First things first: it’s not likely you’re going to go hungry this fall because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, like toilet paper supplies earlier this year, things could get strange at the grocery store.

“Oh yes, I think we are kidding ourselves if we think we are going to sail on through and not see a bump in the road,” says Rachael Roussin, program coordinator of the Kootenay & Boundary Farm Advisors. “I heard someone say on a recent conference call, ‘we’re not going to have a caloric deficit, but we could potentially have a change in our choices.’”

“I would say it is a pretty likely outcome that what is available on the store shelves will be different and there will be impacts,” agrees Aimee Watson, chair of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, and longtime food security activist. “What exactly those will be is the million-dollar question.”

Indeed, there’s already signs of looming problems. From mountains of potatoes left to rot, truckloads of milk poured down the drain to millions of chickens slaughtered and simply buried, cows in our vastly complicated food supply chain have been skipping, stalling or stopping altogether.

Even local shoppers have seen temporary, local shortages of eggs, rice, cheese and other staples as distribution systems try to adapt.

That if you can afford food. The pandemic’s economic impact has created more food uncertainty. The Nakusp food bank has seen a 15% increase in use; the Castlegar food bank has also seen more clients, and both report the kinds of people coming for help has changed.

“There are more newly unemployed or furloughed workers seeking help.”

“I’ve said for a long time, the problem with our very long supply chains is that they are vulnerable, and if we don’t rebuild our place-based food systems, all of us, no matter our financial wherewithal, will be food insecure,” says Abra Brynne, the executive director of the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council.

The pandemic has provided both opportunity and increased risk for local food producers.

“Farmers are seeing a huge demand for their product now. But they feel they are making a really big investment that’s somewhat risky, because the public is kind of fickle when it comes to these kinds of events,” says Bryme. “If we go back to something near normal in July, and in the fall they are pulling out thousands and thousands of carrots, onions and potatoes and whatever else they planted, are the eaters still going to be there to support them? Or are they going to have a huge glut of food to figure out how to store, how to find markets for adequate price for their investment?”

“We hope farmers will make it through this,” adds Roussin. “They are also very concerned that maybe consumers won’t have enough money to buy crops. Maybe people will want different choices. These are all questions farmers are asking themselves, what market will demand, what consumers want, and how to adapt to new regulatory demands.”

Illustrating how complex the issue continues on page 2
Trust supports food security initiatives

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

People working to improve the region’s food security are getting support from the Columbia Basin Trust.

The Trust is introducing two new programs for food producers: one that provides loans for operational and equipment needs, and one that provides wage subsidies to hire workers.

Farmers growing grains, vegetables, fruit, forage or raising livestock can now access the change necessary – to seek out the local farm food, to seek out the independent growers and others who are bringing the best value back to food producers, giving them commitment, having a long-term relationship to continue to support Basin Food Producer Loans. This program provides loans for working capital and equipment. Primary food producers who are increasing production due to the pandemic can get financial aid to hire workers throughout the growing and harvesting season through the Basin Food Producer Wage Subsidy.

“With the increased demand caused by the pandemic, Basin farmers are gearing up to expand production,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. “In speaking with these producers we heard there are gaps in current COVID-related supports, and because agricultural production is a priority for the Trust, we’re stepping in to offer these new programs. This will help bolster the region’s food supply, create employment and alleviate longer-term economic impacts in the Basin.”

There’s no word on how much money is available. Both programs came on line May 1. For more information, visit the CBT website, www.cbtrust.org.

Support for slope stabilization and the re-establishment of riparian forested-wetland areas around our territory are key to the overall health of the habitat, and we need support to keep that infrastructure.

A lot has happened since our last column. It’s been a long winter for everyone, and we are very grateful to all of the people who have stepped up.

K.L. and her granddaughter Tencza were the replanting crew at Snk’im. They carefully cleared an area and planted the plants into place, followed by a careful watering and a blessing with a tiny sprinkling of tobacco. We’ll follow up with the occasional light watering but beyond that the plants are on their own. We hope they will thrive in this location.

We’ve been checking the ponds and pools at Snk’im for toads and salamanders but it’s still a bit too cool for them to be out and about. There are a couple of great rock piles that are likely snake hibernacula but as snakes are very shy it’s unlikely we’ll see them easily.

Wayne notes that snake hibernation is actually called brumation. Instead of living off fat reserves like a hibernating bear, snakes reduce their energy use through the winter by allowing their body temperature to drop. It is common for hundreds or even thousands of garter snakes to be found in large bodies of open water. This beaver may be looking to find new territory but it will have a heck of a job trying to dam the whole lake!

Let’s remember that it’s beaver that created Snk’im Marsh with their dams that keep the water in the wetland. We noted a new dam in the marsh area near the lake; we thank these primary food producers who are working to keep the water in the wetland and feed your soul. For physical distancing due to COVID there’s plenty of space and fresh air, you can easily keep the required 6-foot distance should you encounter anyone else.

To get to Snk’im Marsh Sanctuary, park at the notice distance should you encounter anyone else.

To get to Snk’im Marsh Sanctuary, park at the notice board at the top of Bonanza Road in Hills, then walk down the dirt road to the trail where you will see the Snk’im Marsh Sanctuary signs.

One final note, we had a phone call from someone who is enjoying this column, asking for permission to visit Snk’im… you don’t need permission! Anyone who wishes to visit for the quiet and respectful enjoyment of nature is welcome to do so.

We ask that during the Nest In Peace time you keep dogs out of the sanctuary itself (there are signs posted along the boundary) and that you stay away from bird nesting areas. There is a picnic table at the marsh overlook area, please come and have a rest and feed your soul. For physical distancing due to COVID there’s plenty of space and fresh air, you can easily keep the required 6-foot distance should you encounter anyone else.

To get to Snk’im Marsh Sanctuary, park at the notice board at the top of Bonanza Road in Hills, then walk down the dirt road to the trail where you will see the Snk’im Marsh Sanctuary signs.

One final note, we had a phone call from someone who is enjoying this column, asking for permission to visit Snk’im… you don’t need permission! Anyone who wishes to visit for the quiet and respectful enjoyment of nature is welcome to do so.

We ask that during the Nest In Peace time you keep dogs out of the sanctuary itself (there are signs posted along the boundary) and that you stay away from bird nesting areas. There is a picnic table at the marsh overlook area, please come and have a rest and feed your soul. For physical distancing due to COVID there’s plenty of space and fresh air, you can easily keep the required 6-foot distance should you encounter anyone else.

To get to Snk’im Marsh Sanctuary, park at the notice board at the top of Bonanza Road in Hills, then walk down the dirt road to the trail where you will see the Snk’im Marsh Sanctuary signs.

One final note, we had a phone call from someone who is enjoying this column, asking for permission to visit Snk’im… you don’t need permission! Anyone who wishes to visit for the quiet and respectful enjoyment of nature is welcome to do so.

We ask that during the Nest In Peace time you keep dogs out of the sanctuary itself (there are signs posted along the boundary) and that you stay away from bird nesting areas. There is a picnic table at the marsh overlook area, please come and have a rest and feed your soul. For physical distancing due to COVID there’s plenty of space and fresh air, you can easily keep the required 6-foot distance should you encounter anyone else.

To get to Snk’im Marsh Sanctuary, park at the notice board at the top of Bonanza Road in Hills, then walk down the dirt road to the trail where you will see the Snk’im Marsh Sanctuary signs.

One final note, we had a phone call from someone who is enjoying this column, asking for permission to visit Snk’im… you don’t need permission! Anyone who wishes to visit for the quiet and respectful enjoyment of nature is welcome to do so.

We ask that during the Nest In Peace time you keep dogs out of the sanctuary itself (there are signs posted along the boundary) and that you stay away from bird nesting areas. There is a picnic table at the marsh overlook area, please come and have a rest and feed your soul. For physical distancing due to COVID there’s plenty of space and fresh air, you can easily keep the required 6-foot distance should you encounter anyone else.

To get to Snk’im Marsh Sanctuary, park at the notice board at the top of Bonanza Road in Hills, then walk down the dirt road to the trail where you will see the Snk’im Marsh Sanctuary signs.
Celgar seeks help to survive pandemic

by John Boisin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Mercer Celgar pulp mill in Castlegar is in danger of closing down in a matter of months, a company official says, if they don’t get support they need from the provincial government and local municipalities.

Dwindling supplies of wood chips used by the pulp plant to make its product, rising costs and the COVID-19 pandemic have all put the company under huge financial strain.

“Measures to mitigate this must be taken now to reduce the risk of a shutdown,” Celgar Managing Director Bill MacPherson told community leaders after a conference call in late April.

The company has held a series of meetings to keep community, employee and political leaders up to date on Celgar’s situation. In a letter, MacPherson wrote that Celgar faced a “critical situation” and needed help from the government to “help keep Celgar operating during these exceptionally challenging times.”

The company, which employs about 450 people in Castlegar and supports numerous contractors in the West Kootenay, has been squeezed by a changing industry and the economic damage caused by the pandemic, MacPherson told the Valley Voice.

“It’s not that we don’t have wood, it’s having affordable wood,” he says. “And when we lose residual chips from sawmills, it makes our wood even more expensive. The other problem is with low pulp prices and rising expenses, the company used to get almost all its product, rising costs and the pandemic.

“MacPherson says Celgar has been struggling recently. “We lost tens of millions of dollars last year – we went into a degree of insolvency,” he says. “We don’t have strong sales, and demand, but we need that wood input that is affordable, because prices haven’t gone up in pulp globally.”

Three ideas

Celgar is proposing a series of regulatory and financial breaks to keep the company operating.

One proposal would be to temporarily designate all logs delivered to a pulp facility as ‘pulp wood’ with a fixed stumpage rate of $0.25 per cubic metre, a fraction of the usual cost. This would lower the price of the logs for the pulp mill.

“It’s not like suddenly we will make a whole bunch more money; we just lose a little bit less,” he says.

In late April, the Province announced a three-month deferral on stumpage rates. But MacPherson says that won’t do much to help his industry.

“If sawmills have markets to sell their lumber, it’s the best solution for everybody because having them run – and those jobs – that’s what we want to see. They’re our supplierof chips,” he says. “But you can look around and see how the US housing sector’s been, how the US housing in shambles and the US housing industry where it’s at, and already the rolling impacts on our sawmills, it’s hard to see it helping.

“So deferring stumpage may give an increment bump to them, but the leaders in Mercer and me, we don’t think it’s going to make any impact to the pulp mill industry at all.”

A second proposal would see the company (and others in the industry) allowed to run trucks that are 10% heavier than currently allowed, cutting transportation costs to a degree.

Finally, Mercer Celgar is hoping to extend its current agreement with BC Hydro to supply the grid with electricity as a byproduct of its pulp-making process. The 10-year-old agreement brings in millions of dollars annually in revenue for the company.

Province studying idea

More than 18 community leaders attended the conference call, including MLA Katrina Conroy, union leadership, Celgar employees and the plant’s parent company, Mercer International.

Conroy says the Province is taking the matter seriously, and has heard from sawmill companies that the deferral on stumpage rates will help that industry. She says that in turn will help Celgar.

But she says it’s a complex situation.

“The problem is there are so many requests that have to be looked at, and with the forest industry the premier’s staff is involved, because it’s critical to our province,” the MLA for Kootenay West, including Castlegar, says. “We can do what we can to help Celgar, but also respecting the needs of the other businesses in our region who need saw logs.

“That’s the hard one. Do you keep one operation going with all the logs, or do you share the logs to make sure they are appropriately used? If we have good saw logs, they need to go to the mills where they can be used in the best way. That has taken some time to work on – there’s a forestry committee, and they’re working hard on how can we work together to use the fibre and support each other.

Conroy says the other ministries are considering the weight restrictions and BC Hydro contract as well, but no decisions have been made yet.

Struggle to survive

Meanwhile, MacPherson says the quest to keep operating is demanding daily adjustments and strategizing on how to survive.

“We never say die, you keep working, you keep logging, talking, making your case, hoping the economy will come back to life,” he says. “Hopefully we don’t have a second or third round of COVID that causes a retraction in the economy.

“We have a responsibility to our employees first of all, but it’s wideranging, because even if we don’t have a second round of COVID, there’s a future that’s going to be, you know, challenging.”

“We have a responsibility to our community, our fellow citizens and employees first of all, but it’s wideranging. We make a big impact.”

SHELLEY BORTNICK, MSW, RSW

Individual, couple and family therapist

30 years experience

Offers counselling services involving mental health (depression, anxiety, etc.), addictions, grief and loss, trauma and life transition issues.

For appointment, please call

250-265-3397

SHELLEY BORTNICK, MSW, RSW

Individual, couple and family therapist

30 years experience

Offers counselling services involving mental health (depression, anxiety, etc.), addictions, grief and loss, trauma and life transition issues.

For appointment, please call

250-265-3397

SHELLEY BORTNICK, MSW, RSW

Individual, couple and family therapist

30 years experience

Offers counselling services involving mental health (depression, anxiety, etc.), addictions, grief and loss, trauma and life transition issues.

For appointment, please call

250-265-3397

SHELLEY BORTNICK, MSW, RSW

Individual, couple and family therapist

30 years experience

Offers counselling services involving mental health (depression, anxiety, etc.), addictions, grief and loss, trauma and life transition issues.

For appointment, please call

250-265-3397

SHELLEY BORTNICK, MSW, RSW

Individual, couple and family therapist

30 years experience

Offers counselling services involving mental health (depression, anxiety, etc.), addictions, grief and loss, trauma and life transition issues.

For appointment, please call

250-265-3397

SHELLEY BORTNICK, MSW, RSW

Individual, couple and family therapist

30 years experience

Offers counselling services involving mental health (depression, anxiety, etc.), addictions, grief and loss, trauma and life transition issues.

For appointment, please call

250-265-3397

SHELLEY BORTNICK, MSW, RSW

Individual, couple and family therapist

30 years experience

Offers counselling services involving mental health (depression, anxiety, etc.), addictions, grief and loss, trauma and life transition issues.

For appointment, please call

250-265-3397
You will be missed

Sally, Sally, I love you so
Sally Lansing, it’s hard to let you go!
Sally of brilliant woodcraft
And Queen of Friendly for our town
With these words I will not yet you down
And with my actions will honour still
Your smiles
Your lack of guile
And just plain dam good spirit!!!

Daphne Fields
Slocan

Hurray for Valley Voice

I am impressed with the Valley Voice, always, but OMG - the April 23 issue! Tremendous.

Congratulations to John Bolvin for 1. joining the valley and 2. his excellent articles covering community news. And to Jan and Dan for achieving the funding for his position. And congratulations to Art Joyce, for his informative, in-depth article about our latest worry - COVID-19. And, as always, thanks to the Valley Voice for providing this information.

More than ever, we need an independent voice which gives us a balance of local news and news from further away. I'm happy to be able to support the Valley Voice and hope many of you readers will choose a subscription ($5-$50) or a donation (any amount) to keep the Voice in our valleys!

Kate O'Keefe
Keno and Johnson’s Landing

Lemon Creek fuel spill class action lawsuit

Neither our local MLA Katrine Conroy nor local MP Dick Cannings have responded to my previous requests for their opinion on the Lemon Creek spill and ongoing litigation process that would bring financial compensation, after seven years of effort, to our community. Given the current uncertain economic climate, Slocan Valley residents need this compensation more than ever. But the BC NDP government and the federal NDP have completely abrogated any fiscal responsibility for our community, which was severely impacted by the Lemon Creek spill. I personally find this unacceptable, if not reprehensible, and I question whether they are sincerely concerned about the welfare of the residents of the Slocan Valley. I appreciate your print media platform to announce to our community that we are being ignored.

Karín Laja

Essential services

SG is not one. SG is not one of the number of essential services at this time, or at any time. It is time to done’s homework on this subject. If you’re a young millennial who still up till now has super happy with 2G, 4G and the whole cell phone industry as it has morphed into smart phones, but something else you now goes... hmmm, maybe it’s not okay… then hey you for! Because it is very different, and getting up speed about it is an important responsibility.

No, SG did cause the coronaviruses but it does weaken all life to become prey to such diseases. Lots of us older ones know this because it’s a perspective - you can just get by living without or daring something. The now government mandated fibre-optic system will be very fast and very safe and it’s up to us to keep it that way with so added-on SG, which comes with too high a price. SG would result in huge privacy problems, including national security hack-ability. And, hey, Huawei, you are corrupt and proven so. Even Trump has stated that SG can’t come to the White House. (Not that he’s unhappy about it proliferating everywhere in Canada, unlike the States, we only have it in a very few places. Keep them there and let’s do the homework so it doesn’t become ubiquitous, and keep in touch with the centenarians [that May 15] for feedback to the FCC. Also Citizens for Safe Technology, which I was part of for a while so I know some key players (one had a sensitive daughter who studied opera at a university which had too much WiFi - there goes career). We will get cramped and more manipulated than what’s happening now.

A beautiful movie that mostly deals with the radiation from big cell towers (SG has masses of what’s called ‘small cells’) is Resonance. Connect the dots as best you can because now is the time to assess and decide. In the meantime, make sure you can unplug any wireless components you have so you can sleep a little better at night.

Daphne Fields
Slocan

Opinion

Good journalism is still around

All our friends from Vancouver island to the Kootenays would like to offer thanks for such a great article written about COVID-19 (April 23 Valley Voice) by Art Joyce.

This article makes perfect sense and like our friends, we had come to similar conclusions.

The economy will be badly affected and we have enormous job losses right now. Canada’s financial future is already bleak, and we will experience again a recession. We have friends around the world telling us things are getting really bad with the coronaviruses shutdowns. We are going through some kind of world reset right now. We are respectful for our health care teams. Nobody wants to bring a cold, flu or any disease to anyone - for that, we stay home.

We thank you, Art, and the Valley Voice for having the courage to publish findings by professionals who have been suppressed so far.

Karin Laja

Trudeau’s gun control back-up

I am a farmer, a hunter, and a gun owner. I see my guns as tools, not weapons.

There are many other gun owners who see their guns as weapons, and I am in favour of getting rid of those weapons.

I am absolutely against ‘grandfathering’ their ownership. Semi-automatic guns and handguns should not be in the hands of the public. We can’t allow some people to own those weapons, and expect others to trust that none of them will be put to their intended use. We are talking about thousands of weapons, and an ever-growing legal supply. One would have to be a complete fool to trust that none of those weapons would ever be used for evil purpose.

That said, Trudeau is completely futile. It’s just getting rid of all those weapons in one swoop, he is getting rid of some of the worst looking ones, and dolloping off the decision on handguns to cities only, leaving the people in the rest of the country free to get shot by a handgun whenever they please.

Worst of all, Trudeau keeps missing about “there being more to do” leaving the people who see guns as tools feeling threatened with losing all their guns, and turning all gun owners against him. He? would just get rid of all semi-automatics and handguns, many gun owners would support him. Continuing with his “more to do” is detrimental to the cause. I also think that two years is too long. Six months, and a 10-year mandatory sentence for anyone caught with such a gun in Canada after that date, would be more appropriate.

Rod Retzlaff
Glace

We have so much

You know, some of us take this sneaky disease in stride. I’m none of them. We’re the seniors, the elders. We know life is not a picnic on the beach. Learned it the hard way, in my old school of hard knocks. Life’s a bitch and then you die. We all do.

Let’s put this in perspective. Our parents had vivid memories of the First World War, of the 1929 depression, and of the Second World War. Come to think of it, many of us oldies remember that war. We were right there, in England, Holland, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, in Italy, Greece, Denmark, Norway.

One hundred people a day dying? How many people do you think died when a city was bombed? In the bombing of Hamburg, 49,000 civilians were killed in Berlin, 35,000. From July 1944 to January 45, 13,500 civilians were killed every month. The Spanish Flu in 1918 infected 500 million and killed 50 million. And in those days, the world population was only two billion.

So you’re short of toilet paper. Ooza wozza wozza! Remember the Sears catalogue hung in the outhouse for that purpose? Snow works really well, too. Just make sure you don’t use devil’s club. It’s painful.

Can’t find the foods you want? Ach, das ist ja Schade, nu?
continued from page 4 know potatoes may make great mashed potatoes? That you can boil onions as a vegetable? That dandelion salad, stinging nettle soup, and tulip bulbs are delicious? When I was eight years old, I had never seen oranges, bananas, chocolate, or peanut butter, let alone soft drinks. The drink of choice was just sugar beer or the core of a raw cabbage. I survived.

So you have to stay inside. When I was a kid, anyone who went outside after dark was shot. We didn’t have traffic lights between 16 and 40 were dragged off buses and street cars and shipped to Germany for forced labour. If they resisted, a bullet to the head. I watched from the picture window in the livingroom.

We’re not in China. We’re not in India. We’re not in New York. We’re in the West Kootenays. The West Kootenays, to be exact. The garlic is up, the daffodils are in bloom, the grass is green, the sky is blue and the sun is warm, and Dr Bonnie Henry is working hard to keep us healthy. So why not wash your hands, keep your distance, and enjoy the beautiful world we live in? Try a smile. We have so much.

Elke de Boer Fauquier

Western pandemic failure

It’s painful to see Western civilization respond so poorly and desperately to the COVID-19 pandemic. Asian countries, such as South Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan had days to respond to China’s bungling and they did a good job and continue to do a good job against this horrible virus.

Europe, Canada and USA have had weeks to respond to COVID-19 and they have failed miserably. Now we have a pandemic where we had months – the disease recently went into the negatives – and no one really knows how to proceed in a decisive, clear, safe way. Leaders like Trump who should have been about right thing and resign but fat chance of that. These egomaniacal leaders are in hog heaven getting drunk on power, soaking up the cameras and their PR people love it.

In the UK, Labour Prime Minister Jeremy Corbyn did a dreadful job and was out of the picture in November. Left leader Sir Keir Starmer is Attorney General who failed. Now we have a new Labour leader, Starmer, who is a dentist.

In Canada, we have 2 prime ministers. During the COVID-19 crisis, the Prime Minister in charge of the pandemic response was initially the Public Health Minister, then the Federal Finance Minister, then the Prime Minister (Justin Trudeau) and now the Health Minister (Jean-Yves Duclos) who are manipulating the numbers for political purposes, and the “low rates” aren’t that low at all. Among these is Dr. Imoniadin, a disease expert and counsellor on a variety of widely quoted and methodologically flawed studies that seek to prove COVID-19 harms. Dr. Imoniadin was quoted in an article as saying that the deaths in Iceland show a COVID-19 mortality rate of only .003% vs. the rate for influenza (aka “the flu”), which is 1%. Thus, concludes Imoniadin, COVID-19 is less dangerous than the flu. Wrong.

There are three different ways to measure death rates. When making comparisons, it is important to use the same method. Comparing COVID-19 with influenza, or you are comparing apples to oranges.

To compare Iceland’s COVID-19 death rate to influenza, we need to use the Case Fatality Rate (deaths / number of tested cases). The Case Fatality Rate for COVID-19 in Iceland, as of April 30, is 55%. Which is 5.5 times higher than influenza’s Case Fatality Rate of .5%. What Dr. Imoniadin did was use COVID-19’s mortality rate, which is the number of deaths divided by the population, pretty obviously, this number is going to make COVID-19 look harmless by comparison to the flu.

Despite COVID-19 being 5.5 times more deadly than influenza in Iceland, the country still has one of the lowest COVID-19 death rates in the world.

So why are people fudging numbers? Why are people fudging numbers? Why are people fudging numbers? Why are people fudging numbers? Why are people fudging numbers? Why are people fudging numbers? Why are people fudging numbers? Why are people fudging numbers?

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.


drudge

Kalesnikoff

logging proposal

This letter is in response to the article on page 3 of the April 9 Valley Voice, “Kalesnikoff proposes harvesting within private properties in Slocan Park.”

The article states that “…the access road will be through a single private property. This is a mistake.

Our conclusion is based on these concerns:
- Building a new road in the forest will continue to pursue clarification from the owner regarding permission for access. CP A078 cannot proceed; therefore, it is premature to solicit public input.

In response they reiterate that they will continue to pursue clarification from the owner regarding permission for access. CP A078 cannot proceed; therefore, it is premature to solicit public input.

Public input regarding the proposed logging described in CP A078 has already been sent to Kalesnikoff in 2018 when they asked the community about gaining access through private land for this logging plan. We discussed at great length with neighbours north and south of Wolverton Creek the pros and cons of this logging plan and the particular conditions of the proposed cutbacks, and we concluded that we do not want logging to occur on these slopes.

Our conclusion is based on these concerns:
- This is highly complex terrain with very steep slopes, deep colluvial soils and lots of water dispersed across the hillsides; the area is classified as “inoperable” by the Forest Service. Logging activity here would be a constant threat in the years to come.

Kalesnikoff has already logged all the accessible wood on the upper slopes of this area, from the top, via road access; there are no issues with water in ditches and culverts rather than allowing it to remain dispersed across the hillsides. This could undermine the stability of these steep slopes.

- Tree removal hastens snowmelt (more exposure to sun), increases water runoff (less taken up by trees), and thereby increases the likelihood of water saturated soils and mudslides, slumps, and debris torrents.

- There has already been a mudslide originating in a high elevation clearcutting property 400 metres south of Wolverton Creek, depositing mud and debris 10 centimetres deep for 50 metres onto an adjacent private property.

- There are no issues with water in ditches and culverts rather than allowing it to remain dispersed across the hillsides. This could undermine the stability of these steep slopes.

- Tree removal hastens snowmelt (more exposure to sun), increases water runoff (less taken up by trees), and thereby increases the likelihood of water saturated soils and mudslides, slumps, and debris torrents.

- There has already been a mudslide originating in a high elevation clearcutting property 400 metres south of Wolverton Creek, depositing mud and debris 10 centimetres deep for 50 metres onto an adjacent private property.

- There are no issues with water in ditches and culverts rather than allowing it to remain dispersed across the hillsides. This could undermine the stability of these steep slopes.

- Tree removal hastens snowmelt (more exposure to sun), increases water runoff (less taken up by trees), and thereby increases the likelihood of water saturated soils and mudslides, slumps, and debris torrents.

- There has already been a mudslide originating in a high elevation clearcutting property 400 metres south of Wolverton Creek, depositing mud and debris 10 centimetres deep for 50 metres onto an adjacent private property.

- There are no issues with water in ditches and culverts rather than allowing it to remain dispersed across the hillsides. This could undermine the stability of these steep slopes.

- Tree removal hastens snowmelt (more exposure to sun), increases water runoff (less taken up by trees), and thereby increases the likelihood of water saturated soils and mudslides, slumps, and debris torrents.

- There has already been a mudslide originating in a high elevation clearcutting property 400 metres south of Wolverton Creek, depositing mud and debris 10 centimetres deep for 50 metres onto an adjacent private property.

- There are no issues with water in ditches and culverts rather than allowing it to remain dispersed across the hillsides. This could undermine the stability of these steep slopes.

- Tree removal hastens snowmelt (more exposure to sun), increases water runoff (less taken up by trees), and thereby increases the likelihood of water saturated soils and mudslides, slumps, and debris torrents.

- There has already been a mudslide originating in a high elevation clearcutting property 400 metres south of Wolverton Creek, depositing mud and debris 10 centimetres deep for 50 metres onto an adjacent private property.

- There are no issues with water in ditches and culverts rather than allowing it to remain dispersed across the hillsides. This could undermine the stability of these steep slopes.

- Tree removal hastens snowmelt (more exposure to sun), increases water runoff (less taken up by trees), and thereby increases the likelihood of water saturated soils and mudslides, slumps, and debris torrents.
Village of Nakusp
New Bylaw Enforcement System

Effective May 11, 2020, the Village of Nakusp will be implementing a new Bylaw Enforcement System. The new system will allow the Village of Nakusp to deal with bylaw enforcement at a municipal level rather than through the Provincial Court system. Previously, anyone wishing to dispute a ticket had to appear in a B.C. Provincial Court, an expensive and time-consuming process for the disputant, the Province, and the Village. Under the new system, a provincially appointed adjudicator will hear all disputes. The system will work as follows:

1. If the ticket is paid within 14 days, a discount will apply. After a fixed number of days, a surcharge is added.

2. Those electing to dispute their ticket may do so by first contacting the municipality in which the ticket was issued (by phone, fax, email or in person) within 14 days of issuance.

3. The disputant will be contacted by a Screening Officer who will review the case and, if appropriate, cancel the ticket. If the officer does not cancel the ticket, it will be forwarded to the adjudicator, or paid, whichever the disputant chooses.

4. If proceeding to adjudication, the disputant will apply in writing for an adjudicator to hear the case. A date will be scheduled, and the adjudication will be conducted at the Village of Nakusp Council Chambers. It should be noted that no appearance will not be required to personally appear at the adjudication. Representation may alternatively be made in writing, or over the phone. If the ticket is upheld, the full ticket charge, surcharge and a $25.00 adjudication fee (to offset the cost of the process) may be applicable and payable.

5. For more information on the new Bylaw Enforcement System, contact: The Village of Nakusp
   Chief Administrative Officer
   250-265-3689

Consultants offer solutions for Nakusp water woes

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Consultants hired by the Village of Nakusp last year say they think they’ve got to the bottom of a water shortage that hit Nakusp last summer. The consultants hired by the Village of Nakusp to 9D Engineering and Aqua Diversities suggest it was low flow levels from source creeks, everything from snowmelt to summer use, that caused the shortage.

The two companies are developing improvement plans for the Village’s water system, which council has identified as a choke point to growth for the community.

Previous studies have broken down how water is used in Nakusp:

- Indoor residential (domestic) - 17%;
- Industrial, commercial and institutional (domestic and industrial) - 12%;
- Hydroelectric power (unaccounted for water use/ leakage) - 37%;
- Outdoor use (irrigation) - 33%.

Residents use a total of about half a million cubic metres of water every year. Water use more than tripled from winter to the peak of the summer.

The Village was shutting down the facility – how to cut energy costs, the idea further to get a better sense of the scope and cost of the project. The idea was to come up with a list of ‘shelf-ready’ projects that could quickly be sent to the Provincial Government, and the Village. Under the new system, a provincially appointed adjudicator would hear the case. A date will be scheduled, and the adjudication when and how much water is being used by six different zones in the village.

“The Village was shutting down the facility – how to cut energy costs, the idea further to get a better sense of the scope and cost of the project. The idea was to come up with a list of ‘shelf-ready’ projects that could quickly be sent to the Provincial Government, and the Village. Under the new system, a provincially appointed adjudicator would hear the case. A date will be scheduled, and the adjudication when and how much water is being used by six different zones in the village.”

“Six flow meters are sufficient to enable the Village of Nakusp to reconcile water supplied with water used, and to isolate problematic areas within the distribution system to remedy both water loss issues,” the report says.

The consultants have also worked with municipal staff to improve their current water management.

School District 10 Trustees pass budget that draws on reserves

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

School trustees for SD #10 Arrow Lakes passed next year’s budget last month, opting for a spending plan that avoided reducing the board’s surplus by almost half.

Board members voted in favour of a $10,089,276 budget over weeks of debate and pencil-sharpening by staff and trustees. The budget seeks to both maintain services and protect the district from any bad news that is expected to be rough economic waters in the months and years to come.

“Six flow meters are sufficient to enable the Village of Nakusp to reconcile water supplied with water used, and to isolate problematic areas within the distribution system to remedy both water loss issues,” the report says.

The consultants have also worked with municipal staff to improve their current water management.

School District 10 Trustees pass budget that draws on reserves

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

School trustees for SD #10 Arrow Lakes passed next year’s budget last month, opting for a spending plan that avoided reducing the board’s surplus by almost half.

Board members voted in favour of a $10,089,276 budget over weeks of debate and pencil-sharpening by staff and trustees. The budget seeks to both maintain services and protect the district from any bad news that is expected to be rough economic waters in the months and years to come.

“Six flow meters are sufficient to enable the Village of Nakusp to reconcile water supplied with water used, and to isolate problematic areas within the distribution system to remedy both water loss issues,” the report says.

The consultants have also worked with municipal staff to improve their current water management.

School District 10 Trustees pass budget that draws on reserves

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

School trustees for SD #10 Arrow Lakes passed next year’s budget last month, opting for a spending plan that avoided reducing the board’s surplus by almost half.

Board members voted in favour of a $10,089,276 budget over weeks of debate and pencil-sharpening by staff and trustees. The budget seeks to both maintain services and protect the district from any bad news that is expected to be rough economic waters in the months and years to come.

“Six flow meters are sufficient to enable the Village of Nakusp to reconcile water supplied with water used, and to isolate problematic areas within the distribution system to remedy both water loss issues,” the report says.

The consultants have also worked with municipal staff to improve their current water management.

School District 10 Trustees pass budget that draws on reserves

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

School trustees for SD #10 Arrow Lakes passed next year’s budget last month, opting for a spending plan that avoided reducing the board’s surplus by almost half.

Board members voted in favour of a $10,089,276 budget over weeks of debate and pencil-sharpening by staff and trustees. The budget seeks to both maintain services and protect the district from any bad news that is expected to be rough economic waters in the months and years to come.

“Six flow meters are sufficient to enable the Village of Nakusp to reconcile water supplied with water used, and to isolate problematic areas within the distribution system to remedy both water loss issues,” the report says.

The consultants have also worked with municipal staff to improve their current water management.

School District 10 Trustees pass budget that draws on reserves

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

School trustees for SD #10 Arrow Lakes passed next year’s budget last month, opting for a spending plan that avoided reducing the board’s surplus by almost half.

Board members voted in favour of a $10,089,276 budget over weeks of debate and pencil-sharpening by staff and trustees. The budget seeks to both maintain services and protect the district from any bad news that is expected to be rough economic waters in the months and years to come.

“Six flow meters are sufficient to enable the Village of Nakusp to reconcile water supplied with water used, and to isolate problematic areas within the distribution system to remedy both water loss issues,” the report says.

The consultants have also worked with municipal staff to improve their current water management.
Silverton draft budget presented with 0% tax increase

by Jan McClure

Silverton will dip into its surplus by about $37,000 to balance the 2020 budget. Residents will be happy with a 0% increase in Village taxes while also getting services they expect. The Village has a balanced budget by about $37,000 to balance the 2020 budget. Residents were pleased with it, and is expected to adopt the budget bylaw at the May 13 meeting.

McClure explained that 2019

ended with an uncommonly large surplus at $56,568, mostly because of a small price increase on gas, however, a much less expensive repair to the wellbank than expected.

He said the $56,568 surplus from 2019 adds to a current overall Village surplus that has accumulated from previous years. The $37,218 out of surplus in 2020 will help several one-time improvement projects.

The one-time projects total $622,500 and will be funded by the $37,218 in surplus funds, grants (about $50,000), loan proceeds ($100,000), and loan repayments ($40,000). These are: campground tree removal and landscaping ($20,000), Memorial Hall windows ($20,000), tree removal and landscaping ($20,000), $37,218 in surplus funds, grants (about $622,700 and will be funded by the Province, not the Village. The Province gave the Village an additional $20,000 to help support the Village, businesses and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, and lists several things local governments can do to help. Farmers' markets, which have been deemed essential, are exempt from the mass gathering order, however, they must comply with physical distancing and other requirements provided in the public health order.

Councillor Tanya Gordon, who is on a three-month leave of absence. Councillor Tanya Gordon is acting mayor for April-June. In an interview after the meeting, Gordon said all the trees that needed to be removed have been taken down, and are stacked in piles. She believes the Village has a lot of trees and that the Village is well served.

Gordon reported that council wants to have significant public input about where to go from here, but also wants the campground to be up and running as soon as possible. In the interests of a faster completion of the public meeting will probably not be called, Gordon said. Rather, submissions from the public will likely be requested by June 1.

Councillor Tanya Gordon is acting mayor for April-June. In an interview after the meeting, Gordon said all the trees that needed to be removed have been taken down, and are stacked in piles. She believes the Village has a lot of trees and that the Village is well served.

Gordon reported that council wants to have significant public input about where to go from here, but also wants the campground to be up and running as soon as possible. In the interests of a faster completion of the public meeting will probably not be called, Gordon said. Rather, submissions from the public will likely be requested by June 1.

Councillor Tanya Gordon is acting mayor for April-June. In an interview after the meeting, Gordon said all the trees that needed to be removed have been taken down, and are stacked in piles. She believes the Village has a lot of trees and that the Village is well served.

Gordon reported that council wants to have significant public input about where to go from here, but also wants the campground to be up and running as soon as possible. In the interests of a faster completion of the public meeting will probably not be called, Gordon said. Rather, submissions from the public will likely be requested by June 1.

Councillor Tanya Gordon is acting mayor for April-June. In an interview after the meeting, Gordon said all the trees that needed to be removed have been taken down, and are stacked in piles. She believes the Village has a lot of trees and that the Village is well served.

Gordon reported that council wants to have significant public input about where to go from here, but also wants the campground to be up and running as soon as possible. In the interests of a faster completion of the public meeting will probably not be called, Gordon said. Rather, submissions from the public will likely be requested by June 1.

Councillor Tanya Gordon is acting mayor for April-June. In an interview after the meeting, Gordon said all the trees that needed to be removed have been taken down, and are stacked in piles. She believes the Village has a lot of trees and that the Village is well served.

Gordon reported that council wants to have significant public input about where to go from here, but also wants the campground to be up and running as soon as possible. In the interests of a faster completion of the public meeting will probably not be called, Gordon said. Rather, submissions from the public will likely be requested by June 1.

Councillor Tanya Gordon is acting mayor for April-June. In an interview after the meeting, Gordon said all the trees that needed to be removed have been taken down, and are stacked in piles. She believes the Village has a lot of trees and that the Village is well served.

Gordon reported that council wants to have significant public input about where to go from here, but also wants the campground to be up and running as soon as possible. In the interests of a faster completion of the public meeting will probably not be called, Gordon said. Rather, submissions from the public will likely be requested by June 1.
Mountain caribou / wildlife study in for Argenta-Johnson’s Landing logging proposal

by Jan McMurray

The wildlife report for the proposed Salisbury Face harvesting area on the Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face was presented at www.coopercreekcedar.com. Public comments on the report are due June 1.

The study was prepared for Cooper Creek Cedar (CCC) by local biologist Brenda Herbison. Herbison’s ‘Assessment of habitat and risks for mountain caribou and other wildlife’ includes 21 recommendations in the ‘Summary of Recommendations’ section at the end of the report. She states that CCC has incorporated most of these recommendations in Cutting Permit 405 and has committed to incorporating the project strategy and 6 of them in site plans, to be developed in 2020. The assessment looks at risks to mountain caribou, other species at risk (grizzly bear, wolverine, fisher, great blue heron, northern goshawk, western toad, mule deer), and ‘common species’ and overall biological diversity.

She points out that CCC has no legal obligation to reserve areas for caribou on the upper Salisbury Face, “so the recommendations in this report were provided to mitigate impacts on caribou within a timber development context.”

The report says CCC has identified a caribou management area (CMA) of about 85 hectares, affecting proposed cutblock 7 on the upper face of the Salisbury watershed (i.e. 46 hectares) is proposed as a timber reserve with no harvesting. Herbison says this timber reserve area is good caribou habitat and is contiguous with habitat outside the CMA.

Harvesting will occur in approximately 35% or 26.3 hectares of the CMA, where tree retention levels of about 50% are proposed.” The intention is to select for caribou habitat attributes in the retained trees/clumps [of trees] and to fully kill all ‘other trees. Leave clumps/ trees will be field-identified and marked in spring 2020,” the report says.

“By block 7, Herbison says the proposed approximately 30% tree retention would ‘moderate’ the impact on caribou. “The stand could potentially be used by caribou in certain conditions in the first 20 years after logging, and it is expected to recover to a lichen-producing winter-suitable habitat state more quickly than if it was cleared." The study goes on to say that caribou could continue using upper Salisbury after the logging if “this is the last disturbance on the upper face” that occurs for approximately 100 years on the upper face.”

Herbison also points out that logging block 6 on the lower Salisbury Face would improve winter range for deer and elk, which could invite predators such as cougars and wolves into the caribou habitat. She suggests reducing improvements for deer in cutblocks 1-6 by shaded fuel-burning treatments or thinning from below.

Herbison says that if any evidence of caribou is observed in caribou habitat areas the project team should stop and discussions should be held.

Herbison stresses the importance of snags (wildlife trees) and woody debris in providing wildlife habitat as well as nutrients and other biological benefits to the forest ecosystem. She notes that worker safety regulations and wildfire risk reduction activities tend to work against leaving wildlife trees and woody debris in cutblocks.

She recommends that Kalesnikoff look for ways to retain existing areas of wildlife suitable habitat that the constraints of wildfire risk reduction practices.

“If treatments occur only in cutblocks adjacent to wildland zones (e.g. near residences) the significance of negative impacts could be minimal. If planned over large areas of the landscape there could be cause for concern,” she says. Herbison also notes that no access to proposed Kalesnikoff cutblock in Slocan Park

by Jan McMurray

Kalesnikoff’s proposal for logging near private properties in Slocan Park may be dead in the water.

The proposed cutblock must be accessed through a private property, and the company does not have an access agreement with the property owners. Gerald Cordeiro, forest development manager at Kalesnikoff, said he was surprised to hear from the neighbours that the access agreement may not be signed.

“The project originally arose when I was approached by one of the titled landowners, who said he was concerned about wildfire,” Cordeiro said. “We’re still hoping to have an agreement to allow the project to go ahead as planned. But if we don’t get agreement, the project won’t go ahead.”

A letter to the Valley Voice signed by 14 residents of the Wolverton Creek area in reference to the lucrative issue responds to our April 9 article about Kalesnikoff’s proposal. The source for the Kalesnikoff information package that was sent out to stakeholders is the Kalesnikoff information package that was sent out to stakeholders to invite their input on the plans. Residents were particularly disturbed to see the article and the Kalesnikoff info package state that “the access road will be through a single private property.”

“Without the partner, the project may not be in agreement – that was a surprise for me,” Cordeiro said. “We’s still hoping to have an agreement to allow the project to go ahead as planned. But if we don’t get agreement, the project won’t go ahead.”

A letter to the Valley Voice signed by 14 residents of the Wolverton Creek area (see below) responds to our April 9 article about Kalesnikoff’s proposal. The source for the Kalesnikoff information package that was sent out to stakeholders is the Kalesnikoff info package state that “...the access road will be through a single private property.”

“This is a mistake information,” the letter says. “Unemployed residents adjacent to this property have been assured by both owners of the property that no such access has been granted.”

The residents feel that it is premature for Kalesnikoff to be seeking input on the logging proposal when they don’t have access.

The residents say they are opposed to Kalesnikoff’s proposed logging near their community, and they haven’t changed their minds since this same logging plan was proposed in 2018. Cordeiro said Kalesnikoff started doing field work in this area in 2018, but there was no official proposal. “We did ground level reconnaissance on the north side of the creek and got a lot of input, but there was no uptake because no owners on the other [north] side wanted to give access, so we decided to do nothing at all,” he said. “But that was at a higher elevation than where we are looking now.”

The residents list several reasons in their letter why they don’t want the logging operation to go ahead. They say the slopes are very steep, with deep, erodible soils and lots of water dispersed across the hillsides. They feel that the proposed logging and road building activity would increase the likelihood of both landslides and impacts to the Wolverton Creek community watershed. They say there is a history of mudslides south of Wolverton Creek, and that previous logging and road building at the reaches of the creek have had “huge negative impacts” on the water quality.

According to the Kalesnikoff information package, however, the proposed logging is not expected to cause terrain stability issues re impacts on domestic water supply.
SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES – NOW MORE THAN EVER!
School District 8 adopts “constrained” 2020-21 budget

by Jan McMurray

The School District 8 Kootenay Lake board of education adopted the 2020-21 budget at the April board meeting.

A presentation on the $71 million budget was made by Michael McLellan, secretary-treasurer and chief financial officer.

Revenues from the Ministry of Education are increasing by 1%, but there will be a 2% increase in staffing costs across the board.

“It’s a constrained financial situation,” McLellan said.

Although the ministry has increased funding for some things, it has decreased or eliminated funding for others. “It’s just changing around the pots, though, because it’s only a 1% increase,” McLellan said.

The basic allocation per student is up 1.2%, from $1,879 this year to $2,234 next year. Funding for special needs students has also risen, and the per student allocation for unique geographic factors has spiked 18.9%. McLellan said there is $1.6 million more in SD8’s budget for unique geography next year than in 2019-20. However, the Rural Education Enhancement Fund (REEF) has been eliminated, and there has been a 10% decline in the classroom enhancement fund. REEF funds have been used in recent years to keep rural schools like Jewett School in Meadow Creek and Winlaw Elementary open. The classroom enhancement fund was established to help school districts hire the staffing required to restore class size and composition in line with the 2017 Supreme Court decision.

Another hit to SD8’s revenue is expected by way of the international program. Tuition fees have been projected much lower than usual, as far fewer international students are expected to enrol because of the pandemic.

“Overall, revenues are rising by about $330,000, so we have essentially the same revenues as last year, but staffing is up 2%,” McLellan said.

Staffing costs account for 78% of the budget. This includes 4.5% for district administration staffing, which is slightly up from last year but “well below provincial average,” McLellan said. A new position in the technology department is the reason for the slight increase, he added.

The Focus-Learn Excel program, a three-year plan for enhancing student learning, accounts for 17% of the budget. 2020-21 will be the third year of this program, which involves a major modernization in information technology.

The final 5% of the budget is swallowed up by amortization of capital projects.

McLellan noted that the students’ wishes, expressed in a resolution coming out of the student symposium, are addressed in the budget. The transportation budget has increased, which will allow for more extracurricular and after school activities. The district has also committed to installing many Pride sidewalks as possible by the end of the 2020-21 school year. Finally, the SD8 Go Green initiatives will continue.

A new Human Resources initiative will see a third party satisfaction survey of all employees next year. There are 276 full-time equivalent teachers and 29.75 full-time equivalent support staff. That’s a decline of 7.5 teachers and 11 education assistants, based on the projected enrolment of 4,835 students. The enrolment projection comes from the ministry; if the district ends up with more students by September 30, more funding will be provided to hire more teachers and EAs.

McLellan noted that the operations and maintenance budget goes up by about $115,000 each year, and that $1.4 million is budgeted for utilities at all SD8 facilities in 2020-21.

Survey paints pessimistic picture for BC businesses

The COVID-19 crisis is deepening for British Columbia businesses with four in ten (43%) of those surveyed saying they can only continue to operate for up to three months under current restrictions. For businesses temporarily closed, the future is similarly dire, with only half (53%) expecting to reopen once the restrictions are eased on workplace operations, while 38% are unsure, and 8% will not reopen.

This is according to a survey of 1,284 member-businesses of the BC Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, the Business Council of British Columbia, and other partners, with the assistance of the Mustel Group. This is the second in a series of pulse checks using the BCMindReader.com platform.

The survey shows that the pandemic caused immediate steep revenue declines but conditions continue to worsen, as respondents monitor their cash flows and operational expenses.

Approximately half of all businesses (54%) state they have experienced revenue decreases of 75% or more while two thirds (66%) have had revenues drop by 50% or more.

The top operating cost or expenses were wages (64%) followed by rent (54%), taxes (34%), and goods and supplies (32%).

The majority of businesses (58%) are spending 10% or more of operating expenses on rent, with 42% spending 20% or more. A large proportion of wages or rent as a function of overall costs vary depending on firm size, sector, geography, and other factors.

While businesses surveyed are positive about government measures for employees and ensuring supply chains remain open, they are concerned about the speed and scope of programs that support cash flow. Just over half of businesses believe the federal government programs announced to date will be helpful once implemented, but they are not helpful for 33% of businesses, primarily because they do not qualify for any programs or provide enough/timely cash flow relief.

Similarly, one-third of businesses (35%) do not find the provincial programs helpful, for the same reasons as federal programs.

Businesses with under five employees are least likely (49%) to find federal programs helpful, primarily because they do not qualify.

Only one-third of businesses (34%) are confident they will qualify for the 75% wage subsidy program, while 21% are unsure.

Reasons for not qualifying include: do not have employees on payroll (46%), revenue has not declined enough (28%), employees laid off (13%), business shut down (11%), seasonal revenue (11%) and start-up or pre-revenue company (10%).

Many businesses are not confident in their ability to restart or whether costs or revenues will increase.

Key challenges to recovery identified are attracting customers/revenue (79%), having enough operating cash (55%), and retaining staff (28%).

If revenue is the key challenge, half of businesses are unsure what percentage of typical sales or revenues will be required to restart their business, with estimates ranging from less than 30% to more than 70%.

“Government programs are helping the business subsidy programs are still needed,” says Val Litwin, President & CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce. Entrepreneurs are saying there’s survival runway here’ and ‘this is exactly what I need to get through this crisis. ‘How government listens and responds to the business community in the coming weeks will be the game-changer in terms of economic recovery.”
April showers few and far between, say forecasters

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

If it takes April showers to bring May flowers, as the saying goes, then you wouldn’t expect too many flowers this month.

A summary of April’s weather from the Southeast Fire Centre shows the cool, dry patterns of March continued into this month.

“Precipitation was 35% of normal,” says SEFC weather forecaster Ron Lakeman. “There were only seven days with measurable precipitation.”

In fact, total rainfall accumulation was only 2.1 millimetres in April – less than one inch. It’s not quite a record, but it is edging towards the record low rainfall of 13.1 mm, set in 1977.

It was also cool for most of the month. Record daily overnight lows were measured on April 2 and 13, at -5.0°C and -5.7°C respectively. The single-day record coldest low for April was in 1979, at -7.5°C on the 11th of that month.

In all, temperatures averaged about 8.8°C for the month, which is about half a degree cooler than typical for that time of year.

“Our daytime highs were about normal, but overnight lows were almost a full degree cooler than normal, which gives us the half-degree average cooler recording,” says Lakeman.

The month of May started a little more normal, with several days of rainfall, though cooler temperatures persisted.

Lakeman says forecasts show a warming trend after the 7th of this month. Expect flowers.
May 9 proclaimed Healthcare Auxiliaries Day

by Jan McMurray
May 9, 2020 has been proclaimed ‘Healthcare Auxiliaries Day’ in BC by Queen Elizabeth II.

Howard Gremm
Howard Gremm, also known as Howie, passed away on March, 18th 2020. Howard was a man of many things, many people in Nelson might have recently known him as the taxi-cab driver who talked about smiling yoga and radical forgiveness, others might remember the funny guy who made creative hats out of paper bags. Those who knew him well, knew that he was also a father, recently became a grand-father. He was absolutely eccentric and had worn many figurative hats in his life: he had been a farmer, a long hair hippie, a cowboy, a fine wood worker, a carpenter, a jack of all trades, a pacifist, a Buddhist, and a brilliant creative soul who loved old school rock and roll and the Grateful Dead and loved the local band the Wild Turkeys. He was also well known for his gentle and kind nature toward all people; regardless of where their lives had taken them he would always reach out and share what he had with someone in need, listen to their stories or help them to get back on their feet again. In the last 10 years he volunteered at the local food banks and resided in facilities provided by Nelson Cares.

Howie will be missed by so many including his daughters, Brenna and Zoe, his grandson Riley, his kindred sons Mike, Dan and Robin Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother Leonard (Howie) and sister Rick and Jenny Gremm, his nieces, Heather Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother

Christina Chloe, and Cedar, his nephews Josh, Brendan, Justin, Gavin, Howie will be missed by so many people including his daughters, Brenna and Zoe, his grandson Riley, his kindred sons Mike, Dan and Robin Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother Leonard (Howie) and sister Rick and Jenny Gremm, his nieces, Heather Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother

Howard Gremm, also known as Howie, passed away on March, 18th 2020. Howard was a man of many things, many people in Nelson might have recently known him as the taxi-cab driver who talked about smiling yoga and radical forgiveness, others might remember the funny guy who made creative hats out of paper bags. Those who knew him well, knew that he was also a father, recently became a grand-father. He was absolutely eccentric and had worn many figurative hats in his life: he had been a farmer, a long hair hippie, a cowboy, a fine wood worker, a carpenter, a jack of all trades, a pacifist, a Buddhist, and a brilliant creative soul who loved old school rock and roll and the Grateful Dead and loved the local band the Wild Turkeys. He was also well known for his gentle and kind nature toward all people; regardless of where their lives had taken them he would always reach out and share what he had with someone in need, listen to their stories or help them to get back on their feet again. In the last 10 years he volunteered at the local food banks and resided in facilities provided by Nelson Cares.

Howie will be missed by so many including his daughters, Brenna and Zoe, his grandson Riley, his kindred sons Mike, Dan and Robin Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother Leonard (Howie) and sister Rick and Jenny Gremm, his nieces, Heather Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother

Howard Gremm, also known as Howie, passed away on March, 18th 2020. Howard was a man of many things, many people in Nelson might have recently known him as the taxi-cab driver who talked about smiling yoga and radical forgiveness, others might remember the funny guy who made creative hats out of paper bags. Those who knew him well, knew that he was also a father, recently became a grand-father. He was absolutely eccentric and had worn many figurative hats in his life: he had been a farmer, a long hair hippie, a cowboy, a fine wood worker, a carpenter, a jack of all trades, a pacifist, a Buddhist, and a brilliant creative soul who loved old school rock and roll and the Grateful Dead and loved the local band the Wild Turkeys. He was also well known for his gentle and kind nature toward all people; regardless of where their lives had taken them he would always reach out and share what he had with someone in need, listen to their stories or help them to get back on their feet again. In the last 10 years he volunteered at the local food banks and resided in facilities provided by Nelson Cares.

Howie will be missed by so many including his daughters, Brenna and Zoe, his grandson Riley, his kindred sons Mike, Dan and Robin Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother Leonard (Howie) and sister Rick and Jenny Gremm, his nieces, Heather Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother

Howard Gremm, also known as Howie, passed away on March, 18th 2020. Howard was a man of many things, many people in Nelson might have recently known him as the taxi-cab driver who talked about smiling yoga and radical forgiveness, others might remember the funny guy who made creative hats out of paper bags. Those who knew him well, knew that he was also a father, recently became a grand-father. He was absolutely eccentric and had worn many figurative hats in his life: he had been a farmer, a long hair hippie, a cowboy, a fine wood worker, a carpenter, a jack of all trades, a pacifist, a Buddhist, and a brilliant creative soul who loved old school rock and roll and the Grateful Dead and loved the local band the Wild Turkeys. He was also well known for his gentle and kind nature toward all people; regardless of where their lives had taken them he would always reach out and share what he had with someone in need, listen to their stories or help them to get back on their feet again. In the last 10 years he volunteered at the local food banks and resided in facilities provided by Nelson Cares.

Howie will be missed by so many including his daughters, Brenna and Zoe, his grandson Riley, his kindred sons Mike, Dan and Robin Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother Leonard (Howie) and sister Rick and Jenny Gremm, his nieces, Heather Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother

Howard Gremm, also known as Howie, passed away on March, 18th 2020. Howard was a man of many things, many people in Nelson might have recently known him as the taxi-cab driver who talked about smiling yoga and radical forgiveness, others might remember the funny guy who made creative hats out of paper bags. Those who knew him well, knew that he was also a father, recently became a grand-father. He was absolutely eccentric and had worn many figurative hats in his life: he had been a farmer, a long hair hippie, a cowboy, a fine wood worker, a carpenter, a jack of all trades, a pacifist, a Buddhist, and a brilliant creative soul who loved old school rock and roll and the Grateful Dead and loved the local band the Wild Turkeys. He was also well known for his gentle and kind nature toward all people; regardless of where their lives had taken them he would always reach out and share what he had with someone in need, listen to their stories or help them to get back on their feet again. In the last 10 years he volunteered at the local food banks and resided in facilities provided by Nelson Cares.

Howie will be missed by so many including his daughters, Brenna and Zoe, his grandson Riley, his kindred sons Mike, Dan and Robin Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother Leonard (Howie) and sister Rick and Jenny Gremm, his nieces, Heather Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother

Howard Gremm, also known as Howie, passed away on March, 18th 2020. Howard was a man of many things, many people in Nelson might have recently known him as the taxi-cab driver who talked about smiling yoga and radical forgiveness, others might remember the funny guy who made creative hats out of paper bags. Those who knew him well, knew that he was also a father, recently became a grand-father. He was absolutely eccentric and had worn many figurative hats in his life: he had been a farmer, a long hair hippie, a cowboy, a fine wood worker, a carpenter, a jack of all trades, a pacifist, a Buddhist, and a brilliant creative soul who loved old school rock and roll and the Grateful Dead and loved the local band the Wild Turkeys. He was also well known for his gentle and kind nature toward all people; regardless of where their lives had taken them he would always reach out and share what he had with someone in need, listen to their stories or help them to get back on their feet again. In the last 10 years he volunteered at the local food banks and resided in facilities provided by Nelson Cares.

Howie will be missed by so many including his daughters, Brenna and Zoe, his grandson Riley, his kindred sons Mike, Dan and Robin Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother Leonard (Howie) and sister Rick and Jenny Gremm, his nieces, Heather Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother

Howard Gremm, also known as Howie, passed away on March, 18th 2020. Howard was a man of many things, many people in Nelson might have recently known him as the taxi-cab driver who talked about smiling yoga and radical forgiveness, others might remember the funny guy who made creative hats out of paper bags. Those who knew him well, knew that he was also a father, recently became a grand-father. He was absolutely eccentric and had worn many figurative hats in his life: he had been a farmer, a long hair hippie, a cowboy, a fine wood worker, a carpenter, a jack of all trades, a pacifist, a Buddhist, and a brilliant creative soul who loved old school rock and roll and the Grateful Dead and loved the local band the Wild Turkeys. He was also well known for his gentle and kind nature toward all people; regardless of where their lives had taken them he would always reach out and share what he had with someone in need, listen to their stories or help them to get back on their feet again. In the last 10 years he volunteered at the local food banks and resided in facilities provided by Nelson Cares.

Howie will be missed by so many including his daughters, Brenna and Zoe, his grandson Riley, his kindred sons Mike, Dan and Robin Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother Leonard (Howie) and sister Rick and Jenny Gremm, his nieces, Heather Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother

Howard Gremm, also known as Howie, passed away on March, 18th 2020. Howard was a man of many things, many people in Nelson might have recently known him as the taxi-cab driver who talked about smiling yoga and radical forgiveness, others might remember the funny guy who made creative hats out of paper bags. Those who knew him well, knew that he was also a father, recently became a grand-father. He was absolutely eccentric and had worn many figurative hats in his life: he had been a farmer, a long hair hippie, a cowboy, a fine wood worker, a carpenter, a jack of all trades, a pacifist, a Buddhist, and a brilliant creative soul who loved old school rock and roll and the Grateful Dead and loved the local band the Wild Turkeys. He was also well known for his gentle and kind nature toward all people; regardless of where their lives had taken them he would always reach out and share what he had with someone in need, listen to their stories or help them to get back on their feet again. In the last 10 years he volunteered at the local food banks and resided in facilities provided by Nelson Cares.

Howie will be missed by so many including his daughters, Brenna and Zoe, his grandson Riley, his kindred sons Mike, Dan and Robin Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother Leonard (Howie) and sister Rick and Jenny Gremm, his nieces, Heather Henderson, Mike’s children Emily Rose and Alexander Henderson, his brother
May 7, 2020   The Valley Voice

COMMUNITY

by Jan McMurray

Just above Hwy 31A between New Denver and Kaslo, just east of Retallack, is a sign that warns the public of a contaminated site. This is the historic Whitewater Mine mill and tailings area.

A spokesperson with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development reports that a detailed site investigation is now underway, following the identification of “areas of potential environmental concern that tested high for metal contaminants.”

Mining operations occurred here mainly in the late 1920s, late 1940s and early 1950s. The mine produced silver, lead, gold, cadmium, zinc and copper.

It is too soon to assign a timeline to remediation efforts, the spokesperson said. The sign was installed in September 2019.

Chair Yoga is the SVSHS’s most popular fitness program. What better way to learn gentle stretching than from the comfort of your chair and realize the benefits of better breathing, better posture and better mobility!

Feldenkrais is for beginners and regulars alike. The movements are easy to learn and do and help train your brain and body to improve focus, posture and mobility. You will be amazed at the benefits you receive from what seems like so little movement and effort.

This new virtual initiative has been made possible by the generous contribution of the Columbia Basin Trust and continues through the end of June 2020.

Have you been missing the popular Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society’s seniors’ fitness programs since the COVID-19 lockdown has come into our lives?

Bridge that social distance and join the SVSHS, instructor Tyson Bartel and other seniors in our virtual home with our new Facebook live feed fitness programs. Starting May 11, on Mondays is Chair Yoga and on Thursdays is Feldenkrais. All classes start at 10 am at www.Facebook.com/SVhousing.

The in-person, pre-COVID 19 classes used to be held at the Passmore Lodge and the Slocan Legion, but now with our public Facebook page, anyone, young and old, from anywhere in the world, can join in and benefit from these classes.

Chair Yoga is the SVSHS’s most popular fitness program. What better way to learn gentle stretching than from the comfort of your chair and realize the benefits of better breathing, better posture and better mobility!

Feldenkrais is for beginners and regulars alike. The movements are easy to learn and do and help train your brain and body to improve focus, posture and mobility. You will be amazed at the benefits you receive from what seems like so little movement and effort.

This new virtual initiative has been made possible by the generous contribution of the Columbia Basin Trust and continues through the end of June 2020.

20 IN 20/20 VISION

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE - MAY 30, 2020

IF YOU HAVE EVER HAD A SHOW IN THE HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY ART SHOW FROM JULY 7-12, 2020. ARTWORKS WILL BE BASED ON 20/20 AND VISION. EACH ART PIECE MUST BE 20 X 20 CM OR 8 X 8" TOTAL SIZE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION EMAIL DEBBIE HICKS AT DLHICKS5@TELUS.NET OR VISIT WWW.HIDDENGARDENART.GALLERY.CA

Drop-off your taxes and we’ll take care of the rest.

Tax extension until June 1st. We are here to help

106 Broadway Street
Nakusp, BC
(250) 265 4051
leah.gilliland@hrblock.ca

A detailed investigation of the Whitewater Mine mill and tailings site is underway.
Kootenay churches connect faithful in the time of pandemic

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Spiritual leaders in the region are seeking out new ways to pastor their flocks during the pandemic.

And they say the new reality brings both challenges and opportunities.

Churches across the county – and around the world – are struggling with how to provide spiritual comfort at a time when gatherings are prohibited. While some churches in the US have defied stay-at-home rules, local churches have obeyed the law.

“As we saw what was happening with the world, we stopped meeting before the mandate came down,” says Steve Gascon of Nakusp’s Alliance Church. He says his goal was to find a new way to get his message out, while trying to provide “a service that is somehow unchanging, that is reliable, that is normal.”

Gascon says it’s helped he’s reasonably tech-savvy.

“We already had a website going,” he says. “But it was quite a learning curve to figure out how to use the different tools available.”

Now every Sunday, Gascon delivers the word of God in an online video cast, from his home study, complete with musical interludes, lyrics displayed karaoke-style, and text quotes of scripture.

Gascon says it’s hard to work without a congregation, when he can pick up on the social cues to ensure his message is getting across. And community outreach has changed too – instead of home or hospital visits, elders in his church are connecting via the telephone. It’s all pretty new, but he says he’s keeping his focus on the essentials.

“I struggled with it at the beginning – what to keep doing, what to stop doing,” he says. “I’ve realized the role of the church doesn’t change, that we’re still supposed to be shepherding people towards Jesus, we’re still to be loving one another and loving our neighbours.

“But just as it happens in other avenues now. The fundamentals haven’t changed, we just have to use different tools now.”

The human touch

While she has used online communications for years, Therese DesCamp of the United Church has struggled to get New Denver’s small congregation – many of whom live in the Pavilion senior’s home – able to connect for twice-monthly online services that have replaced the normal gathering event at the home.

“Most people don’t have any way to connect to the outside,” she says. “There’s one online device that can be shared, but the staff is overwhelmed. Our only connection is if we phone them.”

DesCamp says the United Church has essentially given up the traditional church-building meetings, and she holds formal and informal prayer and meditation sessions monthly. Those have now gone online. But not that the core of her job – meeting with people and providing human care and connection.

“When I do spiritual direction, I sit face-to-face with one person. And I listen,” she says. “My job is to listen to where they feel the presence of the Holy moving in their lives, and I ask them questions.”

All that is impossible now because of the virus.

“This week I called somebody at the Pavilion, and many of those people have dementia,” she continued. “And there’s one woman I’ve known for years, and she said she was wondering where the church was.

“I heard her voice breaking up and I just wept. And I said ‘I’m so sorry.’

Gascon says he misses visiting his Alliance flock too.

“It’s probably the hardest, is not being able to do that, not only to follow social distancing guidelines but to take care of them. You have the gambit – people who aren’t worried at all, and others who are very worried. You have to trudge those lines and make the boundaries to follow: to be a good citizen, and follow the guidelines of the government.”

Growth potential

But it’s not all been struggle. DesCamp says being online has erased distances for other people, who now join a regular monthly meditation session from as far away as Calgary or Idaho.

“Part of what has been such an extraordinary experience of being here is the opportunity of growing together as a community in our deepening mystical theology of what it is we are about, and what our role is.

“That’s the great thing doing online is seeing the people who don’t normally see.”

Back in Nakusp, Gascon says going online is actually helping draw others who wouldn’t normally attend a service.

“There’s a lot of people who are looking for spiritual truth, a spiritual view on the world, but they’re not ready to walk into a church,” he says. “They’re not ready to come through the doors. So we are finding there are quite a few people who are finding this format very engaging, and they can do it anonymously, no one needs to know they are watching.

“And that’s pretty encouraging.”

But both DesCamp and Gascon say the core message of community can’t be put down by a virus.

“The fundamental message, regardless of what’s happened and what’s happening right now, is that those who have faith in Jesus are assured of their salvation and that God is in control,” says Gascon. “He’s still on his throne, that nothing has surprised him, that nothing has taken him unaware, that he knows what’s going on and he’s involved in what’s going on.

“So that true message – that we can trust God through this, even though you might lose your job, though you might even lose your life, but God is still good and still in control. That’s the message that I find, that I keep coming back to.”

For DesCamp, it’s a message of service. “Part of what we try to hold is this idea that this is indeed a very dark time, and we are not going to be through it for a long time,” she says. “Life will not be as we knew it. I try to bear with reality because I see no point in excusing ourselves from that.

“How do you find that place of grounding, when everything is coming apart? That’s the practice, to find that place in grounding. Not so you can be removed from the world, but so you can be energized to be of service, in whatever way it makes sense.

You can find dozens of online church services – both from the Kootenays and around the world – by doing a Google search of your community.

Fire destroys

Burton structure

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Burton fire chief says a property owner who FireSmarted his property stopped a forest fire before it began.

The Burton Fire Department was called to a structure fire on Silver Queen Road on the morning of April 28.

When they arrived, they found a chicken house and large storage building ablaze.

Both structures were a total loss. The fire had also spread into adjacent trees. When firefighters arrived, the homeowner was using his garden hose to spray down the trees.

“Because the homeowner had cleared the lower branches and undergrowth, the fire burned the closest trees but did not spread into the forest,” said Fire Chief Brian Harrop. “Because they took the time to do this, they were able to prevent a bad situation from getting worse.”

Harrop wants to emphasize how important it is to protect your home and property by doing a FireSmart assessment and clearing flammable materials on your property. The RDCK offers free professional assessments of properties in the district. Call 250-352-1539 to book an appointment.
FortisBC first to purchase Renewable Natural Gas made from wood waste

submitted

FortisBC is teaming up with REN Energy International Corporation to develop a source of renewable natural gas (RNG) from wood waste for its customers.

The innovative project features technology being used for the first time in North America and represents exciting new opportunities to reduce emissions using British Columbia’s forestry sector.

“In this an exciting win for us. This and future projects like it will rely on waste already generated by sustainable forestry, making it a credible addition to energy production in this province,” said Doug Stout, vice president of market development and external relations at FortisBC.

The production facility will be owned and operated by REN Energy and located near Fruitvale.

The project is anticipated to produce over one million gigajoules of renewable natural gas annually, which would make it the largest source of RNG in the province to date.

The product blends seamlessly with conventional natural gas in FortisBC’s existing infrastructure.

Renewable Natural Gas is a carbon-neutral energy that is typically made from capturing the methane released from decomposing organic waste.

This project will make use of waste from forestry operations, sawmills and other wood product manufacturers.

Once operational, the technology will create a use for forestry waste in BC and unlock the potential for significant new volumes of RNG in the province. This will also assist the forestry industry with cleaning up bush residuals, thereby assisting in provincial forest-fire mitigation.

Advancing carbon-neutral energies such as RNG is a crucial element of FortisBC’s 30BY30 target—the organization’s goal to reduce customers’ greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030.

The project received regulatory approval from the British Columbia Utilities Commission last month and is expected to be in service in the summer of 2021.

West Kootenay Beekeepers happy to help remove swarms

submitted

May-July is the time of year when honey bee colonies are most likely to swarm. If you discover a swarm in your yard or hear about one in your area, the West Kootenay Beekeepers want to hear from you.

If you discover a bee swarm in your yard or hear about one in your area, the West Kootenay Beekeepers want to hear from you.

Nakusp Yard & Water Worx offers irrigation and yard services

by Jan McMurray

New Nakusp resident Graham Froom purchased the irrigation division of Nakusp Glass last fall and has expanded the business to include yard services.

“In addition to irrigation services, I will also be offering yard services, such as lawn fertilization, aeration and de-thatching. I’ll do seasonal yard clean-up and hope to offer chipping services. I also offer construction, maintenance and repairs to your yard structures like fences, decks and patios,” Graham says.

Graham and his wife, Destiny, bought an acreage near Nakusp in 2018. They left Calgary to move to their Nakusp property in summer 2019.

“In 2015, I took a Passive House Design course and in 2017 I took a Permaculture Design course. Both of these courses influenced our decision to move to Nakusp,” Graham says. “When I heard about the irrigation business being for sale I saw the opportunity to use some of the principles and tools from my courses and apply them in real life.”

One of Graham’s special interests is managing and conserving water. He spent the winter researching equipment and products, and taking irrigation seminars. “I am very excited at the opportunities to optimize water use while meeting the goals people have for their yards, gardens and crops,” he says.

Graham’s background is in the energy industry, constructing and operating industrial piping and process systems. “My passion has always been building things, and I’ve worked on many residential construction and renovation projects.”

Graham grew up in the Okanagan Valley on his parents’ 10-acre farm. He moved to the prairies to work after finishing high school. He raised three children in many different rural communities before moving to Calgary and meeting Destiny.

See ad page 14 to contact Nakusp Yard & Water Worx.
COVID-19 lockdown policies spark civil rights concerns

by Art Joyce

With governments scrambling to contain the spread of coronavirus amid conflicting reports of its mortality rates, civil liberties advocates are concerned that some might be going too far. With fines ranging across the country from $1,000 to $100,000, depending on the jurisdiction, groups such as BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA), Ontario Civil Liberties Association (OCLA), and Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) are monitoring the situation closely. So far, no injunctions have been sought against any level of government.

"Increased criminalization and surveillance… will likely have long-lasting impacts that will be hard to roll back," cautioned Harsha Walia, executive director of BCCLA. "While there is no doubt that this pandemic requires exceptional government measures, severe curtailment of civil liberties does not necessarily correlate with public health objectives and may, in fact, undermine public health." Walia points out that "criminalization disproportionately impacts the most marginalized, stigmatized and the already criminalized people and communities in society."

At the federal level, the Canadian Quarantine Act has been invoked, which grants quarantine officers broad but not total powers. Punishment for contravening the act can include fines ranging from $2,000 to $1 million or imprisonment for up to three years.

An even more powerful legislation, the federal Emergencies Act, has not been invoked – it subserves the authority of provincial premiers to the prime minister’s office, something few provinces are willing to do.

According to constitutional lawyer Rocco Galati, Prime Minister Trudeau’s weekly pronouncements are essentially recommendations only and do not have the force of law. Only the federal cabinet has the authority under the Quarantine Act to issue binding orders – for example, the requirement for citizens returning from abroad to quarantine for 14 days whether ill or not. A police officer may arrest those who fail to comply.

In BC, we are currently under the Emergency Program Act (1996), which has a ‘sunset’ clause requiring it to be re-proclaimed by the government every 14 days. The provincial health officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, has also invoked the Public Health Act to declare a ‘public health emergency,’ which empowers the provincial health officer to issue verbal orders that have immediate effect.

According to the BCCLA, “both the Emergency Program Act and the Public Health Act contain provisions for fines and imprisonment for a range of offences under those acts.” Police officers cannot ticket or detain people who have violated – or whom they suspect may have violated - provincial public health orders. However, health officers do have the power to enforce provincial health orders, and may call on the assistance of police or other officials. If called upon, police officers are authorized to use their powers, including the use of reasonable force. Violating provincial public health orders can result in fines upwards of $2,000 for a first offense and up to six months’ imprisonment.

The BCCLA points out that while people are strongly advised to maintain social distancing of more than two meters, Public health orders in BC requiring physical distancing, with the exception of inside establishments where food and drink are consumed, Public health orders for farmers’ markets and industrial camps encourage physical distancing. Current enforceable orders in BC include a prohibition on gatherings of more than 50 people, closure of nightclubs and dining in restaurants, and closure of personal services such as barbershops, tattoo parlours, and tanning salons.

Some Canadian jurisdictions have reacted far more harshly. The City of Toronto announced that there could be fines as high as $5,000 for citizens who fail to observe two-metre social distancing. An Ottawa man was fined $880 for walking his dog in a public place shortly after Ottawa had been closed by the city. An April 8 Ottawa Citizen report noted that Regina Police issued a $2,000 ticket to a young woman for failing to observe social distance, even though she was a homeowner in Brampton, Ontario.

According to the BCCLA, “the Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of the person, and limits the powers of the government.”

"There are limits to the government’s ability to impose restrictions on liberty. Having said that, we do believe there may be grounds to challenge some of these laws and fines. In some cases, the process for indicating that you wish to file a ticket is not clear. In addition, the breadth of the rules and orders are open to interpretation and individuals could make an argument that their activities should not be or are not caught by the law. People can, of course explain financial hardship circumstances to the courts and ask for the fine to be lowered or eliminated. CCLA is encouraging people who have been ticketed to contact us and we are in the process of seeing if there are legal supports or resources that can provide.

Different jurisdictions across the country are levying heavy fines for failing to maintain “social distancing” orders. What grounds would you say a person has to challenge or refuse to pay such fines?

The CCLA has laid out our concerns about the breadth of many of the emergency orders that are in place and the focus that some jurisdictions have put on enforcement over education. We have also publicly discussed the potential for ticket amnesty to address these concerns, although that is a potential response to discuss after, not during, the current emergency. While many of the laws certainly do infringe on rights protections, according to the Charter, the government has a duty to balance both the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. All such rights are subject to “reasonable limits” and the nature of the current public health emergency would likely be seen, by a court, as circumstances that could justify some significant intrusions on liberty. Having said that, we do believe there may be grounds to challenge some of these laws and fines. In some cases, the process for indicating that you wish to file a ticket is not clear. In addition, the breadth of the rules and orders are open to interpretation and individuals could make an argument that their activities should not be or are not caught by the law. People can, of course explain financial hardship circumstances to the courts and ask for the fine to be lowered or eliminated. CCLA is encouraging people who have been ticketed to contact us and we are in the process of seeing if there are legal supports or resources that can provide.

At what point does the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms become an overriding factor, and how, exactly? Can any of these measures stand up to a Charter challenge?

As noted above, the Charter is a factor in all of these issues, but the Charter itself does not make any of our rights or freedoms absolute. If these laws are challenged in courts, governments will have to provide evidence to demonstrate that the situation is such that their responses are proportionate, but courts may well show significant deference to governments in light of public health concerns. Of course, it is time and resource intensive to get a vicerule, and impose a $1,000 fine if they do walk outside or drive illegally” because they are not on the list.” The Alberta bill could also allow the health minister to forcibly remove anyone from their home, and to issue an order for mass vaccination.

Denis Rancourt, a former professor at the University of Ottawa and president of the Ontario Civil Liberties Association, has prepared a report for the OCLA that assesses the scientific literature behind lockdown policies. He concludes that there is an absence of an evidentiary basis to support a general population lockdown, as it has not previously been attempted in modern medical history. He also concludes that the approach being followed by governments is reckless, and quotes from a 2019 study on social hierarchies by Hickey and Davidson, to back this up: “The long-term impacts of the broadly-applied infringements in civil rights and freedoms are not known. Some concern about permanent structural erosion of democracy itself, due to increased authoritarianism and heightened regulatory or penal restrictions, is consistent with those for violating government directives.”

Civil liberties advocate discusses the limits of lockdown

by Art Joyce

In an interview with the Ottawa Citizen’s Brenda McPhail, Director of the Privacy, Technology and Surveillance Project for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), has expressed concern about the breadth of the rules and orders that are in place and the focus that some jurisdictions have put on enforcement over education. We have also publicly discussed the potential for ticket amnesty to matters before the courts even in the best of times, and since many courts are not sitting with a regular schedule, it is even more challenging now.

On the issue of forced “mass vaccinations,” Rancourt is critical of Bill 10, is there not precedent in international law, for example the Nuremberg protocols, that requires consent for any medical procedures undertaken by an individual?

Medical procedures do generally require individual consent, including vaccinations, but many countries do have laws in place in some parts of Canada that require vaccination for children to attend school, although even these laws typically include exceptions for those who have conscientious objections to vaccination (including religious) and who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons. At this stage, in the absence of a vaccine, it is difficult to comment on any potential rules that might be promulgated regarding vaccination.

At what point does CCLA and other civil rights groups actually start to bring injunctions against governments passing these measures? With vaccine mandates, do we need to tip the scale beyond what might be considered reasonable and what is an abuse of power?

CCLA has started a legal action against the City of Toronto that relates to the treatment of the homeless during this crisis and, in particular, the City’s failure to provide adequate and safe shelters. The more general question you ask is very difficult to answer in the abstract, however CCLA is taking a number of steps to ensure that the approach being followed by governments is reasonable and in proportionate way and is pushing back against abuses. Litigation is one way to do this, but it is by no means the only way and, in some cases, will not be the most effective.
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

It wasn’t all talk about COVID-19 at a recent meeting of the School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) in Nakusp recently.

At the April 21 board meeting, trustees heard the district has seen a number of capital projects approved by the provincial government.

“The SD 10 has again been very successful in garnering a number of key capital projects to be funded by the Ministry of Education,” Superintendent Terry Taylor told the board.

The grants will allow SD 10 to improve energy efficiency at the district’s buildings, including Nakusp Elementary School, with building envelope insulation; window upgrades at NES; and solar panels and charging stations at both Edgewood School and Nakusp Secondary.

Edgewood Elementary will receive $100,000 to install solar panels and an EV charging station; Nakusp Secondary will receive $168,000 for a similar project. The building enclosure upgrades at NES will cost about $150,000.

Senior secondary students will help install the solar panels, gaining work experience.

New flooring and washroom upgrades at Lucerne Elementary will cost $270,000 in total and are “very welcome enhancements to the function and maintenance of our school building,” Taylor reported.

“The capital projects support Goal 1: Enhance Teaching and Learning, as the quality of our school environments inside and out enhances learning for students,” she added.

Child care centre in New Denver

Planning for a new child care centre in New Denver hit a snag last month. The board sent out requests for bids on the project, but when the responses were opened on April 23, they found all the bids came in over budget. They’ve gone back to the drawing board. The minister of education signed an order on March 31 to cancel the byelection. It was called to replace Melissa Teindl, who resigned from the board earlier this year.

The by-election was to have occurred on May 30. There’s been no new date scheduled. Teindl held the chair position, which is now held by Lora Lee Brekke, with Daneya Simon as vice-chair.

Policy review

The board is also reviewing and updating its administrative policies on a number of issues, from how board members participate in outside community organizations and meetings, to transportation assistance, procurement and whistle-blower legislation.

In light of the disruptions caused by the pandemic, the board decided to extend its consultation period for public input into the policies.

Pandemic update

Just in case you thought you were going to get away with no mention of COVID-19...

The school district has provided 230 ChromeBook laptops for students who needed devices to work from home during the pandemic.

Besides existing machines, the district has purchased about $17,000 of new laptops so far to meet the demand.

But that only gets those students halfway there, said Superintendent Taylor.

“We are working with Telus to provide internet for as many families as we can,” she told the board. “About 30% of our families don’t currently have internet access, making remote learning very challenging.”

For students with no wireless service or cell service, in-person support will be offered at their community school in Burton, Edgewood and New Denver, she said.

And students are also getting face-to-face support as well. Taylor reported that by late April, 30 vulnerable children were in schools across the district getting help with their school work from their teachers, educational assistants and Strong Start coordinators.

School administrators and teachers are closely following public health guidelines to ensure the safety of both students and staff, she emphasized.

Taylor says Provincial Health Officer Bonnie Henry has signalled that schools could reopen on a limited and careful basis by mid-May, if data supports the move.

“Though schools will not look the same as before the pandemic, we are committed to doing all that we can to ensure safe and healthy learning and working environments in accordance with all public health orders,” she said.

Both Taylor and Board Chair Lora Lee Brekke thanked staff — from principals and teachers to custodians, bus drivers and trustees — for their work in keeping the district going in these challenging times.
Kaslo council, April 28: Citizen of the Year chosen but still a secret

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Kaslo council will reveal the identity of its Citizen of the Year in May. It does, however, have some rules about how it will be done.

The Valley Voice
May 7, 2020

The council first chose its Citizen of the Year in late 2019. At the time, Mayor Susan Hewart noticed that Kaslo’s Citizen of the Year, in 2018, was still firmly in place.

“Are you still a citizen?” she asked.

“Are they still a citizen?”

“Are you sure?”

The selection committee has chosen its recipient – Hewart hinted it’s a well-known local – but now they’re trying to figure out just how to deliver the award. The COVID-19 pandemic has ruled out the usual ways, like a commemorative dinner or an awards ceremony.

“The committee has tossed around a few ideas,” she said. “The trick is how to do it. Hopefully by the time we get to that point, a month out from now, when we get the plaque and we are ready, is how to make it special and to get them somewhere where the recognition could be given.”

Councillors pitched a few ideas, including possibly holding the event live at a future council meeting.

“Maybe by then we’ll have more options,” she said, “so we can do something a little more special,” she said.

• CAO Ian Dunlop reported that after meeting with Fire Chief Year and District Fire Chief Hannon, they agreed that the backyard campfire ban was no longer appropriate in the village – if people still observe appropriate social rules and safe fire practices.

• Councillors pitched a few ideas, including possibly holding the event live at a future council meeting.

Kaslo council strikes committee to connect people during COVID-19 crisis

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A letter from a local businessman prompted a discussion at Kaslo Village council on April 28 that resulted in the formation of a new committee to oversee the town’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“What is Kaslo planning? If business stays closed and workers unemployed how does the Village expect to fund its taxes on July 1st?” asked John Eckland of the Kaslo Hotel. “We need a tax holiday, and the Village should be applying to the province for grants to replace the property taxes it will lose.

“This is respectfully submitted in the hope of beginning a process to answer the revenue needs of the village without burdening taxpayers who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are stressed by being shut down due to no fault of their own.”

Councillor Kellie Knoll moved the Village form a ‘COVID Crisis Committee of Council’ after the letter was discussed.

“It would simply be another form of communication where we can gather information from the town, what business owners are thinking, what individuals are thinking and use it to assist our communication with the provincial and federal government,” he says.

He said there was a real need for such a forum.

“The town is currently at the beginning of a process to answer the revenue needs of the village without burdening taxpayers who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are stressed by being shut down due to no fault of their own.”

Councillor Knoll moved the Village form a ‘COVID Crisis Committee of Council’ after the letter was discussed.

“If we need another form of communication where we can gather information from the town, what business owners are thinking, what individuals are thinking and use it to assist our communication with the provincial and federal government,” he says.

He said there was a real need for such a forum.

“The town is currently at the beginning of a process to answer the revenue needs of the village without burdening taxpayers who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are stressed by being shut down due to no fault of their own.”

Councillor Knoll moved the Village form a ‘COVID Crisis Committee of Council’ after the letter was discussed.

“If we need another form of communication where we can gather information from the town, what business owners are thinking, what individuals are thinking and use it to assist our communication with the provincial and federal government,” he says.

He said there was a real need for such a forum.

“There is currently at the beginning of a process to answer the revenue needs of the village without burdening taxpayers who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are stressed by being shut down due to no fault of their own.”

Councillor Knoll moved the Village form a ‘COVID Crisis Committee of Council’ after the letter was discussed.

“If we need another form of communication where we can gather information from the town, what business owners are thinking, what individuals are thinking and use it to assist our communication with the provincial and federal government,” he says.

He said there was a real need for such a forum.

“There is currently at the beginning of a process to answer the revenue needs of the village without burdening taxpayers who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are stressed by being shut down due to no fault of their own.”

Councillor Knoll moved the Village form a ‘COVID Crisis Committee of Council’ after the letter was discussed.

“If we need another form of communication where we can gather information from the town, what business owners are thinking, what individuals are thinking and use it to assist our communication with the provincial and federal government,” he says.

He said there was a real need for such a forum.

“There is currently at the beginning of a process to answer the revenue needs of the village without burdening taxpayers who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are stressed by being shut down due to no fault of their own.”

Councillor Knoll moved the Village form a ‘COVID Crisis Committee of Council’ after the letter was discussed.

“If we need another form of communication where we can gather information from the town, what business owners are thinking, what individuals are thinking and use it to assist our communication with the provincial and federal government,” he says.

He said there was a real need for such a forum.

“There is currently at the beginning of a process to answer the revenue needs of the village without burdening taxpayers who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are stressed by being shut down due to no fault of their own.”

Councillor Knoll moved the Village form a ‘COVID Crisis Committee of Council’ after the letter was discussed.

“If we need another form of communication where we can gather information from the town, what business owners are thinking, what individuals are thinking and use it to assist our communication with the provincial and federal government,” he says.

He said there was a real need for such a forum.

“There is currently at the beginning of a process to answer the revenue needs of the village without burdening taxpayers who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are stressed by being shut down due to no fault of their own.”

Councillor Knoll moved the Village form a ‘COVID Crisis Committee of Council’ after the letter was discussed.

“If we need another form of communication where we can gather information from the town, what business owners are thinking, what individuals are thinking and use it to assist our communication with the provincial and federal government,” he says.

He said there was a real need for such a forum.

“There is currently at the beginning of a process to answer the revenue needs of the village without burdening taxpayers who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are stressed by being shut down due to no fault of their own.”

Councillor Knoll moved the Village form a ‘COVID Crisis Committee of Council’ after the letter was discussed.

“If we need another form of communication where we can gather information from the town, what business owners are thinking, what individuals are thinking and use it to assist our communication with the provincial and federal government,” he says.

He said there was a real need for such a forum.

“There is currently at the beginning of a process to answer the revenue needs of the village without burdening taxpayers who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are stressed by being shut down due to no fault of their own.”

Councillor Knoll moved the Village form a ‘COVID Crisis Committee of Council’ after the letter was discussed.

“If we need another form of communication where we can gather information from the town, what business owners are thinking, what individuals are thinking and use it to assist our communication with the provincial and federal government,” he says.

He said there was a real need for such a forum.

“There is currently at the beginning of a process to answer the revenue needs of the village without burdening taxpayers who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are stressed by being shut down due to no fault of their own.”

Councillor Knoll moved the Village form a ‘COVID Crisis Committee of Council’ after the letter was discussed.

“If we need another form of communication where we can gather information from the town, what business owners are thinking, what individuals are thinking and use it to assist our communication with the provincial and federal government,” he says.

He said there was a real need for such a forum.

“There is currently at the beginning of a process to answer the revenue needs of the village without burdening taxpayers who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are stressed by being shut down due to no fault of their own.”

Councillor Knoll moved the Village form a ‘COVID Crisis Committee of Council’ after the letter was discussed.

“If we need another form of communication where we can gather information from the town, what business owners are thinking, what individuals are thinking and use it to assist our communication with the provincial and federal government,” he says.

He said there was a real need for such a forum.
Hummingbird Tea and Coffee lands on Front Street in Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

“I want to offer people good coffee and tea, in ways that make them smile and enjoy the day,” says Kevin Flaherty, owner of newly opened Hummingbird Tea and Coffee in Kaslo.

Kevin loves roasting coffee, and has been wanting to open a “roast to cup” coffee shop ever since he and his partner Donna Gibbons moved to the Kootenays in 2014. Last fall, with “a nudge and support” from Donna, he started getting serious about it.

After having no success finding an appropriate commercial space in Kaslo, he found a well-equipped food cart in northern Alberta and towed it home to Kaslo one frigid January weekend. He ripped out the grill and streamer and replaced them with a vintage lever espresso machine.

Kevin’s vision is a small operation that reflects his values of community, quality, and environmental and economic sustainability for everyone along the product chain. In keeping with this vision, he found sources for quality products—green coffee beans, tea, hot chocolate, and organic dairy. The coffee beans are supplied by well-seasoned coffee brokers who are able to provide the greatest sources of organic and fair traded beans, Kevin says. The hot chocolate is Guatemalan, crafted by Beth Campbell of Viva Cacao!, a Slocan Valley success story. Hummingbird’s tea supplier is just getting back into business after a short COVID shutdown. The milk is from Kootenay Meadows Dairy in Creston, and the dairy-free oatmilk is from Earth’s Harvest in Vancouver.

“Hummingbird offers quality beverages, first and only, and complements the good food offered by other businesses in Kaslo,” he says. “My goal is to add ‘espresso culture’ to the fabric of great food, arts and community that characterize Kaslo and area.”

Kevin was fiddling around on the cart in his backyard when the pandemic hit. “Friends and neighbors started demanding that I open for business right away. So, I opened a little earlier than planned, and instead of joining the usually thriving business district of Front Street in Kaslo, I was out there alone – me and the coffee lovers.”

Kevin first roasted coffee in 1986 in Nicaragua in a cast iron pan over a charcoal burner. He has been roasting for family and friends ever since. “It’s my belief that every community should have local coffee, local bakery, local brewery, local local local. And the world is full of small, micro operations that meet those needs.”

Kevin gives a shout out to his landlords, Claire McKinney and Jeremy Behn, who have been very supportive. “With the help of some zealous community members, we were able to move the Bird onto the empty lot between the liquor store and Front Street Antiques. Opening day was April 20 and I suspect I won’t catch up until shutdown in the fall.”

Kevin says the community has been very welcoming. “Lots of people drink coffee and tea but there is also a bit of a buzz that comes from sharing in the start of something new.”

“Espresso culture isn’t really about coffee. It’s about the short visits, the possibility but not necessity of sharing a bit of conversation and then moving on. The Hummingbird reflects that, darting in for a buzz that comes from sharing, and tea but there is also a bit of conversation and then moving on.”

Removing material restrictions at some RDCK waste facilities

submitted

Things are getting back to business at the RDCK’s waste disposal facilities. After the outbreak of COVID-19, the RDCK implemented temporary emergency measures – prohibiting all but domestic kitchen waste drop-off for most residential users.

Water Quality Advisory issued for the Fauquier water system

boils a water quality advisory has prompted the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) to issue a water quality advisory for users on the Fauquier water system.

The advisory was issued April 28 due to a significant increase in source water turbidity, or suspended sediment, that exceeded federal quality standards.

Turbidity can interfere with disinfection, limiting chlorine’s ability to remove or inactivate viruses, bacteria such as E-Coli, and parasites such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium. The increase in turbidity can be attributed to springtime melt and heavy rain events.

While health risks are considered low, the RDCK recommends that children, the elderly, people with weakened immune systems, and anyone with diabetes, heart problems, and kidney disease avoid drinking the water.

The water supply should be boiled for at least one minute prior to consumption. Boiled water should then be refrigerated and hot water should be boiled for one minute.

For these at-risk populations, water intended for drinking, washing fruits or vegetables, making beverages or ice, or brushing teeth should be boiled for one minute. Boiled water should then be refrigerated in a clean, covered container. Customers could also choose to use bottled or distilled water, or water that has been filtered through a well-maintained treatment device.

Owners of all public facilities must post a water quality notice at all sinks or in drinking water fountains accessible to the public, or turn those public water sources off.

When water quality improves, the advisory will be lifted. For more information, contact the RDCK 250-352-8171 or visit www.rdkc.ca/water.

Public input open for CBT CIP/AAP grants

submitted

Public engagement for the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Planning (CIP/AAP) is now open on the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) website.

To provide input, visit www.rdkc.ca, go to the Administration tab, then to Grants, and Columbia Basin Trust-CIP/AAP. This is the link: https://rdkc.ca/EN/main/administration/grants/columbia-basin-trust-cip-aap.html

The public engagement period began May 1 at 8 am and will end May 11 at 4:30 pm.

Normally, public input into the grant awards would be received at community meetings held throughout the region every April. Due to the current restrictions on public gatherings, staff from the RDCK have worked closely with Columbia Basin Trust to develop an online engagement tool to ensure the grant process moves forward. This tool will allow the public to give their feedback on proposed projects for the area in which they live.

Please note that the online engagement tool is not a voting system, but a way for the public to provide the feedback on projects they feel are most important to the area they live in. Once collected, all feedback will be shared with each area’s adjudication committee for their review.

Removal of material restrictions at some RDCK waste facilities

submitted

boils a water quality advisory has prompted the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) to issue a water quality advisory for users on the Fauquier water system.

The advisory was issued April 28 due to a significant increase in source water turbidity, or suspended sediment, that exceeded federal quality standards.

Turbidity can interfere with disinfection, limiting chlorine’s ability to remove or inactivate viruses, bacteria such as E-Coli, and parasites such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium. The increase in turbidity can be attributed to springtime melt and heavy rain events.

While health risks are considered low, the RDCK recommends that children, the elderly, people with weakened immune systems, and anyone with diabetes, heart problems, and kidney disease avoid drinking the water.

The water supply should be boiled for at least one minute prior to consumption. Boiled water should then be refrigerated and hot water should be boiled for one minute. Boiled water should then be refrigerated in a clean, covered container. Customers could also choose to use bottled or distilled water, or water that has been filtered through a well-maintained treatment device.

Owners of all public facilities must post a water quality notice at all sinks or in drinking water fountains accessible to the public, or turn those public water sources off.

When water quality improves, the advisory will be lifted. For more information, contact the RDCK 250-352-8171 or visit www.rdkc.ca/water.
**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

**St.**, New Denver. In aid of the NDAC Food – Every day winning, hand-stretched artisan pizza.

**BUDDY'S PIZZA, KASLO:**

**CONSTRUCTION**

**Licensed Residential Builder & General Contractor**

250-354-8562

Patrick Baird

Nakusp, BC • Ph. 250 265-3747 • Fx. 250 265-3431

**CREATIVE MASONRY SOLUTIONS**

FOR YOUR HOME AND BUSINESS

Eric Waterfield — Septic Planning/Installation

Construction Ltd.

dave@maddentimber.com

Stairs, Interior Finishing, Drywall

• Concrete Stamping and Acid

• Excavation • Ditching

• Land improvement

• Water lines

• Wildfire Mitigation on private land

• Landscaping

**WOOD AND TIMBER SALES**

Tim Reilly

Suites 3, 622 Front St

Nelson, BC V1L 4B7

(250) 358-2566

jim@eaglemanestate.com

AFFORDABLE STEEL SHIPPING

- 20 ft. and 40 ft. sizes.

- Bertha Williams, #11 – 217 Zacks Rd. 250-265-9080.

- Proudly of my dog. Please forward to our working together again

- Tyler Paynton • 250.777.3654 • silverridgeearthsnow@hotmail.com

Affordable Steel Shipping

Drop in Wednesdays 12-2 pm. 719 Vernon Street, Nelson. Nelson and District Seniors Coordinating Society.

**HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW been sexually assaulted and want help? Call the Interior Crisis Line 24/7 at 1-888-333-CARE to discuss your options or generally to Arrow Lakes Hospital or your local emergency room for confidential care.

**PESTS**

- NO! Not yet dog training class. Find the AMAZING in your dog. www.proudofmydog.ca

**RENTAL WANTED**

**CAROL and 2 DOGS** seeking rental starting August! September! October in New Denver area preferably. Reliable, responsible, mature adult. Contact, please ciboccaccio@gmail.com

**SATELLITE TV & INTERNET**

Xplornet, Shaw Direct, HG - boosters etc, home theatre, wired & wireless; James: 250-505-8792 jamiesnet@gmail.com will serve safely through Pandemic.

**AVIS EXCAVATING**

Serving the Slocan Valley

- Excavation • Ditching

- Water lines

- Land improvement

- Wildlife Mitigation on private land

250-226-7849

250-505-9207

**THE VALLEY VOICE**

May 7, 2020

The wonderful community connections. If you need us. We have absolutely loved our life

Dance..
Survey on COVID-19 for rural residents submitted

The Rural Evidence Review team, in partnership with the BC Rural Health Network, has created a brief, anonymous survey to learn from rural and remote BC communities about their experiences and responses to COVID-19.

The survey can be found here: http://bit.ly/RERCOVID-19. The survey is available on an ongoing basis, with no established end date.

The findings will be used to understand rural community solutions and resiliency in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. They will be shared with participating rural and remote BC communities, to support learning and collaboration across communities. Additionally, the findings will be shared with the BC Ministry of Health and the Health Authorities to support rural health care planning.

The Rural Evidence Review has funding under Canada’s Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research and through the Rural Coordination Centre of BC to work with rural citizens to provide high-quality and useful evidence for Selkirk College research team assessing tourism signage in the region.

One of a team of 20 student research assistants at Selkirk College’s Applied Research & Innovation Centre (ARIC) in Castlegar, Kayla Tillapaugh is working on a project for Kootenay Rockies Tourism to assess the effectiveness of current wayfinding and signage in the region.

Looking to enhance the visitor experience in the region, Kootenay Rockies Tourism has tasked the student researchers to provide a detailed assessment of the current state of signage and information. In preparation for a road trip through the Central Kootenay, Tillapaugh and her research partner prepared a literature review based on 14 different studies across rural health care planning in BC. To do this, the team asks rural citizens about their health care priorities that matter most to their communities and Canada.

They have put together a route through the region to document the ease of tourist wayfinding from community to community and attraction to attraction. The pair will travel separately to assess more than a dozen signage attributes including: physical condition, clarity, placement, quality, graphic layout, consistency, safety and overall impression.

One of their findings will be the effectiveness of the RER COVID-19 strategy in expanding testing to include anyone with cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, however mild.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses including the flu and common cold. They include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, painful swallowing, stuffy or runny nose, loss of sense of smell, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, loss of appetite.

While testing has expanded, not everyone needs a test. COVID-19 testing is not recommended for people without symptoms. Interior Health has 14 testing and assessment centres located across the health authority: 100 Mile House, Salmon Arm, Williams Lake, Nelson, Trail, Cranbrook, Vernon, Kelowna, Kamloops, Penticton, Revelstoke, Sparwood, Grand Forks, and Golden.

Testing at these centres is by appointment. Anyone who needs a test should call their primary care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner) or the closest Interior Health community testing and assessment centre directly to arrange a test.

More information, including the contact information for each of the centres in IH and how to obtain your results, is available on our website at https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news/testing-information/
The COVID-19 pandemic has changed almost every aspect of our lives. Many of us are living with isolation and loneliness, financial worries, the challenges of home-schooling our kids and working from home, and the fear of becoming sick with COVID-19. We’re experiencing increased anxiety, stress and depression – and sometimes grief and loss. And many of the things that traditionally bring us joy have been put on hold. Simply asking, “How are you doing?” has taken on a much deeper meaning than it did before phrases like “self-isolation” and “physical distancing” came into our lives. We care about one another and are looking out for each other in thoughtful and compassionate ways. Many of us are talking about our individual and collective mental health like never before. Each year, one in five Canadians will experience a mental health challenge. But in the last few months, that number is much, much higher. A recent Angus Reid survey indicates that half of Canadians say their mental health has declined during the COVID-19 pandemic and 16% describe themselves as depressed. May 4 to 10, 2020, marks Mental Health Week in Canada – a week to celebrate, protect and promote mental health. This theme this year is “social connection,” and it couldn’t be more timely. This year, during Mental Health Week and beyond, Canadians are being asked to get real about mental health – to tell others how they are really feeling and to reach out for help and connection when they need it. If we take the time to hear what people are really saying when they reply with a simple “fine” or “okay,” we will connect in ways that make a real difference to the well-being of someone who is struggling.

Long before COVID-19 and physical distancing, our government recognized how important it is to expand and strengthen mental health supports in British Columbia. That’s why we launched A Pathway to Hope, BC’s roadmap to creating a system of mental health and addictions care that works for our province, with a focus on our heroic front-line health care workers, unsettled young people and their families, and isolated seniors who are seeking connection and help with day-to-day activities. These initiatives include Bouche, a free program for people experiencing low mood, depression or anxiety, Foundry Virtual Clinic for youths aged 12 to 24 and their families, low- and no-cost community counselling available in many languages, and the mobile response team supporting health-care workers on the front lines of two public health emergencies: COVID-19 and the continuing overdose crisis. These unprecedented times are challenging our mental health. But where there is uncertainty and instability, there is also an opportunity to make lasting change, and to come back better and stronger.

More than ever, people are talking openly and honestly about their mental health – sharing their stories, acknowledging their challenges and reaching out for help. And by talking about our mental health, we are creating the vital connections that will help us through this pandemic and beyond. I encourage everyone to do their part and get real about mental health – because the only way to get through this is together.

And remember, when someone asks you how you are, it’s okay to say, “I’m not okay.” Government of British Columbia mental health supports www.gov.bc.ca/COVID19
Clarice Caywood

Clarice Caywood passed away peacefully at the age of 89. She loved and lived life to its fullest. Every moment an opportunity and every cloud had a silver lining. No matter what life brought her, she embraced it with grace and optimism. Although we are heartbroken, we are filled with memories of her warmth and love for everyone who crossed her path. We are also blessed by the knowledge that mom was so well loved and looked after by Dr. Musaji, Georgie, Michelle and all of the care home staff in Kalso.

We will miss you, but you are forever in our hearts. Love your daughters (Christy and Bonnie), your son-in-law (Greg), and your grandchildren (Micah, Jocelyn, Bruce, Megan and Cody).

A message from Hon. Katrine Conroy, MLA Kootenay West

Thank you frontline workers!

Whether you are a hospital worker, a retail worker, a delivery worker, a child care worker, or any other essential service worker...

...we thank you for your valuable and much appreciated service to our community.

Dear constituents, friends, and neighbours,

I wish to thank you all for your commitment to doing your part to help us prevent the spread of COVID-19. Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry has continuously told us - we need 100% commitment from everyone to get this done. The upcoming days are incredibly important and will determine what our doctors, nurses, and essential workers face moving forward in the days and weeks to come.

I am sharing some useful resources below, and although my community office is not open to walk-ins during the pandemic, my staff is happy to assist you by phone or email. We’re here to help. We can do this together... by staying apart!

-Katrine Conroy, MLA Kootenay West

COVID-19 questions?

Need help finding programs or support?

Call 8-1-1 to speak to a healthcare professional about potential COVID-19 symptoms, or any other health-related concerns.

Call 2-1-1 or visit www.bc211.ca if you are a senior needing support, or if you’re a volunteer who is able to provide support.

Call 1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319) for non-medical COVID-19 questions (such as Child Care, Travel restrictions, Business and funding support, etc.) You can also send a text to 604-630-0300.

On the web: www.gov.bc.ca/covid is the one-stop provincial government info & support page www.bccdc.ca BC Centre for Disease Control is the most reliable source of medical information.

How to contact us:

Toll Free: 1-888-755-0556
Katrine Conroy, MLA@leg.bc.ca
www.facebook.com/katrineconroy1/
Twitter: @KatrineConroy

The Hidden Garden Gallery (HGG) of New Denver is planning – tentatively – its 2020 season, to bring great art to the community while complying with BC COVID-19 related health directives as they continue to evolve.

In celebration of the last 20 years of the gallery’s life, all artists who have ever shown at the gallery are invited to participate in ‘20/20 Vision Celebration Show,’ which will kick off this year’s summer season. The show will help raise money for the gallery through a silent auction of all the pieces that are submitted. Fifty percent of sales will go to the artist and 50% to the gallery.

The HGG is also building an online show and sale in case of cancellations of the physical show due to health restrictions. Special care and modifications in practice will ensure alignment with health directives and safeguard the well-being of all artists and guests while visiting the gallery.

The popular opening night artist receptions will not be planned this year, as they pose physical distancing challenges, potentially risking COVID-19 community spread.

The gallery’s mission has always been to create and maintain a welcoming space where artists and the community can come together to foster creativity and inspiration. A small venue, the Hidden Garden hosts 10 week-long art shows, with receptions featuring local musicians each summer. The gallery also sponsors a series of movie nights, life drawing sessions and ‘Food for Thought’ lectures at Knox Hall in New Denver throughout the winter months, as well as various other outreach activities with Lumiere School and the surrounding community.

The gallery does not usually take a commission for work sold by the artists that exhibit in the space, instead relying on grants and generous donations from patrons and visitors to the gallery.

The HGG was founded by a small group of art lovers in the year 2000. Rosalie Bird, Burgin Jacobs and Jana Schellenberg came together to create what would become the Hidden Garden Gallery, which has consistently worked to serve the community of New Denver and the West Kootenay. The society was formed and witnessed by Webb Cummings, Trevor Harrop and Anne Champagne on October 10, 2000.

For more information on submission criteria and application forms, contact Debbie Hicks at dlhicks5@telus.net or visit www.hiddengardengallery.ca.

The submission deadline is May 30, 2020.

A community initiative has raised funds for the New Denver grad class and the food hamper program – and could possibly save some lives in the process.

The fundraising drive by the Community COVID Action Team (CCAT) has seen 280 ‘made in New Denver area’ face masks sold, raising over $1,400. About $950 was raised at a table set up outside New Market Foods on the last weekend of April, and the rest is from sales at the New Denver Community Pharmacy.

CCAP plans to donate some of the funds to the grad class and

some to the food hamper program. A portion will be withheld to support some COVID-related contingencies.

At the April 28 council meeting, Councillor Colin Moss thanked New Market Foods and New Denver Community Pharmacy for letting them use their space. He said there was a “great volunteer spirit” at the New Market table, and CCAT had no trouble finding people to station the booth.

The masks were made by Kathy Provan of Sew Much More, the Quilters guild and other volunteers. Volunteers also helped organize the production and sales of the masks.

A portion will be withheld to support some COVID-related contingencies.

The sale of COVID face masks raised $950 at a table set up outside New Market Foods on the last weekend of April.
Fine photography by Slocan Valley

Submitted

Some things are going to be the same for Studio Connexion’s 2020 summer season. And of course, because of the pandemic, some things will be quite different.

Every year gallery owner Anne Beulavou likes to have at least one photographer display their work. And she also likes to have at least one artist from the Slocan Valley. She achieves both goals with her very first exhibition of the year.

“We are very fortunate to have fine photographer Ursula Abresch back with us for the 2020 Summer Exhibitions Series,” says Beliveau. “Last year’s show was so successful, and Ursula has such an interesting technique, we think the public will enjoy seeing more of her work.”

Her new show is titled “Playfull II” and her photographs illustrate movement in nature. The images were taken in the Slocan Valley and around Nakusp. Since there are special restrictions in these unusual times, the first show will be by appointment — including the opening reception. People attending will have one-on-one encounters with the photographer. “It’s a unique opportunity to meet and greet the artist,” says Beulavou.

Mostly self-taught, Abresch’s inspiration comes from the works of Art Wolfe, Courtney Milne and Man Ray. She is also drawn to the paintings of Lawren Harris, Georgia O’Keefe and Paul Klee to name a few.

She is an aground member of the Pacific Art Group with 16 other photographers from around the world. Selected images go to various galleries, private collectors and the home décor market. Visiting the gallery this summer is by appointment only. To see the show, contact the gallery at 250-265-8888 to book a time for your visit, or to take part in the “one-on-one” opening reception on Friday May 15 from 5 to 8 pm.

Studio Connexion Art Gallery is open from 11 am to 4 pm. It’s located in the heart of Nakusp at 203 Fifth Avenue NW just two and a half short blocks from Broadway Street.

CORRECTION & CLARIFICATION

We published an article in our April 23 issue, ‘Medical experts say COVID-19 mortality rate actually very low.’ A better headline would have been, ‘Data on COVID-19 death rates confusing and conflicting.’

In the article, we reported that Iceland has been able to test virtually all of its residents for COVID-19. In fact, as of April 4, about 6% of Iceland’s residents had been tested.

We also reported, using Dr. John Ioannidis of Stanford University as a source, that Iceland’s testing revealed a .003% fatality rate, which is less than seasonal flu (0.1%). This comparison is misleading, as it uses the mortality rate for COVID-19 — which is calculated by dividing the number of COVID-19 deaths by the total population of Iceland — and the case fatality rate for the seasonal flu — calculated by dividing the number of flu deaths by the number of tested cases. Comparing the mortality rate with the case fatality rate is like comparing apples to oranges.

The article also stated that Dr. Anthony Fauci, President Trump’s chief medical advisor, placed the overall mortality rate for COVID-19 at about the same rate as seasonal flu. In fact, Dr. Fauci wrote in an editorial published February 28 in the New England Journal of Medicine, “This suggests that the overall mortality risk of COVID-19 may ultimately be more akin to those of a severe seasonal influenza (which has a case fatality rate of approximately 0.1%) or a pandemic influenza (similar to those in 1957 and 1968) rather than a disease similar to SARS or MERS, which have had case fatality rates of 9 to 10% and 36%, respectively.”

Since then on March 11, Dr. Fauci stated that COVID-19 has a mortality rate 10 times the seasonal flu.

In loving memory of Sally Jean Lamare

September 24, 1939 – April 19, 2020

The world lost a shining light the morning of Sunday, April 19th, when Sally Lamare (née Miché) died suddenly in her bedroom at the age of 80. “Mis Sally” was a loving wife, mother, grandma, sister, aunt, cousin, friend and a vibrant member of the New Denver community.

She will be deeply missed by her two remaining children and their spouses: her second son, Steve (Karen) and her daughter Diana (Dennis); her six grandchildren: Madison (Travis), Brian (Kelly), Cassandra (Spencer), Brandy (Josh), Stephen (Tara) and granddaughter babysitter; her nieces and nephews: David, Nancy and Brian (Lisa); all her in-laws and nieces and nephews on Barry’s side; and her close friend Tommy. She also touched the lives of countless friends, colleagues and neighbours. Sally was predeceased by Barry, her lifelong love and husband of nearly 51 years, her first son Joey, her father Harold Miché, and her mother Carolyn (Guskeye) (Miché) Kline.

Sally was born in Glendale, California, and raised in the San Fernando Valley. At the sweet age of 16, Sally met Barry, fell in love, and they graduated together from Van Nuys High School in 1957. A year later, they were married, on October 25, 1958, and then got busy having babies in 1959 (Joey), 1963 (Steve) and 1965 (Diana). In 1973, all three of her kids proudly watched her walk across the stage when she graduated from university with a major in art, a minor in English and a teaching certificate. When they immigrated to Canada in 1975, they left Los Angeles far behind and created a new life in Perry Siding, BC, where they built a home, raised their kids, cows and chickens, grew a thriving organic garden and began their woodworking business “What Knot Works.” Sally’s colourful name hung on the side of a barn door and in the ‘one-on-one’ opening reception on Friday May 15 from 5 to 8 pm.

Studio Connexion Art Gallery is located in the heart of Nakusp at 203 Fifth Avenue NW just two and a half blocks from Broadway Street.

CORRECTION & CLARIFICATION

We published an article in our April 23 issue, ‘Medical experts say COVID-19 mortality rate actually very low.’ A better headline would have been, ‘Data on COVID-19 death rates confusing and conflicting.’

In the article, we reported that Iceland has been able to test virtually all of its residents for COVID-19. In fact, as of April 4, about 6% of Iceland’s residents had been tested.

We also reported, using Dr. John Ioannidis of Stanford University as a source, that Iceland’s testing revealed a .003% fatality rate, which is less than seasonal flu (0.1%). This comparison is misleading, as it uses the mortality rate for COVID-19 — which is calculated by dividing the number of COVID-19 deaths by the total population of Iceland — and the case fatality rate for the seasonal flu — calculated by dividing the number of flu deaths by the number of tested cases. Comparing the mortality rate with the case fatality rate is like comparing apples to oranges.

The article also stated that Dr. Anthony Fauci, President Trump’s chief medical advisor, placed the overall mortality rate for COVID-19 at about the same rate as seasonal flu. In fact, Dr. Fauci wrote in an editorial published February 28 in the New England Journal of Medicine, “This suggests that the overall mortality risk of COVID-19 may ultimately be more akin to those of a severe seasonal influenza (which has a case fatality rate of approximately 0.1%) or a pandemic influenza (similar to those in 1957 and 1968) rather than a disease similar to SARS or MERS, which have had case fatality rates of 9 to 10% and 36%, respectively.”

Since then on March 11, Dr. Fauci stated that COVID-19 has a mortality rate 10 times the seasonal flu.