The first two legal outdoor cannabis farms in the area are up and running. The Cedar Bug Farm in Kaslo and the Cooper Farm in Cooper Creek (north of Kaslo) are part of the Kootenay Outdoor Producer Co-op (KOP), and will produce certified organic outdoor Kootenay bud.

“All our farms will be certified organic,” says Todd Veri, president of the co-op and owner of the Kaslo farm. “What’s unique about us is our co-op business model and our outdoor organic product. There’s no other co-op in Canada that I know of in the cannabis cultivation business, and the majority of licensed producers are growing indoors with chemicals.”

After three years of preparation – establishing the co-op, and completing numerous licence applications to Health Canada – KOP received licences for the two farms on March 20. Licence applications for 14 additional farms and a building in Salmo for drying and trimming the cannabis are at the ‘Evidence Package stage,’ Veri says, which means “they’ve been initially approved and now Health Canada is waiting for us to raise the funds and get them built and ready.” The co-op is hoping to bring the other farms into production next season.

“It’s been a steep learning curve, with many bumps along the road, but it feels like we’ve made it,” said Veri. “As long as we have a crop this year, we’ll make some money and we’ll be able to set up our other farms.”

It costs about $200,000 in start-up funds for each farm, Veri says, with the security and irrigation systems as the big-ticket items. Health Canada requires a sophisticated security system – there are 30 security cameras surrounding Veri’s plot and laser detection units to detect intruders.

Veri says the co-op is a great business model. With several farms all over the Kootenays, it will be very unlikely for an entire season’s crop to fail. Also, the co-op pays for the security system and irrigation system and other start-up costs for each farm, and provides the facility for drying, trimming and hopefully packaging in future.

The co-op leases a facility in Salmo, which is being renovated to Health Canada standards for drying and trimming cannabis. A standard cultivation licence application is in progress for the facility and is expected to be granted by fall. The licence will allow for drying and trimming, and will also pave the way for “add-on components” such as packaging and extraction, Veri said.

Each farm has a crew of seven craft farmers, who are responsible for planting, weeding, harvesting – “everything from soil preparation to post harvest,” Veri said. They are “independent business people” who don’t work for wages; they get paid when the crop is sold.

The gross proceeds of each farm’s crop is divided up among the craft farmers (25%), the landowner (25%), and the co-op (50%).

Veri says the co-op will hire salaried managers, and hourly wage employees for the Salmo facility as early as next year. “We could become the biggest employer in the Kootenays,” he said, “but it might take a few years to work the market.”

It wasn’t designed this way, Veri says, but all seven craft farmers at Veri’s Cedar Bug Farm are women, and all seven craft farmers at the Cooper Farm are men.

“It started shaping up that way, so we just went with it – and how can you not like the girls against the boys?” Veri said. He added that there has traditionally been a lot of women in the industry in the Kootenays.

Between the two farms, about 25 strains of cannabis are being grown. “We’re testing out what grows well in our climate and which ones have good levels of CBD and THC, so we should be able to know what we want to grow based on this first season.”

They also plan to submit eight or nine micro-cultivation licences this fall, and expect them to be approved for next season, as well.

The co-op was incorporated October 1, 2018, 17 days before legalization. Veri is the only board member who has stayed with it from the beginning. “We’ve gone through a number of board members and farms and people, as they just didn’t fit with our ethos,” he said.

Contact the co-op at info@bcbud.coop.
Child care severely lacking in Kaslo, says new study

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A report commissioned by a Kaslo daycare has found the area is in “dire need” of additional licenced child care spaces. The report, said to be the first of its kind for the village, says that the number and affordability of daycare spaces in Kaslo is a real problem. It highlights the need for suitable, affordable child care that meets the needs of families.

The report’s authors estimate to meet basic demand, there needs to be an increase of 125 daycare spaces in the community – ten times the current number available.

The report by CitySpace Consulting was commissioned by the Perwinkle Daycare and funded by the Columbia Basin Trust. The purpose is to provide a better picture of the current state of child care and the number of spaces needed in the community.

The report, which gathered data via online surveys, found that child care availability in Kaslo and area is very low, “leaving many families without child care, parents unable to work, perform daily tasks, participate in community and for some, needing to leave the community to find the services they need.”

Currently there is only one licenced child care provider in Kaslo, providing 12 spaces for children 3-5 years old, four days a week. That makes the overall child care coverage rate in Kaslo, which is based on the number of licenced child care spaces available for every 10 children, at 5%.

There are no spaces for children under three, nor for school-aged children, and 21% for children 3-5 years of age.

“To put this in context, a ‘child-care desert’ is considered a coverage rate below 33%, and in 2002 all European Union member-states committed to a coverage rate of 90% for children ages 3 to 5 and 33% for those who are under three years old,” the authors say.

The report admits it is not a full needs assessment, but it is the first of its kind to provide a preliminary understanding of child care needs in the community.

“We recommend further engagement with families, child care providers and service providers to better understand the need for child care spaces, for underserved populations, and in order to further refine the targets,” it says.

Other findings of this study include:

• The primary challenge experienced by respondents in securing suitable child care are services not being available when needed (62%), followed by both a lack of full-time spaces, and the cost being too high for 42% of families. 38% also struggled to find part-time care. The price of child care is a challenge for most families, who are looking for child care with a budget of $500 or less.

• 60% of single parent respondents have $250 or less per month available in their budget. Only 10% of single parent households currently have child care services meeting their needs.

• The availability of care for infants and toddlers (0-3 years) and children ages 3-5 is of particular concern.

Most families are in need of part-time care, although for parents who are working full-time, finding adequate and affordable child care poses a real problem.

Moving forward, the recommendation is to increase the coverage rate to 55% for 0- to 12-year-old children. In order to meet these targets, there needs to be an increase of 125 spaces, 27 spaces for under 3 years, 20 spaces for 3-5 years, and 79 spaces for school-age children.

Although there are a few families who would like Indigenous programming, there is low demand for multicultural, or francophone programming.

• Single parents are in particular need of full-time child care. The ability of single parents to attend work, appointments, run errands or perform daily tasks is affected by a lack of access to care.

• A total of 56 parents and guardians, representing 94 children, completed the online survey between April 7 and 19. Further research and a full needs assessment are required in order to have a more robust understanding of child care need, the report says.

Slocan Valley Co-op
3024, Hwy 6 • Slocan Park
Ph: 250-226-7433

More than 100 residents of Slocan and area marched down Harlem Street on June 6 as part of a worldwide protest against racism and police brutality, prompted by the Minneapolis police shooting of George Floyd – a black man who was suspected of passing a fake $20 bill. The Slocan march was organized by Gabe Miller and Alexander Cendese and started at the historic Swan House. A moment of silence was held at the recently opened Slocan Beach Park, where some people took a knee to complete the march.

We have extended our hours!

We are now open 9-5 Monday to Friday and 10-5 Saturday.

411 Hall Street • Nelson, BC • 250-352-6261
• Toll-free: 1-800-337-1622

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Storm-damaged rail-trail will take time to fix, says chair

*by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter*

The chair of the Slocan Valley rail trail society is asking for the public’s patience as repairs are made to the trail near Lemon Creek.

Helene Dostaler says work will begin on repairing a washed-out section of the trail at Mon Amie Rd. as soon as proper plans are drawn up.

“It’s still in the hands of the engineers,” she says. “But it is going to be repaired, and we will celebrate when it happens.”

The trail was damaged the weekend of May 30, when a massive storm dumped close to 50 mm of rain in the valley, swelling local rivers and creeks.

Dostaler says Lemon Creek overflowed its banks at both ends of the old railway bridge that crosses it, south of the village of Slocan.

“There was a culvert there, but it was a 30-inch culvert installed by CP Rail,” she says. “It was working just fine, but there was so much water, that it was overwhelmed.”

Matters were made worse when a resident of a nearby property, concerned about the rising water, cut a channel across the trail to direct the water’s flow.

“He was afraid the water was coming too close to the house, and the water was coming over the trail at that point, so he decided to dig a channel across the trail on the north side of Mon Amie Rd.,” says Dostaler. “He thought that would direct the water to flow downhill to a safe spot and go to the river eventually.”

However, the sandy soil at that point of the trail quickly washed away, widening the makeshift channel into a two-metre (eight-foot) deep, 1.5-metre (five-foot) wide ditch, says Dostaler.

The Trails Society has since been in touch with the Ministry of Forest’s Recreation, Sites and Trails branch, which are partners in the trail’s maintenance. They are now drawing up designs for repairing the trail.

“Because Lemon Creek is a fish-bearing stream, they have to be careful about repairs around the creek, so that enters into it,” she says. “So we’re still waiting for the go-ahead to hire a contractor.”

The overflow channel is now dry, and hardy hikers and bikers can scramble into and out of the channel, says Dostaler, though people with mobility issues may want to avoid that portion of the route.

Depending on the timeline for repairs, the society is considering bush-whacking a detour around the channel. But that would be a major project in itself for the volunteer group, she says. “People could at least semi-comfortably reach the other end of the trail, but it would require a lot of work, it’s not an easy solution,” she says.

Dostaler says she understands why the person dug a channel across the trail, but strongly cautions people from damaging the trail infrastructure. She notes in the fall, a multi-million dollar fibre-optic cable will be buried under the rail trail as part of that new infrastructure development.

“Can you imagine if he had dug that up?” she says. “He would have broken the cable. It would have been a lot of money.”

“People should be aware you just can’t dig across the trail without talking to us,” she says. “It’s not an abandoned railway, it is well-used recreational trail with legal status.”

There’s no word on when the trail will finally be repaired.
A big thank you

A big thank you to Wayne McCrory and Craig Petitt of the Valhalla Wilderness Society for their insightful analysis of the Zincton proposal for a mega recreation resort in our area (Valley Voice, June 4, 2020). Also thanks to others who wrote letters opposing this devastating proposal. I, too, object to building this facility.

My first thoughts after reading about the Zincton proposal were: “Where is the wildlife supposed to go when their habitat, their food supply, is overrun, destroyed, by noisy humans? Are they swamping places with the wildlife, humans in the high country and wildlife in the valley?” The result would be a lot of dead wildlife and a lot of unhappy valley-dwelling humans.

I agree 100% with Wayne’s and Craig’s assessment of the impact of such a development on the environment, local recreation, small tourist endeavours, local communities. What affects one community overflows into the rest of the Slocan Valley. The valley is small, a unique area. People move here for the lifestyle it provides and stay for the same reasons. Let’s keep it that way. Reject the Zincton proposal.

Shirl Bayer

Panic and Pan

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, “panic” comes from the name of the ancient Greek god Pan, who is also reputed, in a very unsurprising twist, to have been the inventor of the panpipes. He also had a somewhat more ferocious side.

“Pan was possessed of a stentorian voice, and it was said that when the ancient Greek gods were battling a horde of giants that Pan’s shout was so overwhelming that itinstilled fear in the gods’ opponents, aiding in their eventual victory. He was said as well to have occasionally caused humans to flee in unreasoning fear, which is where the commonly used sense of panic comes from.”

Also, check out the poem by Adrian Ross called “The Pipes of Pan.”

Here are some alternative facts, Elgie! It’s plain to see Pan is the pan of pipes and mayhem, striking the heart of man and making him scurry in wide-eyed fear.

Nick Chatten

Panic Open letter to Agriculture Minister Lana Popham re: meat regs

Many farmers and farm-gate processors were hopeful that your ministry’s extensive consultation through the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish, and Food and ‘Supporting BC Farmers’ public engagement sessions were an indication that the challenges of local food systems were finally recognized by our new government. Both processes exposed the desperate need for Class D designation and on-farm slaughter options in Area H of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK). I see no rational justification to include RDCK Area D while excluding the Slocan Valley from this provision.

As you know from my previous letters and almost every agricultural study that has been done on this region, RDCK Area H has unmet capacity for livestock production. Unfortunately, the transportation challenges of ferries and mountain passes hamper efforts to improve efficiency, animal welfare, and production. In addition, I have personally discovered that economies of scale do not support a Class A business model at this time, despite the strong demand for locally raised meat.

Increased food security at this time of exceptional supply chain vulnerability is a major public concern. If greater food security was the desired outcome of your ministry’s consultation, the result is very disappointing.

Please include RDCK Area H as a Class D designated area to increase local food production through on-farm processing provisions.

Kyle Weibe (president, BC Meatworks)

NO to the Zincton Resort

Thanks to the Valley Voice for providing information about the proposed Zincton ski resort. One more example of how important it is to keep our local, independent newspaper alive and thanks to all supporters who make this happen.

We oppose all plans to sacrifice the Zincton ski area, home for the wild animals. As hikers, we have witnessed the negative impact Retallack’s ski and mountain bike operation on the other side of the highway has caused over the years. With bike trails already all over the slopes, sightings of wildlife have dropped significantly in the Texas-Redo area.

Hiking in the Whitewater-Zincton area, we enjoyed watching grizzly bears, black bears, mountain goats, mule deer, golden eagles, and moose in the swamps along the highway. We urge all local hikers, skiers, photographers, outdoor enthusiasts, and environmentalists to speak out to conserve this unique ecosystem and home for the wild animals.

It took more than two decades of protests to stop Jumbo. Let us stand together and stop Zincton right away.

We care for the endangered Siberian tiger, the rhino, and the orangutan. But our place is here. The wildlife in our backyard needs our voices. Wayne McCrory from the Valhalla Wilderness Society has summarized all the reasons for opposing the project in his assessment (see Valley Voice, June 4, 2020, page 17).

Our input on behalf of the wild animals must be submitted by June 22. The deadline is June 22. Email comments to MountainResortsBrand@go.vic.ca, Project Lead Kelly Northcott.

Elizabeth von Ah and Michael Marnder

Lemon Creek

Answers

This letter is in response to Art Joyce’s letter ‘Questions’ in the last issue. Referring to his questions roughly in order, there are no “easily repeatable experiments” possible on the current pandemic that I know of. Instead, its progress and outcomes in different countries are being observed. Conclusions about which countries are handling the pandemic best are changeable, and vary with the statistics coming from them and the time. The justification for lockdown is to “flatten the curve,” which is to try to make sure hospitals are not overrun by people with COVID-19.

Debate in science is often emotionally charged, with people holding their opinions as dearly as they do in other subjects like religion and politics. The fact that the much-abused Ignaz Semmelweis was right about hygiene does not mean that Wilikowski or John Ioannidis were right about COVID-19.

The things to aim for in recording data are accuracy and consistency. One way of recording COVID-19 deaths is to count every death with the virus present as due to the virus. This results in the highest possible calculated death rate due to the virus. Another system is to count any death as attributed to the virus that could be explained by some other health factor. This leads to the lowest possible calculated death rate due to the virus.

One of the other systems is used in different areas, and as long as one knows which system is being employed, one can assess the data accordingly. Using both systems, with careful tracking of what is being done, would make for an interesting comparison. A middle path of a doctor’s assessment of the cause of death in each case sounds good, but would subjectively depend on each different doctor’s opinion. All told, we can never have consistency, but only questionable accuracy.

Herd immunity can be brought about by exposure to the virus or by vaccination. The former is just everyone taking their chances. Isolation is advocated for those who wish to wait for a vaccine to be developed. The laws to promote social distancing are to help flatten the curve while a vaccine is being developed.

Keith Newberry

Slocan
COVID-19 facts

Many people look for facts, particularly about COVID-19 at that time. One could well go to www.hecd.ca (BC Centre for Disease Control). Click on COVID-19 data, modelling and projections, slides from the June 4 briefing. Much will be interesting to West Kootenay people: the number of confirmed cases in West Kootenay: Boundary (1 to 31 May), how BC counterparts in Ontario and Quebec, and a lot of good luck.

Let’s not drop the ball now that we have arrived at the later innings.

Jill Bradley Kaslo

Response to article on Zincton ski resort proposal

As a very active self-propelled backcountry user in all seasons living near the proposed Zincton ski resort, I can only feel that any statement by Mr. Harley’s proposal and the way it was presented in the article in the May 21 Valley Voice is misleading to the general public in my community.

When Mr. Harley first presented his ideas to the community in New Denver, it sounded nothing like this. Were we fooled, or did someone get greedy? What a joke to claim it’s going to be “near carbon zero” because of some micro solar and panels, maybe even some recycling? Wow! But good marketing.

I am just wondering how all these people are getting there – by foot! 1,750 people a day leave near zero impact – that is amazing.

And what about the rather significant impact a year-round resort has on the environment and the wildlife? Have you ever witnessed Blackcomb in the summer? Buzzing, dusty and ugly, but it makes money.

There was no mention of the grizzly bear habitat in the Whitewater mountain area and the quote “no signs of ungulates were found” is astounding. You can watch moose and elk from the highway almost any early morning on Mr. Harley’s own property.

And why do we in the West Kootenay need another resort after fighting the jumbo resort for seemingly forever? We have Whitewater Resort in Nelson, Red Mountain Resort in Rossland, Summit Lake Ski Hill, and Retallack and cat skiing right there in that area (and they want to add more, too) and numerous other helicopter and cat ski operations already.

With the COVID-19 pandemic in full swing, everybody can see that tourism is the first to be hit and the Kootenay economy is feeling that strongly. No need for more diversion.

And with Harley’s proposed construction of 6,000 units, which I say are mostly minimum wage jobs, how many jobs will be lost in the other resorts because of that?

Let’s not sell our beautiful Kootenay backcountry soul cheap for cheap. Let’s oppose this proposal with our emails to MountainResortsBranch@gov.bc.ca, subject Zincton Resort.

People already come to that area to enjoy it and need no further encouragement by more development and profit-oriented business. We come for the love of the mountains and the peaceful scenery. No noise, few people. We like it that way.

Jill Bradley Kaslo

Concerns raised regarding a proposed new ski resort in the Kootenay Region

The BC Government Mountain Resorts Branch has recently received an expression of interest (EOI) for a new ski resort development (Zincton Environmental Impact Assessment) from Harley and Associates Inc. and are requesting feedback from the public. The British Columbia Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BCBHA) has concerns and are opposed to this EOI. We believe this commercial recreation development will result in the continued expansion of backcountry ski operations in the Southern Selkirk Mountains. The potential for disruption of high value wildlife movement and habitat connectivity through four seasons, as well as the fragmentation of the directly adjacent existing intact, quiet wilderness (Goat Range Provincial Park) from this proposal is significant. By granting commercial recreation rights the government effectively limits the use of current public land backcountry users in the area.

The provincial government issued a one-year moratorium in March 2018 on new winter adventure tourism tenures to develop a strategy for the Central Selkirk Mountains. This moratorium is now set to permit new tenures and tenure amendments that increase user conflict and reduce the amount of high value habitat for sensitive species which are currently under threat, including interior grizzly bears, wolves, mountain goats, and the threatened mountain caribou.

The EOI rationale is in direct conflict with itself as it plans to offer an “authentic backcountry experience” while effectively destroying the backcountry wilderness in the London Ridge and Whiteframe Ridge area and greatly increasing use by up to 1,550 skiers per day. The development of the proposed resort is expected to result in the loss of a full resort development including lodging and village amenities, motorized chair lifts, and biking, skiing, and biking trails will not be improved or protected as planned, the activity of glading and removing trees in areas for skiing alters the landscape and may have detrimental effects on the high value wildlife habitat. Our backcountry in the southeastern part of BC is experiencing a significant increase of human use, which is already placing impacts on wildlife that occupy the proposed area. This proposed resort would create decades of restrictive trend. Habitat alteration and the displacement of wildlife into less productive habitats is a serious concern. The commercial tenure would significantly impact recreational backcountry users that currently utilize the area and puts a price of admission on existing publicly accessible backcountry.

The management of natural habitat for all species of wildlife Columbia is one of the core values of the BC Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. Our organization firmly believes that effective and healthy habitat is critical in order to sustain wildlife populations and provide high quality hunting and fishing and backcountry recreational opportunities for future generations in this province.

We encourage British Columbians to send their comments regarding the Zincton Resort expression of interest to the BC Government at MountainResortsBranch@gov.bc.ca.

Alan Duffy and Andrew Van Viet
British Columbia Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Response to ‘Questions’

Art Joyce’s letter (‘Questions,’ June 4) asks a series of questions to help those of us who think lack critical thinking on the subject of COVID-19. His questions are loaded with inferences designed to disparage the “medical establishment,” which he lapses in with mainstream politics and media. One of his questions infers that this political-media-media establishment has made “vicious attacks” against doctors and researchers whose work “challenges the justifications for lockdown.”

In the April 23 Valley Voice, an article by Mr. Joyce quoted a number of doctors and researchers who challenged the justifications for the lockdown. Since then two readers have disputed some of these statements, and the Valley Voice has issued a correction of several factual errors in the article. Mr. Joyce’s sources were not attacked by vicious doctors and scientists, but by facts.

Now Mr. Joyce asks, “Are not all theories and data sets first given equal weight until proven or disproven by easily repeatable experiments?” No, actually. The work of lead scientists sits on the forefront of a vast context built by decades of research. Theories that don’t account for this justifiably receive very little weight until sufficient evidence is provided.

One of Mr. Joyce’s loaded questions is: “Why is the longstanding scientific consensus against herd immunity being challenged?” The herd-immunity “theory” (according to those who oppose lockdowns) goes like this: we could isolate only the most vulnerable people and let the others get hit. We would immunize people as they want, get COVID-19, and develop a large body of immune individuals. With fewer available hosts to spread itself, the virus would no longer be a problem.

This theory was being spread on Fox News around the time of Mr. Joyce’s article (April 23). Physicians at Johns Hopkins’ School of Public Health rejected it. To reach herd immunity for COVID-19, likely 70% or more of the population would need to be immune. Without a vaccine, over 200 million Americans would have to get infected before we get there. Within over 25,000 confirmed cases a day it will be well into 2021 before we reach herd immunity. If current daily death rates continue, over half a million Americans would be dead from Covid-19 by that time.”

Nevertheless, Sweden insisted on putting the theory to a test. What they have gotten for it is one of the highest death rates per capita in the world. Tragically, Sweden’s policy failed to protect the elderly, and didn’t come close to giving the general population herd immunity. Tests have found that only 7.3% of Sweden has the antibodies.

The idea that there is a “healthy or a ‘herd-immune’ population is a myth, get COVID-19 is unmitigated. Health Canada’s COVID-19 website (https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-of-vaccines-cases.html) has a graph showing that 8.7% of COVID-19 patients admitted to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) are 20-39 years old. Thirty percent of ICU patients are 40-59 years old, and 2.6% of deaths are in that age group. The figures do get much higher with age, but it’s clear that age groups are safe.

Mr. Joyce’s loaded questions are very unfortunate at a time when it is desperately important for the public to understand the battle to save our lives. But he did stimulate me to ask myself one good question: between BC’s Chief Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry (who still advises social distancing and reduced contacts) and Mr. Joyce, which one has the medical degree and decades of experience saving lives? Which one was just celebrated for his work and is now considered as “one of the most effective public health officials in the world?” I’ll stake my life on the judgment of Dr. Henry, thank you.

Gene Parker
New Denver

While ROME burns

I could list a variety of reasons why I strongly oppose the proposed mega-development, but for the sake of argument and brevity, I will draw the attention towards a very important element of reduced developments such as Zincton. While a lot has already been published in regards to possible economic and environmental impacts of mega-developments, I would like to draw attention to the close connection between money and power and what is considered ‘progress,’ ‘growth’ and ‘development’ and yes, this is also going to be mainly about the ever ongoing class struggle.

Ever since humans have been expanding their territories, there is a certain trend to be observed. And in more modern times this happens as follows, continued on page 6
Zincton Resort threatens important grizzly populations

The proponents of the Zincton Mountain Resort claim that their development wouldn’t affect grizzly bears and other wildlife. The claim is very untrue and is concerning for a number of reasons.

First of all, grizzly bears give birth in the winter forest areas, which are within the proposed development area. The Zincton Alpine can cause den abandonment and cub mortality, as explained by bear expert Wayne McCoy.

The resort proposal is defined as an all-season resort in Zincton’s formal Expression of Interest (EOI) that is currently out for public review. The effects of high volumes of human activity, notably skiing and mountain biking, in one of the best all-season grizzly bear habitat areas in the region will be detrimental for the bears and dangerous for humans, as noted by Dr. Michael Proctor. Knowing what we do about the significance of the proposed area to grizzly bears and other wildlife it is proponent’s EOI low wildlife impact.

The Central Selkirk grizzly bears that inhabit the proposed area include the rare white-phased grizzly that many have fought hard to protect with the creation of Gout Range Park (originally proposed as the White Grizzly Wilderness) and other projects to counter the many pressures that put the threatened species at risk of extinction. They are of particular cultural significance to the Sinixt and should be considered incredibly important to all who live in this region.

The Zincton project represents another attempt at colonization disguised as ‘economic progress’ with promised benefits for the locale. And to further the divide between the haves and have-nots, the one who can afford to lose their power and might to decide what is considered ‘progress,’ ‘development’ and ‘innovation.’ Maybe that is why, as considered ‘progress,’ ‘development’ and ‘innovation.’

Zincton is preposterous whether the current pandemic which has so much trouble for the affluent closer to their home base. It also reminds me of a lot of a certain time in history, the fall of the Roman Empire, when aside from invasions and internal strife, climate change and pandemics caused many of the powerful and wealthy to flee Rome for the mountains and rural areas.

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Wayne McCoy. The resort proposal is defined as an all-season resort in Zincton’s formal Expression of Interest (EOI) that is currently out for public review. The effects of high volumes of human activity, notably skiing and mountain biking, in one of the best all-season grizzly bear habitat areas in the region will be detrimental for the bears and dangerous for humans, as noted by Dr. Michael Proctor. Knowing what we do about the significance of the proposed area to grizzly bears and other wildlife it is proponent’s EOI low wildlife impact.

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June 18, 2020   The Valley Voice

Change in meat regulation encourages more local meat in RDCK Area D

by Jan McMurray

Area D (North Kootenay Lake) of the RDCK has finally had a victory in its long battle for changes to the meat industry regulations. Livestock farmers in RDCK Area D can now apply for Class D licences, allowing them to slaughter up to 25 animal units per year on their farms and sell the meat to restaurants and retail outlets within Area D.

Up to now, farmers in RDCK Area D have had to have their animals slaughtered at the abattoir in Creston or apply for a Class E licence. A Class E licence is more restrictive, allowing for the on-farm slaughter of up to 10 animal units only, and for the sale of the meat only at the farm gate or at farmers’ markets within the RDCK.

The recent change to the Meat Inspection Regulation has added these areas to the list of “designated areas” for Class D licences: RDCK Area D, Area H of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.

“Up to now, only entire Regional Districts without an abattoir in their boundaries were given ‘designated area’ status. The RDCK did not qualify because there is a licensed abattoir in Creston, which is in the RDCK,” said Mayor Tom Zeleznik.

“This will hopefully encourage more of the pig, cattle and sheep farms that used to thrive here,” said Aimie Watson, chair of the RDCK and director for Area D. “The Meat Inspection Regulation came in over 10 years ago, so many of the farmers are long gone.”

The 2007 Meat Inspection Regulation stipulated that all meat animals destined for commercial sale had to be slaughtered at a federally inspected abattoir. This proved to be extremely onerous for farmers in many rural and remote areas of BC, so the government amended the regulation in 2010 and introduced Class D and E licences for on-farm slaughter. However, farmers in the RDCK were not eligible for Class D licences because there is a licensed abattoir within the RDCK’s boundaries, in Creston.

Watson says there were originally five farmers in Area D who wanted to pursue Class D licences, but over the many years of fighting for it, “some have disappeared, others have shifted their business.”

She says she knows of two North Kootenay Lake farmers with Class E licences who may be interested in applying for the Class D licence. “In 2009, we might have seen more. Some may want to consider going back to having animals, but it will take some time.”

Watson says it’s “on her radar” that other areas of the RDCK may qualify because there is a licenced abattoir in Area E. “It’s not fair to apply the regulations to one area and not another.”

Watson says she’s been meeting with the minister at the Union of BC Municipalities convention every year for years, advocating for this change. “Finally, they took a real interest in what we were saying and they decided to conduct an engagement process. That’s when they recognized the disparity and what was going on for remote regions.”

The Ministry of Agriculture’s public consultation process on local meat production happened in spring 2018. Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham says in a press release, “We have been working with ranchers, abattoir operators and regional governments since 2017 to increase the amount of locally raised meat British Columbians in rural communities can enjoy, and we’re starting to see the results of our collective effort.”

Nakusp Official Community Plan update

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Mayor Tom Zeleznik gave council an update on progress on a new Official Community Plan for the Village as part of his mayor’s report at the June 8 council meeting.

COPC is a blueprint for growth and planning, and sets the big-picture goals for the community. Residents should have seen a draft of a new COPC by now, to give their input. But like most everything, the COVID-19 pandemic has put that schedule off. That public input will now take place later this month, according to the mayor’s report.

But Zeleznik did give some glimpses about what the COPC will contain.

Land clarity: the review of just who owns what land in town found some unexpected bonuses for the Village; some parcels of land, it turns out, are forgotten pieces of property owned by the Village. Zeleznik couldn’t say how much land has been identified, or what it might be worth. That will come with more research.

But having land could be leverage for the village to spur economic development, the mayor said.

“The Village could also look at expanding its boundaries to the north and east. But this would have to wait until it gets a handle on its water issues and is sure it can provide services to those areas. The existing Village area should be fully serviced before taking on a new service area. Once boundaries are fully serviced, and the Village has achieved a target density (TBD), then expansion could be explored.”

Forestry: the OCP’s statement of vision for the community should be reworked to speak to the forestry industry and NACFOR community work. “An Industrial DPAs (development permit area) should be considered for industrial areas,” he said. “Ensure through the OCP that industrial lands are protected as such.”

Trails: priority for all trails for motorized and non-motorized vehicles are supported by council.

Waterfront development: “There needs to be a clear long-term direction for the waterfront in terms of programming/public art/historical displays, to coordinate the character of the waterfront,” the mayor said. That includes ensuring public art in the area is chosen with an eye for the long term.

“We have to come to a proper vision of what we want to see with that, not a bunch of nick-nacks,” he said. “It’s great what we have there now, but we have to come up with a plan so in 20 years when people come to our community they can see they had a very good plan.”

The Village will sit down with interested groups – from the Chamber of Commerce to Historical Society to local artists – to come up with a coordinated vision.

Tourism and signage priorities: the tourism industry should be “defined more broadly” in the OCP’s goals, and better signage at all three entry points into the community should “make Nakusp a focal point.”

Kootenay Lake farmers with Class E licences who may be interested in applying for the Class D licence. “In 2009, we might have seen more. Some may want to consider going back to having animals, but it will take some time.”

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On behalf of the parents and families of children in Lucerne Elementary and Secondary school, the PAC wishes to thank the staff, custodians, bus drivers, maintenance crew and School District 10 for all of their hard work and dedication to the school community this past year and in particular, these past months.

Innovation and creativity have come shining through with the spirit of staying connected and available. Teachers have made up craft kits, created fun videos, held entertaining and engaging Zoom meetings and Google Hangouts. Check-in phone calls were made and rides, schedules and care arrangements for those children needing to come in. Ingredients for meals and treats were thoughtfully made up with all of the fixings to be prepared at home. Our principle, Mr. Graves, has kept everyone well informed with emails and even school newsletters. “We have to come to a proper vision of what we want to see with that, not a bunch of nick-nacks,” he said. “It’s great what we have there now, but we have to come up with a plan so in 20 years when people come to our community they can see they had a very good plan.”

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Due to COVID-19, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our summer choral and instrumental music programs. Virtual VSSM & Virtual SOAR programs are offered this year. For more information, please visit our website.

We hope to see you in 2021!!

www.valhallafinearts.org
Storm hit Sandon Museum, blocks road to popular Idaho Peak trailhead

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The massive storm that passed through the Kootenays on the weekend of May 31 damaged roads and at least one historic building in Sandon, and blocked access to one of the region’s most popular tourist attractions.

And members of the Sandon Historical Society say they still don’t know what has been lost of the ghost town’s history in the flood.

The storm, which prompted evacuation alerts and orders across the region, dumped more than 50 mm of rain over a 24-hour period. That caused flooding on Sandon Creek and on Carpenter Creek, which flows through the historic community.

At one point, water flowed around the Sandon Museum, damaging its parking lot and scouring other roads in the area. Some water also made its way into the museum’s basement.

“It’s very sad to see the extent of the damage,” says Judy Maltz, who has worked at the museum for nearly two decades. She and Sandon Historical Society board members toured the building a week after the flood.

“The basement area still had about five inches of water sitting there,” she said. The basement has a drain but that’s buried under inches of silt, she said. “And water’s never good in a building.”

Maltz said most of the displays in the basement seemed safe, as they were equipment or tools, or were in display cases elevated above the flood level.

But board member Frank Barnes said it’s a different matter in the room where archive documents and records are kept.

“A lot of it was regular records, but there was also a lot of historical stuff,” he said. “We’re pretty disappointed with what happened.

“We can’t afford to get it fixed properly, so we have to bring in the paperwork and stuff upstairs to dry it out and see how much we can save of it.”

“But it should be done properly, and our society can’t afford that.

The building had a heater and dehumidifier, but neither were working after days without power had been cut because of the storm. While electricity has been restored, the moisture problem is still overwhelming to the system, he says.

“The longer we wait, the more damage there’s going to be,” he says. “We were planning on opening soon, but after the coronavirus, and now this… unless we get funding to repair the damage, I can’t really see us opening up this summer.

Construction materials the society had stored in the basement were ruined because of moisture, condition unknown, and the museum’s water and septic tanks have been buried under three feet of mud and debris, says Barnes.

The Sandon Museum and Historical Society is now seeking disaster funding to repair the damage.

Several roads damaged

The rain swelled local creeks, which soon overflowed their banks and damaged roads.

Trouble started right near the Highway 31A turn-off to Sandon, where two washouts over a two-kilometre stretch of the road leading out of Sandon, added Hird.

It’s taken road crews almost two weeks to at least temporarily repair the roads and reopen them for use by locals. The roads remain closed to general traffic.

Idaho Peak inaccessible

Meanwhile, the access road for the trail leading up to the Idaho Peak lookout, one of the most popular attractions in the area, is likely lost to tourist traffic for the summer.

An official with the Ministry of Forests said crews assessing the 12-km forest service road a few days after the storm found it blocked by a major washout.

“At approximately 1.5 km, a stream culvert was overwhelmed by the storm freshet on May 31, 2020,” the official wrote to Valley Voice. “The culvert was likely plugged by avalanche debris.”

The blockage caused the stream to flow down the road for approximately 375 metres, closing multiple fill-slope failures. The official said two major events resulted in “the complete loss of the road running surface.”

The narrow, winding forest service road is now closed and “will not be repaired in the near future,” the ministry said.

Crews will have to do a more thorough review to assess the road beyond the washout to determine if additional failures have occurred.

Further geotechnical investigation by design is also required before work can begin restoring the road.

The Idaho Peak lookout is famous for its views of Slocan Lake and the valley, and the Valhalla mountain range.

Electric fencing workshop in New Denver submitted

A free outdoor electric fencing workshop is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 23 from 6:30 to 8 pm in New Denver.

The workshop will be hosted by WildSafeBC, the Valhalla Wilderness Society, Harvest Share and Grizzly Bear Solutions.

The workshop will address ways we can manage our attractants to help keep wildlife wild and communities safe, opportunities for fruit gleaning and fruit tree management with Harvest Share, cost-share opportunities for electric fencing on your property, and what you need to know about setting up your own electric fencing. There will also be electric fence set-ups displayed on site.

To register for or express interest in this workshop, email the New Denver-Nakusp WildSafeBC Community Coordinator, Cora Skaien, at newdenver@wildsafebc.com. There is room for a maximum of 15 participants, and registration will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Register by June 21. Updates and final details will be sent to individuals who have registered or expressed interest via email.

An additional workshop is being planned for Nakusp later in July or August.
SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES – NOW MORE THAN EVER!

NAKUSP & AREA

Anderson’s Automotive Services
Open by appointment only – temporarily – all resume regular hours to 9 p.m when restrictions are lifted. Practicing physical distancing, enhanced cleaning 250-265-3313

Bon Marche Dollar
Open 9 am-5 pm

Burton City Cider
Open by chance or upon Pizza Take Out, Cider and Beer Thursday’s 4-7 pm

Chumley’s Restaurant & Three Lions Pub
Opening soon.
Still offering habitual takeout and limited menu on Tuesdays, 4-7 pm. Call to order 250-265-3331

Crescent Bay Construction Ltd.
Open Mon-Sat, 8 am-5 pm
Nitrile gloves must be put on (available beside the door) when entering and discarded (beside the door) when leaving. Phone orders and pick-up available. E transfer payment available at cresbay@telus.net 250-265-3147

Kal Tire Nakusp
Open Mon-Fri, 8 am-5 pm
Call or book online for appointment or tire purchases. Emergency and commercial work done as required. Please only one customer in the showroom at a time. Please pick-up by debit or Credit. NO CASH please. Sanitization precautions being taken in showroom and all vehicles present. Visit our online page for full details. 250-265-4155, www.kaltnire.com

Kim’s Kustoms
Open regular hours. 8:30 am-5:30 pm 250-265-4012

Leland Hotel
On-Sales: 11 am-11 pm, if door is locked, call 250-265-3314. Restaurant: Open 4:30 pm for takeaway. Closed Tuesdays 250-265-3314

Marvin’s Minivan Repair
Mon-Fri 9 am-4 pm, Sat 9 am-4 pm
Open regular hours 250-265-4911

NAFCOR
The NAFCOR office is now open to the public for regular business hours between 8 am and 5 pm. Monday to Friday, with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. 250-265-3695, info@nakuspcommunityforest.com

Nakusp Computers
Open Mon-Fri, 10 am-3:30 pm 250-265-0129, nakuspcomputers@gmail.com; facebook.com/nakuspcomputers

Nakusp Farmers’ Market
Saturday 8 am-noon, starting Key 16 Locally raised foods and vegetable starter plants. Crowd limit and handwashing stations. Bring your reusable tote bags. Money handling will be separate from vendors. Vendors of exposed products will wear masks and gloves; produce will be shielded. Food harvesting done safely. 250-265-4148

Nakusp General Store
Open 10 am-2 pm or call to make arrangements to come at other times Sanitizing and social distancing. 250-265-8423

Nakusp Glass
Open. Drop in, call or email to make an appointment. 250-265-3252, nakuglass@telus.net

Nakusp Taxi
Pick-up and delivery of anything from licensed food, beverage and retail stores. 250-265-8222

Nakusp Tirecraft
Open 250-265-4338; tircraft-tirecraft.nakusp Facebook @tirecraftnakusp

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #20
Reopening on Wed, June 17 with regular hours. COVID-19 restrictions apply: 50 people maximum and social distancing of 6 feet (2 metres). Members and patrons are required to sign in on entry and leave a contact phone number upon each visit. Pool table is not available; bring your own darts.

Selkirk Realty
The office is closed, but the agents are working remotely and more than happy to help! They can be reached directly, or via 250-265-3635 or Nakusp@royallepage.ca

Shon’s Bike – Ski - Stay
Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30 pm
Closed Sat & Sun
Please drop off bike repairs to the rear entrance (in alley) of the shop. No appointments are necessary for bike tune-ups. Our coffee shop and lounge area is currently closed. All 2019 bikes are on sale.
For all inquiries, call us at 250-265-3332, email: info@shons.ca, website: www.shons.ca, Facebook: Shon’s Bike – Ski - Stay.

SLOCAN VALLEY

NEW DENVER
Charlie’s Needful Things
Toys, Food, Basic Necessities. New on Monday! 250-265-3585

Glider View Service
Open 7 days, 8 am-5:30 pm 250-358-2445

New Denver Coin Laundry
Open Mon-Thurs, 9 am-7 pm. Close weekends. Use your intelligence, engage in physical distancing and wash hands when you come in and when you leave. Soap is good. The premises are being cleaned twice a day.
Contact: Wendy @ 358-7972 or Rod - phone numbers on signs inside the building.

New Denver Community Pharmacy
Open Mon-Sat, 10 am-6:30 pm.
We look forward to serving you! Welcome to shop by visiting during business hours or:
By phone: 250-358-2301, By fax: 250-358-2354, By email: kaslopharm@gmail.com (please use preference “NDCP”)
203 Fifth Ave NW, New Denver 150
Mailing: PO Box 80, Kaslo, BC, V0G 1M0
Phone: 250-358-2500, Fax: 250-358-2524

New Market Foods
Open every day, 8 am-5 pm.
You are welcome to come and shop. Keep your distance as much as you can with others. We have hand sanitizer at the door as well as at the till. If you are self isolating or not wanting to come to the store, we can do your shopping for you and have it delivered to you or you can pick it up.
You can call the store at 250-265-2270 or email newmarketfoods.ca to place your order.

Nurco Coffee Bar
Open for business Tues-Sat, 9 am-4 pm
Nurco Nights Grab ‘n’ Go available Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Please pre order one day in advance: nurcocoffeebar@gmail.com
513 4th Ave, New Denver

Raven’s Nest
Now open with regular hours from June 10: Wed thru Sat, 11 am-13 pm. Take care and we hope to see you soon.

Sew Much More
Now open for business Wed-Sat 10 am-13:30 pm
Open by appointment as well
1-250-551-6509, kathrynprovina@gmail.com; www.saveonfarms.com, Facebook:instagram

Valley Voice
Open 1-833-501-1700; valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca, www.valleyvoice.ca

Wilds of Canada Cycle
Bicycle sales and service
Open Thurs-Sat, 9 am-6 pm
Drop-off service for bicycle repairs. Call for appointment 250-358-7941

SLOCAN

Mountain Valley Station Gas/Convenience
Open regular hours 8 am-7 pm daily
Bottle Depot open Tues-Sat 9-5, closed holidays
Taking precautions for everyone’s health and safety 250-358-2245

Village of Slocan – Fitness Centre, Library, Campground, Playgrounds
Village Office open by appointment. Other facilities temporarily closed. Campground open June 15 to BC residents, self-contained units only. 250-355-2277, info@villageofslocan.ca, www.slocanocity.ca

Slocan Village Market
Open Limited number of customers in the store. Providing gloves and masks to shoppers.
We are accepting orders by phone for pick-up for those who prefer not to enter the store. We are also offering delivery services on a weekly basis. 250-355-2211, svmarket@telus.net

WINLAW

Emery Herbs Botanical Dispensary, Healing Suites and Teaching Centre
The Botanical Dispensary Open Thurs at 1, 12-4. Limit of one client in the shop at a time. Orders can be sent to requests@emeryherbs.com or by phoning 250-226-7744 for pick-up using our safe pick-up guidelines. We offer a $10 local ship rate and all local orders over $75 are shipped free. We ship once weekly. Our online shop is 100% vegan - @ Coilern Emery, RHT (CHADB) is conducting all client consultation online or via the phone. Priority for acute cases, new clients are welcome. - All classes have moved online at this time.

Gaia Tree Whole Foods
New COVID hours: Mon-Sat, 10 am-5 pm (closed Sun)
Email to order pick-up gaia@treeswholefoods.com 250-226-7255
Anatomy of an almost-evacuation: the 2020 Slocan freshet

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

On Sunday, June 1, more than 250 homes were ordered evacuated in the Slocan Valley for fear of flooding. A few hours later the order was cancelled.

Here’s how it happened.

Chris Johnson lay awake in bed Sunday morning, agonizing about the decisions he’d made over the last few days. The head of emergency services for the Regional District of Central Kootenay went over the factors that prompted officials to declare a state of local emergency for the Slocan district just after 2 a.m.

“We had finished the week previous, with record-high temperatures and thunderstorms in the Kootenay district, the size of the country of Belarus. When we looked at the hydrograph, it was ramping up. Our systems were receiving reports that snowmelt was coming off the snowpack. That really filled up channels quickly.”

Then rain had started falling Saturday, flooding a creek and causing a washout at Crawford Bay, on the east shore of Kootenay Lake. Johnson ordered low-lying areas there to evacuate Saturday for fear of worse flooding.

But it was what was going to happen this day that had him most worried.

“When the weather started to hit our region, the forecaster’s words to us were ‘it’s pretty much going to be hardest between Christina Lake and Creston,’” recalls Johnson. “That’s basically our region more or less.”

Johnson stepped up the alert level, placing any low-lying properties in any area of the RDCK under evacuation alert.

Johnson couldn’t sleep, so he got up and went to work.

At about 5 a.m., he heard a thundercrack, and the deluge began.

Forecasters had predicted rain would boost river levels, but they didn’t have the peak flow rates to go on.

Johnson says it’s a gut-wrenching decision to make. “When the weather started to hit our region, we were juggling several events at once. More evacuation orders were issued — for the Little Slocan, the banks of Nelson, Broadwater Road in Pass Creek; and low-lying areas along the Salmo River.”

So it seemed that they had the Slocan. We had forecasts going way up, and even though it was showing that it was going to peak Monday, we were seeing the peak was coming on the Sunday,” recalls Johnson.

“We were in a hustle trying to get everything together and calibrate properly. Johnson says. “When you have a forecast, you’re speaking to the public, and you have to make a decision to go to an evacuation order or not.”

With tension mounting, and rain still falling, Johnson and his team finally made the call at about 11 p.m. Sunday night: they would evacuate more than 250 homes in low-lying areas from the Village of Slocan to the Kootenay Valley.

Johnson says it’s a gut-wrenching decision to make. “I want to make it absolutely clear, the region and I do not enjoy putting evac alerts on, let alone orders. These are very significant undertakings,” he says. “We get the impact of this.”

And the worst-case scenario is we put on an evacuation order and it doesn’t happen. Or we had the water didn’t come up, or the fires didn’t burn as close to the community. The worst-case scenario is “Thank god you evacuated us because we would have been in serious trouble,” he says. “Because that means that [the disaster] would have occurred.”

While the Slocan has settled significantly, and the forecast is for it to continue to drop, Johnson says residents should still be on guard.

“We still have our snow in the alpine at 33% of normal. So we have more snow up there than we are accustomed to. And because the water is so high, our systems are saturated. So any more heavy rain, our rivers are going to react very quickly.”

On June 9, the RDCK rescinded all evacuation alerts for the region. “While there was still risk of flooding this season, at this time the risk is less imminent so we will be removing all Evacuation Alerts in the Slocan Valley,” Johnson said in a press release.

The freshet is expected to last until the end of June or longer this year because of the still significant snowpack, the press release said.

So different from what actually happened with river levels. It’s all going to be part of the review of the event, says Johnson. “We’re sure there’ll be plenty of findings to make improvements on,” he says. “And we’ll find a number of things we are doing well that helped us along this time.”

“We debrief after every incident, as part of continuous learning model. It’ll be the same,” he says. “But this process has not yet occurred.”

Johnson says ultimately, though, they have to make such decisions with the information they have, and with a view to saving lives.

“At the end of the day the best-case scenario as an emergency manager is that it appeared we cried wolf,” he says. “That can cause a lot of stress and trauma of these situations – on himself. “That can cause life-long trauma for everyone involved.”

But even as the order went out, the situation began to change. Field staff reported that the Little Slocan had dropped by half a foot.

But was it enough?

“It was a calculated risk we took,” says Johnson. “We considered the decision to rescind the evacuation order. “There was still a risk it could go up. But Lemon Creek had come down, the Little Slocan had come down, and we saw the hydrograph was coming down.”

The decision to cancel the evacuation came at about 1:20 in the morning.

Johnson has no regrets.

Ultimately we were working off the best information we had in a very compressed timeline,” he says. “That was based on the observations we had in the field, in discussions with our subject matter experts, and ultimately a calculated risk we felt was reasonable at the time.

But questions remain. Some didn’t get the initial call-out to evacuate; others wondered why the individuals in the region were not sent to every subscriber of the emergency service in the district, and not just the affected addresses. And why did the forecast that prompted the evacuation order turn out so different from what actually happened with river levels?

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Johnson says ultimately, though, they have to make such decisions with the information they have, and with a view to saving lives.

“The trout are suppressing the kokanee as the final draw for the grand prize of an 18’ Kingfisher boat with a 115 horsepower Yamaha engine.”

The goal of the Kootenay Lake Angler Incentive Program is to increase rainbow and bull trout retention from 50% of the fish that enter the water to 90%. “Scientific modelling indicates that increasing the rainbow trout and bull trout harvest in Kootenay Lake to 90% could result in an additional harvest of up to 1,415 bull trout and about 3,140 rainbow trout, which would decrease kokanee in the lake,” said a spokesperson from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD).

FLNRORD says an evaluation of different actions to restore kokanee populations in Kootenay Lake suggested that increasing the harvest rate of rainbow trout and bull trout would currently have the highest positive effect on kokanee survival rates.
Water supply stable in Kaslo, but alternatives may have to be found

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Kaslo’s water crisis has been averted, but it could be months before the Village’s water system is completely repaired.

“We’re operating on a temporary water intake, and the Village crew were very efficient getting that up in the couple of days after the washout happened,” Chief Administrative Officer Ian Dunlop told the Valley Voice after last week’s council meeting. “So we do have a stable water supply for the time being.”

The May 31-June 1 storm that dropped 55 mm of rain in the area washed out the road to Kaslo’s water intake and damaged much of the infrastructure. Even now the whole extent of the problem is unknown, as it’s too dangerous for engineers to enter the slide zone safely.

Right after the disaster, the Village was operating on its reserves only and ordered Stage 4 water restrictions, the tightest limitations to water use. Since then crews have established the water flow into the reservoir and stabilized the supply.

“Right now we’re meeting demand,” says Dunlop. “The temporary intake is providing enough volume, plus we have a couple of spring-fed water sources that feed into it as well. So with the spring weather and plenty of rain there’s no risk of anything drying out.”

Once the spring runoff is over, the Kaslo River will clear up and another source of water will be available for the system, he says. “Once the Kaslo River clears up we will likely be switching over to our auxiliary water intake,” he says. “But right now because of the freshness, that’s not an option, as the river is too turbid.”

The Village is now back on Stage 2 water restrictions, meaning residents can now water their gardens again.

But Dunlop says the repair work could take some time, as the disaster has the administration taking a hard look at the whole current intake system.

“We may also have to consider what alternative sources of water there are, because unfortunately there was a similar incident in 2012 in which we lost our dam, and we thought it had been taken care of. The new dam was built to withstand a washout, which it did – but unfortunately, it was the downstream road and pipeline that washed out.

“So we have to consider the long-term viability of that water source and that will be part of the studies that take place. And that’s why it’s going to take several months for us to get a final solution in place.”

Dunlop says the Village has submitted $20,000 in claims for expenses in responding to the disaster. However, a complete restoration of the system could cost much more than that, depending on the final fate of the intake and dam.

He says the Village has applied for disaster assistance funding from higher levels of government to help pay for the incident.

Complete Conscious Mind Body Alignment offered in Winlaw

submitted by Agnes Toews-Andrews

Agnes Toews-Andrews is offering Complete Conscious Mind Body Alignment (CCMBA) workshops and private sessions.

“CCMBA is for trauma – this life and past life trauma – and also for clearing toxins or having a profound spiritual awakening experience,” says Toews-Andrews. “Some are energized, others will let go of non-desirable habits, a few will experience increased healing abilities, and still others will gain a totally new outlook on life.”

Toews-Andrews says people who have undergone CCMBA have reported release of in utero challenges, scoliosis, and childbirth trauma as well as alignment of bones.

“There are several benefits from doing the CCMBA,” she says. “Each time you experience the CCMBA, you will work on something different and you will experience something different, often on higher, deeper, more profound levels. The CCMBA is a process that allows one to go back into the karmic or trauma memory and release it. It’s also possible that nothing out of the ordinary will occur, other than a feeling of bliss. It’s up to you!”

Toews-Andrews learned this special healing process from Dr. Sharon Forrest, naturopath and hypnotherapist, in 1995. Forrest became aware of the CCMBA in about 1985, after communing with her ‘angels’ while she was running a clinic in Montreal.

“The CCMBA could change your life! It changed mine, and it is so simple to do, Toews-Andrews said. “This healing modality works with the higher self on the individual’s issues no matter what they are, and it gets results.”

Workshops are an all-day event. Toews-Andrews limits the class to six participants at her home. Workshops for more participants may also be run in Winlaw at Binda Studio. The complete process usually takes about 1.5 hours per person.

See the ad on this page for more information.
Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Check out employment opportunities @ www.kaltire.com/careers

Nakusp Secondary School 2020 Valedictory Address

by Makayla Teindl and Ewan Carter

We want to start by thanking the NSS staff for helping us achieve our goals and motivating us towards our max potential. We would also like to thank the grad committee and parent volunteers for making today possible.

To our fellow graduates: We made it! Through thick and thin, old friendships and new beginnings, as well as having our graduation ceremony in the middle of a global pandemic, against all odds, we managed to make it to this day, achieving one of our biggest milestones.

We will forever cherish our memories together, even the ones that go back to elementary school. Like when we terrorized Ms. Leitch on the grade 7 camping trip and almost flipped the dock in Whatshan. And we also had a lot of fun playing kick the bucket at Ms. McQuair’s house when we were in elementary school. Since then we have lost a lot of our innocence. Over the years we’ve grown apart, but we will always have each other’s backs.

Many of us were born and raised here, and for those of us who joined halfway through, we all call this place home. We’ve all left a mark on this town, some more literal than others as you can find our names sketched into old desks and bathroom stalls. Growing up here in Nakusp has its pros and cons. One of the biggest pros is that we’re all like one big family. We help each other through the good times and bad. As a group, we’re stronger than ever. Being raised in such a small community has taught each and every one of us to work together, whether we wanted to or not.

Looking around, we know the names of everyone who is with us today; that’s the result of living in a small community. We also know almost everything about them, from every heartbreak to every achievement. That’s the product of living in a small community with a not-so-small gossip issue. However, it’s what else we know that matters most. We know how to comfort one another, how to make each other laugh, and how to include and accept each other’s differences.

Some people may say that today is where the journey really begins. To us, the journey began 13 years ago… and today it splits into 17 different paths. Some may eventually cross paths, some might follow the road less traveled. Tomorrow we will join new groups, move to strange cities and begin our new chapter in life, but we will always cherish our past memories and lifelong friendships. Congrats to the class of 2020!

Beedie Luminaries Scholarships for two Nakusp grads

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp graduates Sonja Petterson and Kimberly Roberts are both recipients of the Beedie Luminaries Scholarship.

The scholarship is for students with potential who are facing financial adversity. The mission of the scholarship program is “to give promising BC students the opportunity to advance their education, achieve their dreams, and inspire others.”

In its second year, the scholarship provides $40,000 to students entering a four-year undergraduate degree program, and $15,000 to students entering a two-year college or trade school diploma program.

Nakusp graduates Sonja Petterson and Kimberly Roberts.

“This really expands my ability to do what I want to do,” says Sonja, who is hoping to study medical radiology at BCIT.

Kimberly wants to become an elementary school teacher. She plans to start her post secondary education at the College of the Rockies in Cranbrook and then transfer to the University of Victoria or Vancouver Island University. “I’ve been saving as much money as I can, but this makes it so much less stressful,” Kimberly said.

The application process includes a written application and an interview. Visit beedieluminaries.ca for more information.
Awards and Scholarships

Mathias Brindamour: Royal Canadian Legion Edgewood Br. 203 Bursary, Katrine Conroy Bursary, Green Door Bursary, NSSS Scholarship, Skills & Trades Bursary, Needles Reunion.

Dawson Bone: Royal Canadian Legion Nakusp Br. 20 Bursary, CUPE Local 2450 Bursary, NACFOR Trades Bursary, Renewable Resources Bursary, Ron Aldridge Citizenship Award.

Noah Fizzard: Royal Canadian Legion Nakusp Br. 20 Bursary, Skills & Trades Bursary.

Riley Hall: Nakusp Legion Poppy Bursary, Hospital Employees Union Scholarship, Gord Roberts Memorial Bursary, NSSS Scholarship, Skills & Trades Bursary.

Shaylee Klassen: Sarah Jackins Memorial, Clark Kessler Memorial Bursary.


Cheyenne Tourand: Royal Canadian Legion Nakusp Br. 20 Bursary, CUPE Joe Lee Bursary, CBC/Robin Miskulin-Pazurik Bursary, Trim McQuair Memorial Award, Sarah Stykel Memorial, Debbie Samuelson Memorial Bursary, Janice Beuige Memorial Bursary, Betty Walton White Memorial Bursary.
Nakusp council, June 8: land ho, salaries low, and milk cart has a place to go

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Bike wreaked

A frustrated Councillor Susan DeSandoli proposed a motion to get a couple of commercially made bike racks up in town.

The Village bought and installed two large custom-made bike racks last summer. But after a huge public backlash against their placement and size, Village staff removed them just a few days later.

DeSandoli proposed two sites for the racks that shouldn’t cause a fuss – by the courthouse and by the glass shop on Broadway. She moved a motion that staff be directed to purchase and install the racks up in town.

DeSandoli proposed a motion to get two large custom-made bike racks up in town.

“Because of all that happened last summer, I don’t think this should come back to administration to decide,” she said to council. “Council should provide solid, concrete information and direction to administration as to where you want them – on the street, or sidewalk, what type of bike rack…”

“This is a sensitive topic in the community and I would really like direction from council.”

A motion was passed to have staff come up with a report for the next meeting on options for style and placement of bike racks, then council will make the final directions.

Canada Day Parade

Good news for Nakusp residents: there’s going to be a Canada Day parade after all.

“Our committee discussed what we can do to bring good feelings to the community?” said Zeleznik, who’s also the chair of the Society for Nakusp Community Events. “So we decided to have a parade where everyone stays home and we come to you.”

Instead of gathering on Broadway to watch the parade go past, the parade is going to follow a route that brings it past nearly every home in the village.

“The nice thing is you can take your lawn chair and your beverages out to the end of your driveway and watch the parade come right by you,” says Zeleznik.

There’s plenty to celebrate: Zeleznik is inviting all the 2020 grads to participate in the event; the fire department is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and will be in force; and “anyone who wants to can enter a float, or drive an ATV, their bikes, all sorts of things,” said the mayor.

Even out-of-town residents are welcome to find a socially distantly patch of sidewalk to watch the event, the mayor said.

Zeleznik asked staff if it could help out with issuing permits and support erecting traffic control barriers.

A home for the milk wagon?

A home may have been found for the antique milk wagon. A committee made up of reps from the library, museum and historical society has been debating what to do with the artifact, and Zeleznik reported that it’s been narrowed down to two sites. He said the entranceway to the hot springs is being considered – which, when you include a grant the society would get for signage, would make it a ‘win-win’ solution, he said. He won’t reveal the other site the committee is considering until it gets a chance to review both proposals. Stay tuned.

CBT grants come short

The mayor said there are going to be some disappointed groups when the Columbia Basin Trust’s Community Initiative and Affected Areas Program grants are announced at the June 18 RDCK board meeting. Zeleznik says there were $345,000 in requests, but only $203,000 available. The selection committee “had a very enduring and difficult task” selecting who would get grants this year, he said.

Executive salaries

The annual Statement of Financial Information shows that Mayor Tom Zeleznik earned the most from his council duties, with $13,507 in salary and $6,892 in expense claims, for a total of $20,399. Councillors Susan DeSandoli claims the highest amount in councillor remuneration and expenses – $9,275, followed by Aidan McLaren-Caux at $8,940 (the standard council remuneration is $6,754, so the difference is in expenses).

For staff, the highest-salaried worker is Public Works Foreman Bob Gresiuk, who pulled down $99,408 in salary and expenses, followed by CAO Cheryl Martens at $82,529.

There are six executive staff making more than $75,000 a year, the report shows.

Total executive staff and council salaries and benefits total just under $1,990,000 for the year.

Quick approval of water bylaw

After several months of debate and revision, the town’s new water bylaw was quickly approved by council. The bylaw requires landowners to water their lawns and gardens is restricted to every second day in summer months – unless you’re watering a vegetable garden or flowers with a hose or hand sprinker. In that case, fill your boots – er, boots: there’s no limit to when or how much you can water then.

Zoning change prompts live meeting

A developer’s plan to build a multi-unit complex in a rural area of the Village has prompted council to call its first in-person meeting in months.

The builder wants to construct a multi-unit complex at 240 Glenacres Road. But to do so needs a change in the zoning for the area, from ‘R2 Suburban Residential’ to ‘R3-Multi-Family-Residential.’

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Procedure would have council give first and second reading to the change, which would then allow it to proceed to public hearing. Councillors were concerned, however, that not enough neighbours would be aware of the proposed change: notifications are only given to residents with a 30-metre radius of the application.

It involves the whole street; all the neighbours should be given letters. Not everyone reads the paper,” said Councillor Ken Miller. “Not everybody knows what’s going on.”

After much debate – and being told by administration that any changes to expand the notification zone would force changes to the Village’s overall zoning bylaw – council gave the re-zoning its first two readings.

That doesn’t mean the application is approved, it just moves the process forward to a public hearing.

Council then passed a stand-alone motion calling for the proposed change to be advertised in the paper and letters to be sent out to anyone living within 100 metres of the property.

But Miller continued to raise concerns that everyone in the affected area has a say. He pointed out not everyone has Zoom and can participate in a virtual or online meeting.

So the next meeting of council, on June 22, will be held at the auditorium, with proper social distancing procedures in place.
**Local resident releases new book on Valhalla Park**

by Art Joyce

Longtime Slocan Valley resident Elizabeth von Ah has released her first book, *The Park of Gods*, about Valhalla Provincial Park. The book combines field notes taken during extensive alpine hikes she and a group of friends took in 2003 with the Norse mythology behind the park’s name. Von Ah prefaces the book with an old saying from Nordic culture: “The real journey of discovery is not that you are looking for new landscapes, but that you see with new eyes.”

The book is beautifully illustrated throughout with maps and glittering photos of the high alpine country. She dedicates the book to the late Colleen McCrory, who was a key player in having the land declared a provincial park.

It’s about time the Nordic cultural mythology that inspired the naming of the park – as well as many other West Kootenay landmarks – was given a good airing. Most of us would probably be hard pressed to explain why Valhalla is so named – it’s the mythic Hall of the Heroes of Odin in the Nordic concept of the afterlife. (Odin was the god of war, the wind, the dead and the hunt.) Given the sheer majesty and pristine beauty of these mountains, it’s no wonder 19th century Nordic explorers saw it as a metaphor for heaven. As Von Ah writes, “If Odin himself had searched the earth for a suitable place to erect Valhalla, he would have found it in the unspoilt mountainous region of the West Kootenays...”

Unlike today, when hikers can use GPS, Von Ah and her companions had only altimeters and topographical maps to rely on. Their epic trek traversed the park from south to north, from Drinnon Pass to Wee Sandy beach on Slocan Lake. The stages of the journey are marked with excerpts from Nordic tales. Naturally, such an undertaking wasn’t going to be easy. As the author notes, “We were plagued by the relentless heat of the day, by our aching feet, by the weight of our heavy backpacks digging into sore shoulders and by the millions of mosquitoes swarming us after sunset.” And, as Von Ah recalls, “the incredible beauty of the wild landscapes, which most likely few have ever experienced, more than made up for all the exertions we had to endure.” Indeed, in the Avis Lakes to the Lakes of Heaven section of the trek, they encounter alpine meadows studded with pink, red and orange Indian paintbrush, yellow leopard’s bane, blue bellflowers, white mountain valerian, and other blossoming herbs.

A classic feature of mythological tales is the trials the hero or heroine must endure to reach their goal, and what was fiction became fact for Von Ah and her companions. The gods are fond of testing people who challenge their own limits to see how serious they are. When the group is temporarily lost in an alpine forest with nowhere to pitch camp, they consider using their satellite phone to call for help. Along the path, Von Ah invokes another Nordic deity, the thunder god Thor (after whom Thursday is named). “Could it be that the thunder and lightning yesterday evening represented a warning from Thor not to proceed any further into Valhalla?” But their persistence is rewarded when they finally discover an open area around a group of small alpine lakes, ideal for setting camp for the night.

As Von Ah’s group enjoys the aptly named the Lakes of Heaven, she invokes the goddess Freya, “the old Nordic word both for mistress and for woman.” The goddess of love, fertility and all plants and animals, she is Odin’s wife and gives us another day of the week, Friday (“Freitag” in German). “Whatever she touches is transformed into a paradise of fragrant flowers and bubbling brooks.” Put another way, she is the yin to Odin’s yang. In this way mythic tales provide balance and integration of contrasting yet complementary forces in nature.

Von Ah’s detailed field notes as they make their way north make it easy to follow in their footsteps, either imaginatively or as a guide to planning your own alpine trek. By adding a rich layer of mythic resonance to the landscape, she weaves in another thread among the many that make up the diverse tapestry of Slocan Valley culture.

The book will be available from the author at local farmer’s markets or directly from the author at elisabeth@hauslemon.com. Ten percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Valhalla Wilderness Society.

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**Together Apart through art at Brent Kennedy**

Submitted

Throughout the nine weeks that in-school learning was suspended, many schools and teachers throughout the district found creative ways to keep students feeling connected, despite the physical distancing measures that kept them away.

The Brent Kennedy 5/6 class, with the help of their teacher Tamarra Johnson and student teacher Candice Mangione, devised an art project called ‘Together Apart’. Students were asked to create unique rock art pieces to be placed along the Slocan Valley Rail Trail behind the school. The project began with the 5/6 classroom, but was quickly opened to the entire school community.

The Slocan Valley Rail Trail runs right outside the elementary school and has served as an outdoor classroom for many years. A beautiful paved stretch of the trail runs from the South Slocan village to Frog Peak Café in Crescent Valley. Students were instructed to bring their finished art pieces at their convenience to this section of the trail and place the painted rocks two metres apart on either side, a reminder of social distancing guidelines.

“The project promotes getting outside, being active and creative, and everyone can participate,” said student teacher Candice Mangione. “And the decorated trail reminds us that we can remain connected, hopeful and resilient through this time.”

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**Does New Denver need a community garden?**

submitted

The Healthy Community Society (HCS) would like to start a lively and inspirational conversation about a community garden here in New Denver, or in in social circles, an opportunity to talk about this has been created on the New Denver Communicator Facebook page, and people are invited to participate.

A committee would be created if the idea were to move forward. HCS board member Moe Lyons is offering to be part of such a committee, and to work to make this happen if the community wants it. For the time being, if people are interested in committing to this project, she can be contacted at meadow@netidea.com (or you can run into her on the street!).

“A community garden offers the opportunity for community building and just great social interaction, can be a source of pride, and is a place where a great deal of teaching and learning and information- and resource-sharing can take place,” Lyons says. “But there are numerous personal gardens here, and the COVID team is providing planter boxes to 24 households. Perhaps this is enough. Unless there is genuine enthusiasm for a community garden, there is no point in proceeding.”

Lyons is a long time Slocan Valley community organizer. She moved to New Denver two years ago and is enthusiastic about engaging in a community project of this magnitude.

“One of my areas of interest for years has been local food security. I would love to be part of this, if we could form a team that was ready to make it happen. Let’s find out if this is something we want to do together,” Lyons says.
Slocan council, June 10: Mayor Clarke returns to office

by Moe Lyons

The meeting was held via GoToMeeting. Sitting as chair was Mayor Jason Clarke, returned after a hiatus of about two months. Councillor Tammy Gordon was acting mayor during that time.

Clarke’s hiatus began when he offered his resignation to council, but agreed to a three-month leave of absence. During this time, council engaged Christina Benty of Strategic Leadership Solutions to lead them in a governance workshop, to be followed by a three-month leave of absence. After the governance workshop, Clarke wrote another letter with an entirely different tone: “Thank you for coming out today with open minds and a willingness to learn. Thank you for putting in the effort, speaking your minds and hearing each other. Based on our work together today I feel we are at a place where I can resume my role as Mayor.”

At the meeting, Mayor Clarke stated he believed it was important information about his leave of absence “get out to the public.” About the schedule, he stated “we need to move forward so that it would occur back on track.” The workshop was agreed to a three-month leave of absence. Offered his resignation to council, but that time.

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by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

It pays to have an in-house plumbing and heating expert on council.

Councillor Ken Miller says his inspection of the Village arena has found it potentially saves tens of thousands of dollars in annual operating costs.

Miller was asked to look for energy-cost savings at the arena at a council meeting a few weeks ago. He’s in a good position to do so.

“I installed the system. My previous trade was in plumbing and heating,” he says. “I managed the old arena that burned down before this one was built.

Miller found that the facility had to keep its big hot water boilers running all summer long, despite the fact that the arena was closed months ago to the public. That’s because Village staff use the facility for breaks and as an emergency washing station.

Miller’s report estimated that cost taxpayers an extra $14,000 in the last few months alone. Compared to other arenas, he says that’s expensive.

“The Kaslo arena is similar to ours – their curling rink has two sheets, whereas ours has four,” he says. “Our power bill is over $100,000 a year, and theirs is around $35,000.

Miller’s report recommends the arena add small on-demand water heaters in specific locations – like the emergency shower site – to reduce the need for the heavy industrial boiler to keep hundreds of litres of water heated 24/7.

He also suggested other areas where the heavy boilers can be replaced by smaller heaters, and added the administration should call a PowerSmart consultant to review the situation.

“By installing smaller water tanks, then in the summertime, the demand would be probably just the usage, a few kilowatts,” he says – thus reducing a demand surcharge BC Hydro charges.

He told council that surcharge is currently costing the village more money than the actual power itself.

“Over half our bill last month was surcharge,” he says. “[BC Hydro] can sell the power we don’t use, but the surcharge is just a bonus for them. We have to persuade the PowerSmart person that we are trying to reduce the overall bill, not just the consumption.

“So we can use the same amount of power, but just in a different way.”

The administration was directed to review the report and determine what steps are necessary “to implement changes that will reduce energy consumption and costs.”

Miller says he’s heard from people suggesting the arena be shut down. He’s hoping his suggestions can keep the facility affordable.

“It’s close to me, having managed it for years, and I don’t want to see it happen,” he says.

“When I was a hockey player, kids play hockey in the playground… people say there’s only 80 skaters, but when you go there when there’s a game on, there’s 100 spectators. The watchers are kids too.”

Miller’s report was received as information and staff will look at the proposed changes to see what can be implemented.
Kaslo council, June 9: Reopening plan adopted

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Village reopening plan

The Village released its plan for restarting operations in the community. The Business Reopening Plan provides guidance and procedures for resuming services in response to the ‘new normal’ of social interaction and minimizing the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus. The report explains the Village provides two distinct streams of public service – Administration & Financial Services (inside works) and Public Works & Utilities (outside works). It also owns buildings, recreation facilities, parks, and infrastructure, some of which are leased to third party organizations responsible for their day-to-day operation.

“The Village has a responsibility to ensure these facilities operate under appropriate guidelines and protocols if or when they reopen,” the report states.

Much of the guidance is now second-nature advice for the public today – keep an appropriate distance apart, don’t come to work if you’re sick, wash your hands, etc. It also has specific instructions for different aspects of city services, from parks to public washrooms. Provincial health regulations like banning gatherings of 50 or more people, and facility sanitization are also explained in detail.

“Everyone is looking forward to the easing of social restrictions as we enter the summer months, but we must remain vigilant to the risks of virus transmission by following the above measures,” the report says.

Council thanked the Chief Administrative Officer for the report and passed a motion adopting the plan.

Wildfire work

The Village is going to be doing some work to protect the area from the threat of wildfires. It has received funding for a range of wildfire risk reduction activities including training. FireSmart assessments, collaboration with the RDCK and fuel management on municipally owned land. The Village will be hiring a project manager to lead the implementation of the program. That person will draw up work plans for the summer clearing operations; developing site plans and prescriptions for clearing on municipal land; overseeing the treatment programs; and liaising with the village and funders as the project advances.

Council gave the administration the green light for seeking Request for Proposals from interested parties. Pothole paving

There may be fewer potholes around the community in coming weeks. Council approved a paving contract with Selkirk Paving for $15,342 to do utility patches in front of the library, on Second, Larch, and Washington Streets, as well as on C Avenue in the Allen subdivision.

Infield upgrade

The Vumy Park baseball park’s infield is getting a facelift. The Kaslo Baseball and Softball Association recently received a $5,000 grant from Western Financial, and decided to use it to spruce up the baseball diamond. They’re buying industry-standard red shale for the project, and will use some of their own money for sod and loam to complete the job.

“We look forward to the work being completed ideally in the late summer or early fall 2020 so that baseball can resume in the fall should the field be deemed safe to play/ gather on by the Village of Kaslo,” the Association’s board warranted.

Council received the news as information.

Variances discussed

Council dealt with two development variances. An application for a building at 331 D Avenue to have its interior yard setback for a studio/office addition received approval.

However, the second variance request, for an interior yard setback and higher lot coverage at for 231 A Avenue was postponed for a year. The proposal faces several hurdles, most importantly the current structure – built a century ago – encroaches on the neighbour’s property by almost two feet. Council was ready to approve the variance requests, “subject to the applicant addressing the encroachment of the existing building onto the neighbouring property as described in this planning report.”

The applicant should seek legal advice on the most appropriate means to clear up the encroachment, council said. That could be in the form of an encroachment agreement on the title of the neighbouring property, or seeking title to the encroached part of the property.

Kasco Community Acupuncture reopens

Submitted

The Kaslo Community Acupuncture Clinic is reopening on June 26 at the Kaslo Community Church basement, 430 B Avenue, lane entrance.

“We’re so pleased to be reopening during this time when many of us can’t get the medical treatment we want, be it acupuncture or massage or phyotherapy. We’ll be keeping our distances and following hygienic protocols,” says Kate O’Keefe, board member of the Kaslo Community Acupuncture Society (KCAS). Acupuncture can help with musculoskeletal and nerve pain, digestive issues, psycho-emotional issues, addiction, and more.

Treatments usually take about 20- 40 minutes in a small group setting. Although many of us prefer private treatments, there is value in a group healing structure as we engage in collective healing in a safe, inclusive setting.

Duncan operations update conference call

We’re hosting a conference call to provide information regarding the operation of our local facilities, expected summer reservoir levels, and the Duncan Water Use Plan.

When: Tuesday June 23, 2020
Time: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Location: Conference Call

We hope you can join us. Please email Dayle Hopp at dayle.hopp@bchydro.com by Tuesday, June 16, 2020 to register for the call. We will distribute a copy of the presentation and call-in instructions to all registrants in advance of the call.
Fire safety, energy efficiency, and historic restoration are all to be addressed in the renovation.

CAO Gordon reported that the work on the Slocan Affordable Housing Project is ongoing. One of the three-bedroom units will be completed. Both Mayor Lunn and Councillor Pelletier praised Makoka Development Services. Lunn said, “These guys have lots of experience” and hiring them to guide the process was “an amazing investment.”

A Request for Proposals for architectural services was issued on April 27. Five proposals were received on May 11. Of the three firms short-listed for interviews, Cover Architecture from Nelson was chosen. Cover was scheduled to visit the site at the corner of Slocan St. and Giffin Ave, the week of June 8.

Mayor Lunn reported that the plan to include the recycling bins at the transfer station would be “rolling out later this summer.” The change will allow for more materials to be recycled, reduce contamination and save money but will also come with reduced hours. She predicted not having the recycling bins available 24/7 will “be a shock” to the community.

CAO Michelle Gordon reported that work on the Slocan Legion Hall Heritage Restoration Project. This time the project has been delayed by both the pandemic and the need for a more detailed tender. Heritage Design Planner Robert Inwood and Village staff are obtaining three quotes for the engineering of a pre-fabricated steel staircase that mimics the hall’s historic elements. Two types of siding for the hall are being considered: a fibre-cement lap-style siding or Can Excel, a new product that is more expensive and more combustible but that “could achieve the ‘drop-cove’ style of the original siding.” The tender will be issued when the engineered drawings for the staircase are ready and the siding material has been chosen. Gordon said staff are “aiming for a 2020 completion.”
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Wanted: 2004 or 2005 Toyota Camry or Corolla, 4-door automatic.

Community

School District 8 Kootenay by Jan McMurray

New Journey Plumbing and "B"-ticket gasfitter for new construction or renovation plumbing, water systems/

Understand your life purpose and claim your true power with the ancient study of astrology. Amanda offers comprehensive astrology natal chart readings for you to deepen your self-study. 1.5-2 hours recorded over Zoom, phone, or in-person. Send an email to amandakonkin60@protonmail.com or calibest 250-606-675 to book a session.

BLAZE KING/VALLEY COMFORT Wood, Electric & Oil specialists: sales, installations, service inspection & consultations. Duct cleaning & sanitizing; Ductwork, Chimneys, Oil tank removals, consultations. Duct cleaning & sanitizing; installations, service inspection & maintenance.

Kootenay Furnace Concord & Campground

Preferred. Reliable, responsible, mature adult. Seeking rental starting

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Buyer will pay all legal and closing costs to put the mortgage with downpayment and a 3.75% interest rate over the length of the agreed term.

Looking for land to purchase

O r

Want to find the board and district for having the foresight to spend money on technology because it would have been a more difficult time without it," he said.

Network upgrades have been completed in all schools but Winlaw Elementary and Crawford Bay — these will be finished this summer. The district has one device for every two students “and we continue to shrink that ratio,” Howald said.

We’ve had to support the district in many ways during COVID to enact online learning, and everyone is getting used to Zoom meetings,” he said. The district has helped families in need with internet service and through its IT loaner program.

I want to thank the board and district for having the forethought to spend money on technology because it would have been a more difficult time without it,” he said.

Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

9” + GST

Antiques, old book or coin

Your ad could be here for only $19.50 + GST

The board agreed unanimously to a review of school calendar options, including "blended learning" (more online and less in-school hours) and a four-day week. The Education Committee of the Whole was tasked with the review, and asked to bring recommendations to the board by December 2021. Trustee Sheri Walsh explained that the idea for the review calendar came from student trustees, based on their experience with remote learning during the pandemic. 

Harlan Hoffmann, student trustee from L.V. Rogers, told the board that the recent “experiments” with online learning throughout Canada and the world have “very expanded the information available on online and mixed learning.

“Online learning is not ideal, but it’s better in some ways — there’s less time spent on transportation, more flexibility for students and teachers, and less burnout,” he said. “Hopefully we can find the best way to mix both in-school and online learning.”

Several trustees spoke, expressing a keen interest in having a discussion on calendar options, but cautioning the committee to consider staff and the collective agreements during the review.

Slocan Valley Trustee Sharon Nazaroff said, “It’s fabulous to be on the leading edge looking at this while keeping everyone’s interests in mind.”

Jan Schmidt made a presentation on how the pandemic has impacted the SD8 international program. The safe return of the students to their home countries was challenging, she said, because each country has different rules. Some students booked flights home that ended up being cancelled. The Brazilian students were not able to return, so there are complications with study permits expiring. There are still 320 to 370 international students in the district, she said. “Thank you to our homestay families and to our teachers for supporting them,” she said.

Schmidt said that the district has a quarantine plan in place, thanks to the partnership with Selkirk College. She said recruitment has continued online, and 59 international students are expected in 2020-21 — some from countries SD8 has never signed before.

Director of Technology Nick Howald gave a report on the Information Technology (IT) department. The district is in the second year of a three-year tech plan.

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School District 8 Kootenay

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New Denver-Silverton composting program has come full cycle

The North Slocan Valley has hit pay dirt with its community composting program. The first batch of ‘black gold’ – the ready compost – was distributed to participants, and members have done an amazing job of cutting up their waste, keeping contaminants out and turning the units to aerate the product and get the microbes working! Participants mix their food scraps with wood pellets or sawdust, dump it into the Joracan, and then turn the composter.

“People are really grateful,” Greenlaw says. “They love that it’s convenient and wildlife resistant, and it lessens their loads to the landfill.”

The compost coming out of the Joracans is quite acidic and needs time to cure, Greenlaw said, so the society worked with Rosebery resident Tyler Payton to build a curing area on his property. The curing area was built to government standards. After curing for several months, the compost was sent off to the lab.

“We’re thrilled to give the lab-tested, ‘black gold’ back to participants to feed their gardens,” Greenlaw said, adding that Lucerne School is also growing food with this rich compost in their garden and greenhouse. The Healthy Community Society is advertising for a new manager to maintain the units in the two villages while Greenlaw and Sumrall will remain as ambassadors for the program. In the longer term, the society is looking at ways to transition the management of the program to neighbourhoods.

Bree Lilies gets her compost from the New Denver composting program.
Speaking of that pond, here’s how nature can heal a year ago that same area was a network of Point pecked gravel roads created by the previous owner of the property. The area where we dug this large area out was an industrial parking lot of sorts where the previous owner stored his bulldozer and mixing equipment. How did we create the pond? First: We shipped off the packed, deitie gravel

After: The same area nine months later (this photo was taken in mid-June) is a highly productive wetland. The compacted gravel surface was not ecologically productive as wetland habitat.

New Denver council, June 9: Council to explore green burials for cemetery by Kathy Hartman

Council agreed to explore the idea of allowing green burials at the New Denver cemetery. Green burials are burials in a shroud or other fully biodegradable materials. Currently, the Village requires a rigid container. Green burials are not prohibited in BC, but existing Village policy would need to change. The Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Society will meet with staff to explore the possibility of the society creating a green burial ground in the cemetery with “some landscaping with native plants, both on the graves and in the designated area to create a beautiful natural environment.” Chief Administrative Officer Catherine Allaway said, “We need to know what’s in the ground before we can know what’s available and what’s already occupied.” There is money in the budget to begin a non-invasive ground-penetrating radar survey to identify existing

burials, but it may take some time before everything can be made ready for a green burial ground.

Council agreed to respond to the Expression of Interest (EOI) on the Zinchon proposal.

“Our job as council is to hear from the people,” said Mayor Leonardo Cailey.

Council feels the proposal will have an impact on services in New Denver, especially given the potential for restricted access to popular recreation land in the area. Staff was asked to inform the BC Mountain Resort Branch that council is interested in staying involved and informed should the proposal proceed.

Council encourages residents to send their questions and queries in an email to Mountain Resort Branch @ govt.bc.ca with the subject line Zinchon Resort to the province by Monday, June 22.

The Village received a grant to fund 100% of New Denver’s Poverty Reduction Plan’s $16,885 grant will be used for the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute to collect data. That data should give the Village a picture of what poverty looks like in the New Denver area. Once an evidence-based plan is created, the Village can apply for funding from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to take action to eliminate poverty in the area.

Last year, the Village of New Denver committed to transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2030. A draft of the West Kootenay 100% Renewable Energy Plan will be presented this summer, and council will be asked to review the plan to see what needs of New Denver residents and property owners are considered in the development of plans and strategies. Councillor Verna Gustafson said that BC Hydro be brought into any future discussions on the Renewable Energy Plan since most of the other members of the Working Group receive their power from Fortis BC. Over the past year, the West Kootenay 100% Renewable Energy Plan has been developed by the Regional Energy Leaders Working Group consisting of staff and elected leaders from the partner local governments, facilitated by the Ecotrust and Kootenay EcoSociety with support from Community Energy Association and Renewable Cities. Partner local governments include the Regional District of Central Kootenay and the municipalities of New Denver, Silverton, Slocan, Kaslo, Castlegar, Nelson, Rossland, and Warfield.

Council voted to keep Bunol’s Hall’s lights on. The Lucec Community Association for Education (LACE) covers many of the costs to run Bunol Hall with proceeds from the Donation Store. With the store closed due to COVID-19, LACE has faced some financial shortfalls. LACE’s request for a $2,500 grant-in-aid from the Village to cover the Silverton CBT Community Initiatives grants approved by Jan McMurray

Silverton council got together May 26 to look at applications for CBT Community Initiative Program funding. Original requests exceeded the amount of available funding by 12%. However, for the applications that were withdrawn, so all remaining funding requests were granted in full and Silverton has a grant to be administered. The three withdrawn applications were for events that had to be cancelled due to the pandemic: Fibrefest, July 1 and Convergence Writers’ Weekend.

Funding of 33,769 was approved, as follows: Great Mountain Kids Society ($2,400); Harvest Share ($1,999); Healthy Community Society ($4,400); Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association ($1,000); Kootenay Boundary Regional Health & Foundation ($500); Kootenay Carshare Cooperative ($5,000); Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation ($250); Nelson & District Hospice Society – New Denver ($1,000). For the Dead and Awa Youth Centre Society ($2,900); New Denver Hospice Society ($1,250); Slocan Lake Golf Course ($750). So, in all, our experience at Silverton is in pretty standard for a land trust managing a conservation property... that, no pulling our feet and reading on our laurels! And of context, land accumulation is a priority for the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program. To give you an idea of FWCP’s level of investment in land accumulation over the last 12 years it has contributed approximately $2 million to secure more than 68,000 hectares of conservation lands in the Columbia, Coastal and Peace regions. That’s impressive! Those funds are granted to a variety of partners across the province to purchase and steward properties to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and habitats impacted by BC hydropower.

We have to say, and we’re not blowing our own horn here, that our work would not be possible if it weren’t for funders like the FWCP. Columbia Basin Trust’s environment grants, the Fellowship to Yukon project and many other visionary grantmakers. Equally important is the support of the many community members who have been such generous donors to our conservation work.

Thank you all — please come to Snk’im Marsh Sanctuary and enjoy the fruits of your generosity!
Artist Pat Palmer to show next at Studio Connexion Art Gallery

Palmer’s show, titled JOY, is a series of abstract acrylic paintings. They are bold and expressive. With all that is happening in the world, the artist wanted to stay present, and be thankful and paint with joy.

Palmer grew up in Calgary, and has lived in Ontario and abroad. She now resides on Vancouver Island. She has studied at the College of Art & Design in Toronto and at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore.

JOY starts on Tuesday June 23 and runs through Saturday July 11. There will be a ‘Meet & Greet’ with the artist on Friday June 26 from 5 to 8 pm. Studio Connexion continues to operate by appointments and can accommodate small groups of four or five. “You can also drop by, but we encourage you to book an appointment, which can be with a friend or two.”

Gallery hours: 11 am to 4 pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Book a time by getting in touch with Anne at 250-265-8888 or text or personal message. Follow the daily posts: www.facebook.com/studioconnexion

Plants make planter boxes to encourage people to grow more food,” explained Ana Bokstrom, CCAT administrator.

Bokstrom organized volunteers to come to her place to assemble the planter boxes. “Some had no experience with carpentry, so an added bonus is that a lot of them want to make their own now,” she said.

The 44 boxes were delivered to about 25 people, and will soon be filled with organic garden soil from Highland Creek Contracting out of Silverton.

“We got the soil at half price, and we make the boxes to go to honouring local health care workers,” explains Ana Bokstrom, CCAT administrator.

Ethan and Jonah mulch the new ‘Hearts for Health Care’ garden at the health centre in New Denver.