until further notice. This includes the Village Office although assistance will be available via phone or email weekdays from 9AM – NOON and from 1PM – 4PM.

**WILDSAFE BC COORDINATOR – NEW DENVER**

WildSafeBC is currently hiring for a New Denver Community Coordinator. This position starts May 10 to November 30, 2020. The deadline for application is April 6th, 2020 – 4:00 pm PT. For a complete job description and how to apply, please go to: http://www.bccf.com/opportunities/employment.
YOUR own innate resources tools and to experience processes to cultivate small group, to learn Somatic anchoring opportunity for social connection interactive online video course as an Psychology) is offering a two-part (Counselling SUE MISTRETTA, MA

March 26, 2020   The Valley Voice

[Image 22x53 to 765x761]
EAGLEMAN ESTATE, KASLO:

SERVICES

RENTED WANTED
MARK JEFFREYS, DAUGHTER SEQUOIA, and Sequoia’s cat, Mouse (who is, indeed, a fine mouser) are seeking a place to rent from May through August this summer. We’re flexible. Please drop me a line at markjefferys@yahoo.com or ring me at 801-910-1532. Thank you!

NEWS RETIRED PROFESSIONAL WOMAN looking for affordable rural/remote accommodations long or short-term. Excellent references, quiet lifestyle. Please email kshaundell@gmail.com

CLASSIFIED ADS
Slocan Valley TV Society back on the air
by Jan McMurray
After over four months, the free over the air TV service in the Slocan Valley is back up and running.

Derek Murphy, secretary-treasurer of the society, reported that all five channels were back by Thursday, March 19. They’d been down since early November.

Murphy reports that the main problem was faulty antennae, which were shipped to a repair shop in Alberta. The antennae had to be redesigned for the specific frequencies, distances and directions used in the Slocan Valley system. At the same time, the power amplifier was failing, and was shipped to another shop in Alberta for repairs.

The equipment finally came back in mid-February, and then it took two weeks before the tower climbers could come to do the installation. “It’s a big relief to get this work done. We’re quite confident that the core system is now stable between the three towers,” Murphy said. “We have been coping, but we have a vision of how it can evolve and improve in the future.”

Next on the ‘to do list’ for the society is work on adding more channels to the system, and to get the radio stations back up. “We’re hoping to be able to get more channels up here anywhere from six months to a year from now,” said Murphy.

The service provides five TV channels (CBC, Knowledge, Global, ABC and CBS) and two radio stations (Rock 101 and 99.7 FM) to residents from the Village of Slocan to Playmor Junction. The service is free to anyone living in the service area.

A Slocan Valley TV Society Facebook page has been created.

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription
Only $10-$30
Send Cheque or Money Order to: Valley Voice, Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0
M’akola Development Services Feasibility

Housing Commission’s work on a housing was news about progress on the Affordable

from Robert Inwood, Heritage Design

Harvest Mae is joining the commission.

will no longer be on the Slocan Wellness

them on Springer St.

and Giffin Ave. and the five lots behind

Residential. These seven lots are the two

rezoning of Lots 1-5 and 18-20 of Block 43

costs. Staff will begin preparations for the

will apply for this grant and use the funds

Mortgage and Housing Corporation has

application for seed funding from Canada

proceed with the project were presented. An

details. M’akola showed funding is

project costs including capital budget,

detailed site analysis, a breakdown of

on February 10. The analysis included

information on the overall vision, need,
detailed site analysis, a breakdown of

project costs including capital budget,

detailed site analysis, a breakdown of

method of apportioning costs for the transit

service. At Joyce Johnson’s suggestion
during public participation, the Village will

be required that Slocan Valley route times

be adjusted so service can transfer between

the Castlegar and Slocan Valley buses.

The Village of Slocan Financial

(2019-2023) Amendment Bylaw

was passed and adopted. The amendment

was needed to access the funds for water plant membranes.

In

and $55,000 extra needed in additional funds for water plant membranes.

In

addition, the amendment allows the Village to withdraw $12,000 (25% in 2019 and the rest in 2020) from the Gas Tax Reserve as its contribution to the Waterfront Development Phase 1 Project. CBT approved a grant for the waterfront project in August, after Slocan’s original 2019-2020 Financial Plan had been passed and adopted.

Slocan will be a sponsor for the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society’s

$5,000 equipment replacement project. The Village will apply to the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund on the SVHSS’s behalf; if the Legacy Fund application is approved, Village will sign agreement with the society, outlining sponsor-agent roles and responsibilities for the project.

Slocan will contribute $5,000 to the Winlaw Regional Park, Boardwalk Replacement Project: $2,500 will come from the RDCK Community Development Fund and $2,500 from the Village Gas Tax account. Slocan will contribute $500 from the RDCK Community Development Fund to the WE Graham Community Service Society and Slocan Valley Youth Network partnership for skatepark repairs. Slocan will provide a $500 Dogwood Sponsorship to the 2020 Zone 6 BC Seniors Games from the RDCK Discreetory Fund.

• In public participation, Felicity Gervis expressed concern about treatment for knotweed and provided information on pesticides and pesticide-free ways to manage pests. Joyce Johnson thanked the Village for filling in potholes.
Winlaw Regional Park Boardwalk Replacement Project to start soon

COMMUNITY

by Jan McMurray

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has partnered with the Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association (KASA) on the Winlaw Regional Park Boardwalk Replacement Project.

“This project is really exciting because there’s quite a bit to it,” said Janis Neufeld, KASA project manager.

With access and inclusion a priority, not only will the deteriorating boardwalk be replaced, she said, but education, resources and an access and inclusion team led by KASA and Paralympian Kimberly Joyes will assist RDCK community stakeholders to build capacity by prioritizing accessibility requirements across the region.

This team will be able to assess the boardwalk and other trails and parks in the region; there will be education, field training and resource and marketing development provided for staff and community stakeholders on universal design and accessibility standards; and the University of Manitoba has joined in as a partner to assist with “physical literacy enhancements” and as a valuable resource moving forward.

Neufeld reported that employees have been hired and all will have started work by March 30. Most are from the Nakusp/Winlaw/Nelson area and some will join the access and inclusion team. She says activities of the project incorporate protocols to protect project staff and participants during current conditions.

A valuable part of the project will be the work KASA has done, and will be expanding on, with Spinal Cord Injury BC - Access BC. This will provide a coordinated approach to the development of accessible travel and services in the Regional Districts and tourism association areas of British Columbia. Access BC and its partners will be able to assess the boardwalk and other outdoor spaces in the region. “I’m so honoured to have her on our team, expanding with this project,” Neufeld said.

“We will be working on trail standards for mountain biking, which will support reliable information and improve development of trail systems across the region and province. So, what does a green trail look like? What does a blue trail look like? What does a black trail look like? We’ll be working on the fine details of trail standards."

Winlaw Park has over 200 metres of wooden boardwalks that pass through wetlands and provide access to the waterfront.

KASA has recently been involved in other boardwalk projects: Galena Trail boardwalk/bridge replacement project in partnership with the RDCK, and the Mt. McKay trail boardwalk in partnership with the Nakusp and Area Bike Society.

KASA has obtained grant funding for the Winlaw project from the RDCK ($100,000) and from Access BC’s Job Creation Partnership ($411,000), funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia. The total cost of the project is approximately $800,000. KASA has submitted other funding applications and is waiting to hear back.

The Job Creation Partnership supports opportunities to gain meaningful work experience and skills enhancement by providing funding to organizations that provide community benefits while creating jobs.

Contact Jesse Oldham
(licenced HPO Builder)
(cell #) 250 551 2593 • jessedlham@hotmail.com

Winlaw Launch Club AGM shows support for marina breakwater project

by Jan McMurray

There was good turnout to the Winlaw Launch Club annual general meeting on March 16, and a lot of support for proceeding with repairing the western breakwater at the marina. About 25 people attended, including Mayor Tom Zeleznik and Councillors Susan DeSandoli, Joseph Hughes and Ken Miller. Seating was arranged for social distancing.

Although the entire marina facility needs a lot of work, it quickly became clear that the western breakwater is the priority, Ken France, president of the Launch Club for the last 15 years, said he’d do a survey the day before and found pieces of the west breakwater scattered around the lake. “It’s the west one we need to change because it’s almost gone now,” he said.

France reported that Ian Graham of Graham Marine in Kaslo recently came to have a look. Graham feels that the west breakwater should be rebuilt in the long term, which means putting all the pieces back together. In the short term, he recommends replacing the breakwater with a system made of high-density polyethylene. These systems can handle the rise and fall of the reservoir much better than the current breakwater can. Graham quoted $193,000 for the engineering and installation of 200 feet of the new breakwater system. France said the project would require 300 feet, so the cost would be higher, but the quote gave a good idea of what they’d be looking at.

Dave Hofm of Waterbridge Ferries was there, and said Waterbridge is putting in that same system at the Adams Lake Ferry. He said it’s a “great” system and feels the quote provided by Graham Marine is “pretty reasonable.”

Mayor Tom Zeleznik addressed the meeting, and said BC Hydro, which paid $5.5 million to have the whole marina facility constructed in 1980 and then handed it over to the Village of Nakusp, has fairly recently provided $100,000 for the breakwater repair. Zeleznik has also secured $30,000 for the project from a Columbia River Treaty Team program. Another potential source of funding is the Village of Nakusp; council is seriously considering the possibility of using some of the $700,000 budgeted for phase two of the downtown revitalization project for the west breakwater repairs. Zeleznik seemed quite confident that both the downtown revitalization project and the west breakwater repairs can be done this year.

“Council is behind this. We understand the economics of it. We have neglected it for 40 years because it’s hard to fund,” the mayor said. But now, it’s time to “get going on it!”

Launch Club Treasurer Sylvia Warrant outlined the non-profit organization’s financial position. With approximately $178,000 in the bank and annual expenses of about $15,000-$20,000 per year, she said the volunteer board of directors had agreed that the club can contribute some funds to the project, as well.

Mayor Zeleznik said BC Hydro has indicated they will provide in-kind assistance if community support is shown for the project.

This meeting was a strong show of support, with five new people joining the board, and one person signing up as a volunteer. The five long-time board members are also staying on – Ken France (president), Kevin Carter (vice-president), Sylvia Warrant (treasurer), Andrea Clark (secretary) and Butch Watring.

“We’ve done our best to try and keep the thing together,” France said. “When it breaks, it needs to be fixed right now. It if gets away, it destroys boats and other parts of the dock.” For the last 15 years, France and other board members have been doing the emergency repairs. Out of 82 slips, 11 cannot be sold on the west side due to damage and six can only be offered on a seasonal basis because of the fluctuation in lake levels.