Chanting slogans and waving placards, or walking in silence, hundreds of residents from Nakusp, Kaslo and the Slocan Valley staged marches and rallies in June as part of the worldwide protest against racism and police brutality.

The protests were much smaller than many others across Canada and around the world, organized after Minneapolis police killed George Floyd, a black man who was suspected of passing a fake $20 bill.

But the outrage and sadness over systemic racism were just as strongly felt.

Kaslo
For eight minutes and 46 seconds – the length of time it took George Floyd to strangle under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer – more than 200 Kaslo residents remained silent.

But the genesis of the June 19 march and vigil was a much noisier affair.

“Someone had posted a message of solidarity to the black community on a Kaslo community Facebook page, and there was quite a lot of negative feedback,” said Margaret Smith, one of the event organizers.

“There was also quite a lot of positive feedback, but some negative, too.

“So a group of us got together after that, saying let’s organize and get together.”

Demonstrators began by walking down the town’s main street, and ended up at Front Street Park. There they lit candles and knelt in silence, honouring Floyd and others who have lost their lives to police violence.

But the demonstration, as successful as it was, was just the beginning, says Smith.

“We want to continue to learn together and hold actions. Because we realize it is an important thing to do in our community, to stand in solidarity with marginalized communities and find ways that are relevant and impactful actions in our community and beyond.”

Smith says the anti-racism group is going to continue to meet every two weeks, and are planning other special programs, activities and events to highlight antiracism activities.

Some of the organizers are raising money for a project called ‘SLIDE: Support for Learning Inclusivity, Diversity and Empathy.’ The money they raise will be used to purchase a large selection of books that are written by black and indigenous people of colour for the local public library, and for the high school and grade school libraries as well.

They will be fundraising on Front Street on July 4 from 10 am to 2 pm, or you can send a donation by e-transfer to slidebookfundraiser@gmail.com.

Nakusp
The organizer of Nakusp’s anti-racism rally thinks the event was a real eye-opener for some people in the community.

“With everything that’s been going on in the States, and here in our own backyard, I felt Nakusp... continued on page 2
Local residents join global fight against racism, police violence

continued from page 1

said Jo Law, organizer of the June 20 demonstration. “And I thought a march would be a good start.” After posting about the plan on a local Facebook group, however, Law got a mixed response.

“There were close to 200 comments, from ‘I’m so proud of my hometown,’” she says. “And then there were – the others. The kind like ‘all lives matter.’”

But Law, a local businesswoman, wanted to reach out to everyone, so she wasn’t “preaching to the choir,” she says. As a woman of colour herself, Law has worked over the years to engage people in a discussion about racism, but found many times people just weren’t ready to listen. But with recent events, that’s changed. She says more people seem ready to tackle the troubling issue of race in our society.

“What I wanted to do is give people an opportunity to learn some of the tools to deal with people that may not be ready to listen, and warn them of tactics I’ve seen patterned out in your experiences.”

She says it’s a conversation Nakusp needs to have. “I don’t feel hate here, but what I did want to address is those little off-the-shoulder, casual-racist comments,” she says. “Being in Nakusp, it is a small village, and it is somewhat in a bubble, so I want to make sure everyone is prepared if they leave they’ll have some tools to recognize some patterns in others and themselves.”

The demonstrators gathered at the marina, and moved down Broadway to a park gazebo where they heard calls to speak up against racism. Participants were invited to tell their own personal stories of race and racism. A smudging ceremony was also held to bless the event.

Law says she was floored by the turnout for the demonstration. “I was pumped when the first five people showed up,” she says. “And then they just kept coming. And coming. It was amazing. I’m so proud of this community.”

Since the rally, Law says she feels a weight off her shoulders, that the burden of calling out racism and inequality, of engaging with people who oppose or don’t understand the experience of minorities in the country, is being shared by more people in Nakusp.

“It’s not just not being racist, it’s actually practicing antiracism,” she says. “This is just the beginning.”

People wanting to learn more can visit the Anti-Racism Nakusp Facebook group and join the conversation.

Slocan

More than 100 people of all ages carried signs and chanted the names of black men and women victimized by police as they walked down Harold Street in Slocan Village on June 6. The demonstrators gathered at noon at the village’s historic Swan House for the march. They met there by police as they walked down Harold Street in Slocan Village on June 6. The demonstrators gathered at noon at the village’s historic Swan House for the march. They met there and themselves.”

The demonstration stretched for half a block as it moved through the quiet streets to the village’s waterfront. Some carried homemade signs, some pushed wheelchairs or baby strollers. It was an exuberant, diverse, and peaceful crowd on a sunny Saturday in Slocan.

A moment of silence was held at the recently opened Slocan Beach Park, where some people took a knee to complete the march.

“It’s not just the other side of the border; Canada has a serious history of racism and hurt,” said Miller after the march, explaining why she felt it was important to organize the event. “White people have to listen.”

For demonstrator Luis Merez Alvarez and his family, a resident of Slocan and a recent immigrant from Mexico, the protest had a deep personal meeting. “It’s hard to be an immigrant. To leave everything behind, everyone you love, to start fresh.”

Alvarez says he’s experienced discrimination and profiling personally. “You can get questioned any time by police just because you look different,” the carpenter said. “I’ve been ID’d many times. It feels unfair because I have not committed any crimes.”

He said he found the show of support for the BLM movement comforting. “It’s nice to know, at least in this town where I came to look for a safe place to raise my family, raise my children… that there are all these people that’ll speak up,” he says.
West Kootenay woman dies in motorcycle accident near Kaslo
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

After two days of searching a fast-moving river, Search and Rescue crews found the body of a woman who went missing after a motorcycle accident on Highway 3A on June 21.

Police say the woman was a passenger on a motorcycle on Sunday, June 21, when the driver of the vehicle lost control. The motorcycle left the highway and entered the river about 15-20 kilometres west of Kaslo.

The man, in his 70s and from the West Kootenay area, was able to swim ashore and drag himself up to the highway where he flagged down a passing motorist for help.

“The man was taken to an area hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries,” the police report says. “His female companion, a woman in her 60s, also from the West Kootenays, is believed to have been swept downstream in the fast-flowing river.”

The woman was missing and presumed drowned, but the search continued for her into a second day in the turbulent, dangerous waters of the river.

“Chris Armstrong, BC Swiftwater Specialist, arrived and was able to oversee and direct the swiftwater teams and did a stellar job,” said a news release from the Kaslo Search and Rescue Team. “The woman was located mid-afternoon (June 22) and unfortunately had not survived the ordeal.”

Kaslo Search and Rescue managers Robyn and Glen Skobalski were in charge of the search. Other ground search and swiftwater teams were called in to assist from Revelstoke, Nelson, Castlegar, South Columbia, Rossland and Grand Forks. The search also involved members from the RCMP, RCMP Air Services, and the BC Ambulance Service.

West Kootenay Traffic Services is leading the investigation and is being assisted by the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Service. Police said at the time that it does not appear that impairment was a contributing factor to this crash.

Anyone with information about this event, including any dash cam footage, is asked to contact WKTS in Nelson at 250-951-3580.

Perry Siding man drowns in kayaking mishap
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A Slocan Valley man drowned last month while kayaking in the Slocan River near Perry Siding.

Police say the 59-year-old man was a skilled paddler, but overturned while navigating in the side channels in the area on the evening of June 17.

He was not wearing a life jacket.

“Neighbors observed him and were able to communicate with him, but he slipped under the water before they could get out there,” said Constable Corey Chaloner of the New Denver RCMP detachment.

The neighbours were able to pull the man out of the river but could not revive him.

Police can’t say why the man lost control of his kayak, but say the river in full spring runoff can be dangerous.

“Unfortunately, this is a tragedy that did not have to occur,” says Chaloner. “We really would like to remind people going on the water to always wear a personal flotation device. It could save your life.”
Hidden Garden Gallery launches 20th season with silent auction art show

First artist show features Nancy Anderson’s photos of the Slocan

Submitted by HGG

The Gallery proudly announces its first 2020 artist show: Nancy Anderson’s Photographs of the Slocan. The show runs July 14-19. Nancy was born in New Denver in 1930 and grew up on the Bosan (Harris) Ranch between New Denver and Silverton. She moved to Vancouver for grade 12, and in 1948 enrolled at UBC. She majored in biology, did a master’s degree, then a year of teacher training and taught for a time. She married John Anderson, a young mining engineer. They lived in North Vancouver, and John’s work with Kennecott Copper took him into many corners of the province. Nancy often accompanied him, and year after year attended (and often organized) the BC Natural History Society’s summer camp somewhere in the mountains of British Columbia. She knew the province’s natural spaces and many of its backwoods characters. In 1976, Kennecott Copper wanted to move to the town of Oak Bay, and closed its mine in Slocan. In these circumstances that John quit his job, and that he and Nancy left Vancouver and moved to the ranch. They settled in with Sandy in the house where Nancy had grown up, and lived there for the rest of their lives.

In the Slocan, Nancy became a pillar of a known community. She participated in its life, had a legion of friends, and was particularly forward in ecological and historical organizations. She also returned to and explored the land – the nature – that she knew in her youth. She had always had a camera, and her picture interest continued. When she died, in 2008, she left thousands of photos, a record of her life throughout British Columbia and in the Slocan. It is from this collection of her Slocan photos – her many photo albums – that the colour pictures in this exhibition have been selected. The black and white pictures are not hers; they have been included for their aesthetic value. Each exhibition is a glimpse of Nancy, of the Slocan Valley, and of Nancy’s way of seeing it – a glimpse of one who loved the Slocan, and whose life, the Bosun ranch, and the valley were deeply intertwined.

Nancy’s cousins Cole Harris and Haide James selected the photographs.

Upcoming events with WildSafeBC in Nakusp-New Denver and Kaslo areas

Please report wildlife in conflict to the Conservation Officer Service 24/7 at 1-877-592-2777. Residents can also report sightings of bear, cougar, coyote or wolf in an urban area. These reports are uploaded daily to WildSafeBC’s WildSafeBC Nakusp-Alexander Creek Community (WARP), available at www.wildsafebc.com/warp. This program allows the public to see what wildlife has been reported in their neighbourhood and be alerted of new sightings.

WildSafeBC is grateful for the generous support the program receives from the Regional District of Central Kootenay, Columbia Basin Trust, the British Columbia Conservation Foundation, the BC Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, and the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy, Village of New Denver, Village of Nakusp and Village of Kaslo.

Silverton Council ponders campground questions

by Moe Lyons

At a Committee of the Whole meeting on June 23, Silverton council discussed its options for the future of the local campgrounds for 2020. Council decided that Creekside would open on a first come first served basis this year – no reservation – and the washrooms will not be opened at this time. Water will be supplied. Depending on what can be determined about physical distancing, there may also be as many as 20 or as few as 10 sites. As CAG Hillary Elliott put it, “Not opening the campground could result in camping on our boulevards and elsewhere and result in social issues arising due to this behaviour and no designated place for camping.”

Elliott also stated that not opening Creekside Campground would negatively affect the Village’s 2020 budget and the local economy. She pointed out that other than taxation, the campground is the largest revenue generator for the Village.

Council was very happy with the response to the request for community input on the campgrounds. More than 50 detailed responses were received. Opinions were many and varied. People were clearly pleased to have the opportunity to comment, and many went into great detail about what they thought should happen. Some people made specific suggestions on the scale of the logging at Lakeside and upset they had received no notice about it.

Councillors asked staff to find something in the bylaw on the contract to redesign Lakeside. Councillor Main proposed that all the public input be provided to the successful campground designer.

Main also said the cost of the planner could be covered by the gas tax or COVID related funds. “We can afford this,” she said.

Council agreed that Lakeside would not open this season. “We don’t want to put up a bunch of money to do something slapdash,” Mayor Jason Clarke said.

The letters with input from Silverton citizens on the campgrounds are available for public viewing in the agenda package at http://www.silverton.ca.

CORRECTION

In the June 10 Silverton council notes in the June 18 issue, we reported that Mayor Clarke had offered his resignation to council. Mayor Clarke didn’t offer his resignation to council – he took a leave of absence. Therefore, there is no letter from Clarke offering his resignation.
Recycling depots will be closed during transition to new system

by Jan McMurray

The switch to the new recycling system at depots throughout the region is underway.

The green recycling bins will all be removed by the beginning of July. Most depots will be closed for up to a month, while the new infrastructure is being installed and until the new hauler is ready to start collecting in the area.

“Recycle BC and their post collection contractor, Green for Life (GFL), have committed to having all depots open by August 1. However, depots will open earlier if possible,” says an RDCK press release.

“The RDCK is working with Recycle BC, GFL and local haulers to expedite the transition process. Please check the RDCK website for updates. Residents are asked to hold on to recyclables if their local depot is closed, or travel to the closest Recycle BC depot.”

The first depot in our area to make the switch was the one at Crescent Valley Hall, where the old bins were removed June 23 and the new facility was open June 26. Other depots in the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) that have made the switch and are open include Nelson Lakeside, Ootschena, Gromhan Narrows, Yak, Boswell and Creston (Helen St.).

All other depots in our area will be launching throughout July.

“The Recycle BC program requires residents to sort recyclables into main categories and requires depots to be staffed and secured in an effort to reduce contamination and improve recyclability,” the RDCK release says. “Core depots will be accepting the full suite of Recycle BC materials, whereas the satellite depots will collect limited materials. Hours of operation and acceptable materials can be found on the RDCK website.”

Hours of operation

Hours of operation of depots in our area are as follows: Burton (satellite depot) - Saturday 10am-2pm; Crescent Valley (core depot) - Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday 10am-5pm; Edgewood (core depot) - Sunday 9am-1pm and Sunday, Wednesday 9am-1pm; Kaslo (core depot) - Sunday, Tuesday, Friday 9am-3pm (May 1-September 30) and Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-1pm (October 1-April 30); Marblehead (satellite depot) - Wednesday, Saturday 10am-2pm; Nakusp (core depot) - Monday 9-12:30 and Wednesday, Saturday 9am-4pm; New Denver (core depot) - Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10am-4pm; Silverton (satellite depot) - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-4pm; Slocan (core depot) - Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9am-3pm; Winlaw (satellite depot) - Monday, Wednesday 10am-4pm.

Removal of the old bins happened in Burton and Edgewood June 25; at Marblehead June 26; in Nakusp, Silverton and New Denver June 29; in Kaslo and Balfour June 30, and in Winlaw and Nakusp July 2.

New recycling system intended for residential use only submitted

The new recycling program in the region will have an impact on businesses. Rolling out at RDCK depots from now through July, the new program is residential only, and will accept only recyclables intended for the industrial, commercial and institutional sector (ICI).

“The RDCK board recognizes that in many of our small, remote communities it makes little sense for the provincial program to expect our local businesses to make their own arrangements to recycle materials which come from commercial packaging, but in most respects are the same as residential recycling,” said Garry Jackman, Area A Director, Chair of East Resource Recovery Committee. “This only makes sense for institutions, industry or big box outlets found in larger urban centres which is the model on which the program was based. The RDCK and other Regional Districts are lobbying the Province to address this gap.”

Where ICI recycling was previously accepted at all RDCK depots, under the new program only flattened cardboard will be accepted only at the Crescent Valley, New Denver, Nakusp, Ootschena, Nelson (Lakeside) and Creston depots. All depots will have set hours.

Businesses that produce high volumes of other recyclable material are encouraged to reach out to private collectors.

Recycle BC is a stewardship program responsible for residential packaging and printed paper. ICI recycling and non-packaging material are not accepted in the Recycle BC system.

Under the new program, the RDCK is responsible for the collection of acceptable recyclables, which are then hauled, processed and marketed by Recycle BC. Recycle BC is funded by producers of packaging and printed paper, not the residential market. Producers of products intended for the ICI market do not financially contribute to the program; therefore, Recycle BC considers ICI recyclables as contamination.

The BC Recycling Regulation does not address ICI recyclables, thus these materials do not currently fall under the mandate of a stewardship program. The current recycling market creates high costs and challenges for private recycling programs.
Bad experience at ER

Old woman with heart condition goes to emergency. For several days now, she’s had repeated, prolonged episodes of cardiac distress. She doesn’t know what it is.

She is asked to go sit in the reception area. Within minutes a nurse appears and tells her they won’t see her, that it’s a chronic condition, and she should go home and call her doctor.

No one asks what she has come in for. No chance to explain symptoms. In her hand she has her medical card. She didn’t need it.

We are so lucky! We have such an excellent health care system. Something like that could never happen here.

But it did. After five or six days of recurrent, incapacitating atrial fibrillation, the old woman was turned away at the door.

I know this. I was there. That was me. Hospital management is unavailable.

Elsie de Boer

Thieves among us

I used to enjoy living in Crescent Valley, but lately not so much because of two thefts, trespassers and the noise pollution from the screening roars of two mini motorcycles which roars of two mini motorcycles which

Changing flow of water channels is also a factor of significant concern once there is disturbance on hillside slopes. Keeping hillside intact seems to be a better priority. Once water starts moving, it is unpredictable as to what unknown paths and quantity of flow may result.

Drainage into some water sources for human consumption needs to be a top priority. Mitigation, through or after the fact, is not the best policy.

Culverting does not provide an adequate precautionary principle in many terrain settings.

With respect to the quality of life for neighbouring rural communities, will there be resulting over-congestion and travel complications of Hwy 31A in future? Presently, many people gain a sense of peacefulness for the spirit and soul when being able to get into quieter areas. This is not just a topic of disrespect for increased traffic on a very precarious highway already; this is about people’s well-being and desire to live more balanced lives – the people who live year-round in areas of the RDCK and the municipalities of Kaslo and New Denver particularly.

As the socio-economic aspect, attracting people who can afford the Zincton experience may have serious implications for the affordability of people who need to live and work in neighbouring communities.

Sheila Haegedorn

Zincton Development Problematic

I read with dismay the description of the grandiose project of a ski development, with chalets and bunkhouses for 1,750 or more, at Three Forks to Zincton. This will alter for the worse our local communities and the natural corridors that provide scenic beauty and animal refuge.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) for this proposal by the owner of Valhalla Pure (which actually constitutes a chain of stores), offers as a rationale for the proposal: “Ski, boot and binding suppliers report 20-40% annual growth in units sold. Backcountry equipment surpassed 12% of all ski equipment sales in 2015 and continues to expand rapidly… it is reasonable to anticipate that backcountry gear will soon equal more than 20% of total ski equipment sales…”

This is what it’s all about – a huge ski development to pay off in skyrocketing sales for Valhalla Pure – but it has no concern for the nature of our community. I’ve lived here for 53 years and have seen developments that have been shaped to not disrupt our lives. This began with Valhalla Park, and with the widespread desire in the community and elsewhere that it be kept a roadless wilderness park.

If permitted, the Zincton development will not just bring influx of the wealthy, who buy up or build properties (for their winter ski holidays), who pay bribing sums to acquire what they want, raising the property values and the taxes so that property owners can no longer live in the area. This is the major danger. I’ve seen this repeatedly. It happened in a remote area of Vermont, reported by the National Geographic. In the article, a councilman for the Village of Wilmington said: “We were naive, a little ski hill looked like a good thing… but we soon had a snowball we couldn’t control…”

In conclusion, here is a message to the thieves: Keep your hands off other people’s stuff.

Margaret Hill
Crescent Valley

Elsie de Boer

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The Valley Voice July 2, 2020

Richard Caneli
Silverton
In the land of the sweaters and sticks

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The internet, which it if it to be an essential service – great – but let’s get quality service that does not contribute to the demise of ourselves and the planet. Fibre-optic for the trunk or mainline or backbone as they’re calling it and wired into the home or business for the ‘last mile’. 5G, whose roll-out ushered in COVID-19 (see below), is the worst type of wireless and the worst option for the ‘last mile’. Kaslo seems to have done it right. For Crescent Valley to New Denver, we need to work with the Richmond players (CBT, the municipalities, and Area H Director) to do this too. Fibre-optic is on its way, just awaiting permits so it can travel under the lake no less! So let’s get fibre-optic into as many homes and businesses as we can afford and get federal or other funding if necessary.

A must read at this time to do what’s best for the ‘last mile’. ‘The Invisible Rainbow – A History of Electricity and Life by Arthur Fiesenberg.

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In 1918, the radio era began. Enter Spanish flu influenza. In 1919 an era began: Asian flu, 1968, satellite era: Hong Kong flu pandemic. Other great mileposts of technology (of course there are always sunguts too) HAARP and the beginning of the wireless era, in 2005/06 a spike which ‘got’ me, and many others. 2019 5G arrival. This rollout needs to be ‘got’ me, and many others. 2019 was the beginning of the wireless era, the beginning of the ages ushered in the 1889 pandemic of influenza. Other great mileposts of technology (of course there are always sunguts too) HAARP and the beginning of the wireless era, in 2005/06 a spike which ‘got’ me, and many others. 2019 5G arrival. This rollout needs to be ‘got’ me, and many others.

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And COVID and 5G and the internet. Sweaters: you may have a cozy one because we always need to see one around! Sticks: we’ve always needed them, from making trouble, sometimes wonderful, if you’re a country dweller. COVID: No matter what your opinion, hard to not feel somewhat pleased. Our leading lady tells us simply to wear a mask during our protests and if we don’t, she lightly chides us, and we’re done.

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continued from page 7

“No logging plan will be satisfactory to everyone in the community, but we’ve had a lot of back and forth with Cooper Creek and have been able to work towards a reasonable plan. I am sure that very few people in the community would consider logging mountain caribou habitat as a part of any reasonable plan. But this is something that needs to be considered as a core issue. Losing an iconic mammal of Canada is a national tragedy. I would venture to say that most Canadians would be dismayed to know the truth of what is happening to mountain caribou in our country.

Cooper Creek Cedar will seek cutting permits and road permits soon. If you care about our last mountain caribou in the Kootenays, please write to BC Minister Doug Donaldson FLNR Ministry of Forests and Federal Minister of Environment Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson ec/ministre-ministre@canada.ca to protest the issuance of permits that devastate endangered mountain caribou habitat.

Gary Diers
Argenta

Open letter to Mountain Resorts Branch

This resort should not proceed because it does not serve the people of BC or provide any benefit. Such resorts should not be allowed in caribou habitat or provide any benefit. Such enterprises should not go ahead is an understatement. I am a senior on a fixed income for over the last five years. I have to ask: Are you guys crazy?!? It is long past due that we took a hard look in the mirror and realized that Canada is a racist nation, and the white base is finally waking up that their love for a fascist strongman, Donnie, is running scared with his approval ratings gone down. Donnie claims to be the “most popular president” of all time, but if you look him in the eye and ask, “Are you the new king of America?”, you will see his neck was a bad political move, Donnie.

There are those at the beginning of the plague who called on us to ‘flatten the curve’ – a common-sense idea that is intended to control the spread of the virus. It was designed to insulate us from reality and make it easier to handle in the short term. The more we do this, the harder the task becomes. I can only imagine that we will continue to be plagued until the end of time. The more we do this, the harder the task becomes. I can only imagine that we will continue to be plagued until the end of time.

We should be suspicious of the win/ lose approach that we see too often in debates. This came home to me recently when I saw the empty chairs of a group of experts who chose not to show up for a scheduled debate. I can only imagine that they discussed the matter and decided that they did not wish to speak with their lobbying, their influence in the media, and of course their money. Wealth that was once used to buy one's way out of paragatory was now applied in an attempt to influence inconvenient laws of nature.

We must also expect disinterest in the search for facts and the willingness to conduct research when the facts are not available. Recently, I watched a US senator question industry representatives on whether there was any information on the safety of 5G. They had to admit there was none. This, conveniently, gives the industry the ability to maintain that there is no evidence of harm. We must also expect disinterest among the debaters.

The provincial and federal governments are no different. They appoint their friends to high-paying positions on various boards, and turn them loose to soak the taxpayers public at will. A prime example is the Utilities Board and ICBC. Both continuously raised our insurance rates over the last five years. Donnie said “if you guys crying??” It is long past due that we get our money back and do not let them get away with it.

The pandemic is a time for us to think rightly, and deal with our fears in the right way. This plague has exposed the hopelessness and comfortless culture we live in. A godless culture is comfortless culture. Many people are suffering from hopelessness because they don’t have the God of All Comfort. Consider your ways. Consider the reality of your life and the uncertainty of your future and find comfort in the One who can provide certainty for you. Jesus said, “I am the Truth.” (John 14:6). Comfort is found in Truth.

Rhsy Demman
Kaslo

Dialectic reasoning

Socrates was mentioned a couple of times in recent letters to the editor. He relates Socrates to a reasoning process known as the dialectic. Dialectic may be defined as a discourse between two or more people holding different points of view and establishing the truth through reasoned methods of argumentation. This can be contrasted to debate, where we call a debate, but debates are more adversarial and tend to involve our ego’s need to be right. In dialectic reasoning, we are trying to set aside personal interest in consideration for truth that lies outside ourselves.

In debates, there is a winner and a loser. If you are a debater, all participants become the winners. Debates will often have an audience which the debaters wish to influence. Many of us enjoy listening to ‘The Debaters’ on CBC. The winner is the one who gets all the cheers. In a serious debate, we must be more discriminating in our approach to avoiding being misled. We must expect disinterest among the debaters.

I watched an interview with a major investor in pharmaceutical products. The investor proudly stated that he realized a 20% return on his investment within two years. He said, “I have never been more correct.” The investor was on the right side of the debate.

When this pandemic has passed, we have an opportunity to investigate some associations involving our lifestyles, our environment, and our health. We can learn how we might mitigate future pandemics. The findings would possibly not support corporate interests.

Norbert Duerchon
New Denver

LETTERS

The Valley Voice July 2, 2020

$3,000; third offence $250,000; fourth $1 million, etc.
Fuel storage: There should be no fuel storage allowed without the approval of every property owner downstream from the storage facility.

One of the most important reasons such enterprises should not go ahead is because the high alpine is equivalent to the high Arctic. Environmental damage done will not recover in a year or two. It will take decades or maybe even centuries.

Ed Varney
Winlaw

Truth brings comfort

Christians have a saying: “There is nothing new under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9) We constantly hear people saying that we are in “unprecedented times.” This is not the case. Everything we see happening in the world around us has happened before. There have been plagues throughout history, and humanity will continue to be plagues until the end of time. When we forget history, it can seem like we are floundering in a sea of incurable cancer.

Truly, there are events in our lifetimes that leave us fearful. Unfortunately, we have developed for ourselves a sort of near-sightedness which does its best to ignore suffering or soften the blow. Instead of saying that someone is dead, we say, “They passed away.” This sort of language is designed to insulate us from reality and make it easier to handle in the short term. The more we do this, the harder the task becomes. I am a senior on a fixed income for all people of BC. Resorts Branch

ec@canada.ca to protest the issuance of the RSDF, which increased by $115 over 2019, and by a total of $278 or 42.8% over the last five years. Donnie said “if you guys crying??” It is long past due that we get our money back and do not let them get away with it.

There were those at the beginning of the plague who called on us to ‘flatten the curve’ – a common-sense idea that is intended to control the spread of the virus. It was designed to insulate us from reality and make it easier to handle in the short term. The more we do this, the harder the task becomes. I can only imagine that we will continue to be plagued until the end of time. The more we do this, the harder the task becomes. I can only imagine that we will continue to be plagued until the end of time.

We are often asked how to start a discourse between two or more people holding different points of view and establishing the truth through reasoned methods of argumentation. This can be contrasted to debate, where we call a debate, but debates are more adversarial and tend to involve our ego’s need to be right. In dialectic reasoning, we are trying to set aside personal interest in consideration for truth that lies outside ourselves.

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New Denver

LETTERS

The Valley Voice July 2, 2020

Slocan's drinking water in Mulvey caribou habitat while welcoming 'money of BC out of work, alleging impact on caribou, the government will put people whose wages we pay to advise the allowed to say anything.’ So the people should plot a graph showing the increase disappearing or have disappeared, they know where and why the caribou are and maintained for all people of BC.

Resorts Branch

ec@canada.ca to protest the issuance of

Jonathan Wilkinson ec.ministre-minister.

Losing an iconic mammal of BC or provide any benefit. Such

because it does not serve the people

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Bringing a climate change lens to conservation: Greg Utzig

submitted by Nicole Trigg, Kootenay Conservation Program

Much of what we know about landscapes in the Kootenay region can be traced back to Greg Utzig. In some way or another, for the past 40 years Greg has been at the centre of landscape analysis for land use planning, climate modelling, watershed and habitat analysis, terrain stability mapping, forest management and biodiversity protection — and that’s just the tip of the iceberg.

“I’m actually trying to retire but people keep calling me,” Greg says with a laugh.

Greg, who lives in Nelson, grew up in Wisconsin and earned his undergrad degree in geology at the University of Wisconsin during the height of the Vietnam War. Although he was declared a conscientious objector, his opposition to the war led him to look north. He was accepted into grad school at the University of British Columbia and by the time he graduated with a Master’s degree in soil science in 1978, he had already been working as a regional soil scientist for the Ministry of Forests in Nelson.

“I was in charge of developing the biogeoeclimatic ecosystem classification for southeastern BC from the late ’70s into the ’80s. When I started studying climate change in the 1990s, I realized it was going to negate much of my previous work.”

Greg worked as a forest manager in Mozambique in the mid-1980s before returning to the Kootenays as an ecologist and land use planning consultant. In 2010, the BC Future Forest Ecosystems Scientific Council offered an opportunity to work on climate change modelling. Greg and other Kootenay researchers (Rachel Holt, Cindy Pearce and Heather Pinnell) received funding to look at climate change impacts on forest ecosystem resilience in the West Kootenays. Completed in 2012, the project generated a series of 12 reports, which are available at kootenayresilience.org.

“We analyzed potential bioclimates for different forest zones and how vegetation communities might change. We really focused on the 2080s, because if you plant a tree today, you can’t usually expect to harvest it for 100 years.” The study examined the results of three different scenarios to capture some of the uncertainty that the future holds. One thing all three scenarios agreed on was that the Engelmann Spruce/Subalpine Fir Zone climate envelope — the uppermost forested zone in the East and West Kootenays — will disappear by the 2080s.

“What the three models differ on is what it’s replaced by,” says Greg. In low elevation zones, all three scenarios indicated that all seasons will be warmer and winters slightly wetter, but summers will likely be much hotter and drier. Many species will have to shift their ranges to survive. In some cases, they may have to adapt to climates similar to those that exist in places as far away as Arizona today. Climates associated with grasslands may occupy many valley bottoms in the East and West Kootenays, and even mid and upper elevations in the Boundary region.

“The study showed that certain ecosystems are likely to undergo drastic change, going from a really nice lush forest to weeds and brush,” Greg says. “We tried to identify ways to make those changes less catastrophic and more gradual so species could have an opportunity to potentially adapt.”

Although Greg feels that in general a strong emphasis on climate change has been lacking, in the last year he has noticed a significant uptick in interest in his work, in part due to the Kootenay Connect project that focuses on key wildlife linkages in the Kootenays.

“The important cross-valley corridors that Kootenay Connect has identified end up being an important component of my regional climate corridors, which have more of a north-south emphasis because species are going to be moving upslope and to the north seeking cooler temperatures.”

Greg has also been looking at what climate change means for aquatic ecosystems. On a project for CBT, in collaboration with Martin Carver, Greg has also developed projections for the Basin’s hydrologic regions using the most current set of climate models from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Not surprisingly, when he compared the new projections to the older models that came out of the 2010-2012 study, Greg discovered the outlook has grown even more grim.

“You have to keep in mind, what we do now determines what’s going to happen decades down the road. We’ve already pretty much locked in what our projections demonstrated. That’s why it’s extremely important we reduce GHG emissions now, or preferably yesterday.”

Greg’s report outlining a potential approach to incorporating changes associated with climate disruption into threat assessments and management planning for Kootenay Connect wildlife linkage areas can be viewed at kootenayconservation.ca.

Kootenay Lake fund helping support local landscape and wildlife

submitted

Seven important conservation projects were recently approved by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) to receive funding from the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF) in 2020. These projects will benefit Areas A, D and E by lending a helping hand to a number of local at-risk species, by removing destructive invasive species from local ecosystems, by supporting native bees and other pollinators, and by informing water management in the Kootenay Lake watershed. A local government service with dedicated funds for conservation, the KLLCF distributes funding to successful projects that are approved by the service area’s RDCK directors each year.

The wildlife species that will be helped through the KLLCF are grizzly bears, bats and western toads. Beavers, a species of special concern, will also be studied to help begin beaver restoration in the region in the future. The KLLCF is also contributing to the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society’s work of helping address knotweed in Areas A, D and E, one of the ‘world’s 100 worst invasive species,’ and the Kootenay Native Plant Society’s work with landowners to increase native wildflower populations for native bees and other pollinators.

The fund is also continuing to support critical water monitoring taking place on North Kootenay Lake by the Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives, which is helping inform water management in the face of climate change.

“We were impressed by the number of excellent project proposals that we received this year,” said Juliet Craig, program manager for the Kootenay Conservation Program, which works in partnership with the RDCK to administer the fund.

“We had far more applications than we do now determines what’s going to happen decades down the road. We’ve already pretty much locked in what our projections demonstrated. That’s why it’s extremely important we reduce GHG emissions now, or preferably yesterday.”

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Kootenay Lake funding project qualifies, or preferably yesterday.”

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By John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The owner of Mountain Top Coffee Shop on Nakusp’s Broadway Street hopes his new café will be what Pike’s Place is to Starbucks: the flagship store that launches an international brand.

“We’re trying to create an experience, it’s not just a coffee shop,” says Richard Cifarelli.

On the outside – and in – Mountain Top Coffee looks like a typical coffee shop: funky, earth-coloured décor with a touch of design sensibility; a building repurposed from a ‘colourful’ past; a barista bar with all sorts of equipment and supplies; and a selection of coffees supplied by Nelson’s Oso Negro, considered by many the best coffee roaster in the region. But it’s what Cifarelli plans to add to the coffee that makes his product stand out.

His father – known as ‘New York Nick’ in his adopted home town of Silverton-New Denver – invented a powder formula that when added to coffee, cuts the drink’s acidity. That makes it more palatable and flavourful, and reduces the need for milk or sugar, says Cifarelli.

“It’s an enhancer,” he says. “My father, over 25 plus years, played around with different ingredients on his land, and over time established a certain formula of fruits, herbs and baking soda, to create the enhancer to have a coffee that has a smooth brew.”

The organic additive changes the acidity without affecting the aroma or flavour, he says.

While he’s new to the coffee business, Cifarelli says he’s been an entrepreneur all his life, and now he wants to bring his skills to make his father’s invention a success.

He’s been in Nakusp since the new year, and the New York-based businessman found the building, leased and gutted it, renovated it from top to bottom, and purchased the equipment. When the Valley Voice visited, he was in the final stages of preparing to open. That’s scheduled for July 1.

“It’s going to be a kind of chic, rustic environment, a kind of place you feel like you can come and hang out and have your coffee,” he says. “There will be outdoor seating, a 25-foot outdoor community table. There’ll be an open mic throughout the week.

“We want people to feel earthy, and comfortable.”

Customers can choose between having a coffee with his dad’s enhancer, or regular. But Cifarelli thinks most will choose the former.

“I believe Canadians – the people of the Kootenays – have a desire to be more healthy,” he says. “So the less acid in the coffee gives you a healthier brew.

“People know Mountain Top because my father’s been distributing the enhancer to local stores for the past year,” he adds. “And it’s exciting when somebody says they couldn’t drink coffee without this product because of the acidity. So it’s nice it’s going to help people and give people a chance to have a coffee they don’t have to smother with milk and sugar.”

But this store is more than a showcase for his dad’s invention. Part of the space will be dedicated to manufacturing and packaging the enhancer for sale in grocery stores far beyond the Kootenays.

“We’re going to have multiple businesses in the US and Canada,” he predicts. “It’s all starting here in the Slocan Valley.”

The inventor who started all this has been watching his son at work.

“People are just going to love it,” he simply says, in a strong New York accent that hasn’t diminished much in nearly 40 years in the Slocan.

“I am happy my son came, because my dream would never have happened. I’m not a businessman.

“This is going to click. It’s going to come together like magic.”

A portion of the sales of the enhancer will go support the elder Cifarelli’s favoured charity, Operation Smile, which provides surgery for children born with cleft lips or palates.

In the meantime, his son says he’s putting all his experience and skill into this project, creating a world-class experience for his customers.

“What excites me is giving something back to the community,” says Richard. “Creating a shop that has the warmth, the ability to make people feel good.”

First Nakusp, then New York: café owner has plans for a global brand

Free wildfire resiliency home assessments in Slocan, Silverton, New Denver

Cops seek man who damaged police car, other vehicles in June

Nakusp Public Library offers summer reading club with space theme

New shipment of fence posts and fencing now in!!!

Looking for something fun for your kids to do? The free BC Summer Reading Club, run through the Nakusp Public Library, has you covered.

This year’s theme is ‘Explore our universe,’ so we will be learning about many different aspects of traveling to space including technology, astronauts, and even aliens. Kids will be able to ask a real astronaut their questions through Zoom presentations in July and August. Participants will also be encouraged to explore the local area through scavenger hunts and other activities.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the program is going to look a little different this summer. Register online at home.ca, where you’ll also access the virtual reading log where kids can track their reading progress and receive badges for their accomplishments.

This is also where you can access weekly activity videos that the BC Summer Reading Club team is creating.

Additional weekly craft, activity, and colouring pages will be included for these activities, the library will be putting together packages that include everything you need for the BC wide activity, as well as an additional weekly craft, activity, or colouring page especially for Nakusp participants. These packages will be available for pick-up at the Nakusp Public Library (more details to be announced).

For up to date information, follow us on Facebook or Instagram. If your family is not online, we can still accommodate you. Call us at the Nakusp Library 250-265-3363 on Tuesdays and Thursdays between noon and 4 pm.
SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES – NOW MORE THAN EVER!

NAKUSP & AREA

Andersen’s Automotive Services
Open Monday to Friday (temporarily – all vehicle regular hours to 9 pm when restrictions are lifted) – Practising physical distancing, enhanced cleaning 250-265-3313

Bon Marche Dollar Dollar
Open 10 am – 5 pm Monday to Saturday. Contactless debit/credit
Cleaning protocols in place, customers reminded to social distance. Facebook: Bon Marche Dollar Dollar Nakusp 250-265-3313

Chumley’s Restaurant & Three Lions Pub
Now open with limited hours in both Chumley’s and the Three Lions. Closed Saturday and Sunday until further notice. 250-265-3311

Crescent Bay Construction Ltd.
Open Mon-Sat, 9 am-4 pm Nine 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 250-265-3747

Kal Tire Nakusp
Open Mon-Sat, 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 showroom at a time. Payments accepted by Debit or Credit. NO CASH please. Sanitization precautions being taken in showroom and all customer vehicles. Visit our Facebook page for full details. 250-265-4115, www.kaltn.com

Kim’s Kustoms
Open regular hours, 8:30 am-5:30 pm 250-240-4012

Leland Hotel
Open Sat-Sun, 7 am-11 pm; if floor is locked, call 250-265-3314. Restaurant: Open 4:45 pm for takeout. Closed Tuesdays. 250-265-3314

Marvin’s Small Motor Repairs
Mon-Fri 9 am-6 pm; Sat 9 am-4 pm Open regular hours 250-265-4911

NACFOR
The NACFOR 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; Sat 12-5 pm 250-265-0129; nakuspcomputers@gmail.com; facebook.com/nakuspcomputers

Nakusp Farmers’ Market
Saturday 9 am – noon, starting May 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 handling done safely.

Nakusp General Store
Open 10 am and 2 pm or call us to make arrangements to come at other times Saturday and bushing. 250-265-2423

Nakusp Glass
Open Drop-in, call or email to make an appointment. 250-265-2322, nakuglass@telus.net

Nakusp Taxi
Pick-up and delivery of anything from licensed food, beverage and retail stores. Nakusp Taxi 250-265-3252, nakglass@telus.net

New Market Foods
Open every day, 9 am-8 pm You are welcome to come and shop. Keep your distance as much as you can with other shoppers. We have hand sanitizer available at the front door. 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 shop@newmarketfords.ca to place your order.

Nuru Coffee Bar
Open for business Nuru Nights Grab ‘n’ Go Available Thursday, Friday & Saturday Please pre order by day in advance: nurucoffee@gmail.com 513-4th Ave, New Denver

Raven’s Nest
Now open with regular hours from June 10: Wed thru Sat, 11 am-3 pm. Take care and we hope to see you soon.

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

Wills New Denver Community Pharmacy
Open Mon-Fri, 10 am-5:30 pm We look forward to serving you! Welcome to shop by visiting during business hours or: By phone: 250-358-2500, By fax: 250-358-2524, By email: kaslopharm@gmail.com (please use reference “NDCP”)
309 8th Avenue, New Denver V0G 1E0
Mailing: PO Box 50, Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0 Phone 250-358-2500, Fax 250-358-2524

New Market Foods
Open every day, 9 am-8 pm You are welcome to come and shop. Keep your distance as much as you can with other shoppers. We have hand sanitizer available at the front door. 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 shop@newmarketfords.ca to place your orders.

SLOCAN

Mountain Valley Station Gas/Convenience
Open regular hours 8 am-7 pm daily Botteslope opens Tues Sat 9-5, closed holidays Taking precautions for everyone’s health and safety 250-325-2245

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. 250-325-2277, info@villageofslocan.ca, www.slocanicity.ca

Slocan Village Market
Open. Limiting 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, svrkil@telus.net

Winlaw
Emery Herbs Botanical Dispensary, Healing Suites and Teaching Centre
The Botanical Dispensary Open Thurs and Fri, 12-4. Limit of one client in the shop at a time. Order requests can be sent to orders@emeryherbs.com or by phoning 250-226-7744 for shop via our safe pickup 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 https://emeryherbs.com/online-apothecary/
• Colleen Emery, RHT (CHoRDic) is conducting all client consultation online or via the phone. Priority is for acute cases, new clients are welcome.
• All classes have moved online at this time.

Gail Tree Whole Foods
Open for COVID-19 Whole Foods Mon-Sat, 10 am-5 pm (closed Sun) Email to order for pick-up gailtreewholefoods@gmail.com 250-226-7255

Winlaw
Kootenay Country Craft Distillery
Open for online/takehome sales. Tasting room closed. Hand sanitizer available. Info@kootenaycountrycraft.ca 250-305-2710

Mama Sita’s
Open for take-out and delivery, 10 am-6 pm Phone or come in 250-226-7070

Winlaw Brew Op
Open by appointment only 250-226-7328, winlawbrewop@telus.net

SLOCAN PARK

StillPoint Pottery
250 226-8576, 2019 Slocan Valley East Road, Slocan Park You are welcome to visit us at Tusal-T, 10 am-4 pm in Kad, hygienic environment. For updates check Facebook, Instagram or our web page stillpointpottery.ca

Your business could be listed here for only $10 + GST
The Valley Voice  July 2, 2020

Nelson Library Centennial exhibit seeks historic artifacts

submitted

The Nelson Public Library’s Centennial celebrations are continuing. The Library’s history will be showcased at a historic exhibition at Touchstones Nelson, Museum of Art and History from September 12 to December 5.

And they need the public’s help.

“Our Gallery B exhibition will feature a timelapse of photographs, artifacts, and ephemera,” says co-curator Anne DeGrace. “We are looking for anything that people are willing to lend us from their personal collections to help celebrate this milestone anniversary.”

Possibilities may include library cards, bookmarks, photographs, newspaper articles, and souvenirs. In

Swamp Tails

Cheerful notes from the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology

These notes from the field are submitted by Lorna Visser and Registered Professional Biologist Wayne McCrory, directors of the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology. The VFE presents this paid column to educate readers about wetland management and to support our Valley Voice newspaper.

This edition’s Swamp Tails column is sponsored by the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program.

Greetings, marsh fans!

Marsh Habitat Month: the birds and bats, frogs, toads and salamanders: all creatures that need our protection and are provided with the

A place for bats. We checked with the stubs to serve as a roosting place for bats. We'll use the chunks of wood for nesting and foraging, too.

Here is what Todd recommends, from a recent report created for BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development, regarding "application of bat micro-habitat features and other mechanical stem damage":

Vertical and slightly spiralling cuts (a.k.a. bat slits) and what are termed "undercut bat flanges" as well as superficial "stem scuffs and scars" can be applied to any trees which receive tail stub, dead top or window treatments. Bat slits and flanges provide potential immediate habitat for roosting bats, and are generally 1-2 cm wide, 10-20 cm deep into the stem, and variable in length (i.e., 50-100 cm). Stem scuffs serve as visual indicators/stimulants for primary cavity excavators (woodpeckers) of potential stem damage and internal decay at this position within the tree trunk. Trees which are specifically selected to enhance bat roosting habitat should usually be located near natural forest openings or riparian areas, where bats routinely forage for food. The damage cuts can be to rehabilitate the gravel pit area. The second major job will be to rehabilitate the gravel pit area at the south end of the Snk’imip property. This area was seriously ecologically damaged by commercial-scale gravel removal and road-building.

We’ve already done a considerable amount of work there (saving L’Archie the larch tree, creating a large pond and many small pools, creating hummock topography to mimic a natural wetland, etc.) but there is more work required to be done in the gravel pit area closest to the rail-trail. That area will be rehabilitated and replanted and we hope to open up the view so that walkers and cyclists on the rail-trail pathway that runs through the marsh ecosystem will have a

When that’s all done, there will be more replanting with native species of shrubs, trees and grasses... and the inevitable weeding to get rid of hawkweed and knapweed. In 2021 we’ll be looking at installing some interpretive signs and creating a marsh-overlook path and a forest-walk trail.

Snk’imip will be turned back over to Mother Nature to heal her wounds and to provide the wetland ecosystem services that are so vital to birds, plants, animals, reptiles, amphibians... and us humans.
Mount Sentinel Scholarships and Awards

Ginny Abrosimoff-Penner: Devon Dunkley Memorial Bursary, Kootenay Lake Healthcare Bursary, Slocan Valley Co-op Bursary, Brent Kennedy PAC Scholarship.

Jennah Al Hanify: District/Authority scholarship, Selkirk College Board of Governors' Early Entrance Award, Heritage Credit Union Bursary, Mount Sentinel PAC Scholarship, Mount Sentinel Student Council Award, SD “Get High on Nature” Scholarship, BC Excellence Award nominee.

Rowan Cornie: Devon Dunkley Memorial Bursary.

Travis Davis: Rotary Club of Nelson Scholarship, Mount Sentinel Yearbook Award.

Lotus DeVore: Mountain Valley Station Bursary, Munro Lodge District Scholarship.

Lowell Elders: Kootenay Savings Credit Union Bursary, Rotary Club of Nelson Scholarship.

Freya Emery: Beedle Luminaries Scholarship, Slocan Valley Co-op Bursary, Mount Sentinel Student Council Award.

Emily Henderson: Indigenous Education Award.

Desmond Heyliger: Selkirk College Board of Governors' Early Entrance Award.

Kyle Katatof: Kootenay-Slocan Lions Bursary.

Micah L’Ecuyer Morison: Masonic Lodge District Scholarship, Nelson & District Credit Union Bursary, Slocan Valley Legion Branch 276 Bursary, Winlaw Elementary Alumni Scholarship, Schulich Leader Award nominee.

Xavier Moore: Mount Sentinel Principal and Vice Principal Award.

Bruce Opp: Zach Harvey Memorial (The Whole School) Scholarship.

Aidan Ostroff: Selkirk College Board of Governors’ Early Entrance Award, Richard District Scholarship, occasional offer for a quick grade boost to paint his fence.

Aidan: What? I didn’t get that offer. Well, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you Mr. Campbell, and enjoy retirement.

Chase: And the copious amounts of golf you’ll be playing. Now, the grads. Well, we’re not going to lie, this year has kinda sucked. This definitely wasn’t how any of us planned it to end, but all of us have made a bad situation.

Chase: I mean Campbell has been here for quite a while. He’s not Joe, but he was almost halfway through his time at Mount Sentinel, he made a great positive impact on the school’s community and whoever comes after will have some big shoes to fill. Frankly, having an amazing volleyball coach and leading the smallest team in BC to a fourth place finish in provincials this year to being a great substitute teacher, he has always been willing to put in the work for us. Even the Mount Sentinel PAC Scholarship, Kootenay Lake PVP Association Scholarship, District Fraser, James A. & Margaret Memorial Scholarship.

Ryan Pearce: Columbia Power Bursary, McEwan Law Bursary.

Tanner Ranta: Selkirk Paving Bursary.

Gavin Rexin: Kootenay Area Skilled Trades Award, Creston Valley Fire Department Bursary, Slocan Valley Legion Branch 276 Bursary.

Riley Shlakoff: Heritage Credit Union Scholarship, Katrine Conroy - MLA Bursary.

Haley Soukeroff: Columbia Basin Trust Youth Community Service Award, Arrow Lake Tugboat Society Bursary.

Chase Stoochnoff: Columbia Basin Trust Youth Community Service Award, Mercer Celerag Scholarship, Selkirk College Board of Governors’ Early Entrance Scholarship, Mount Sentinel PAC Bursary.

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Mount Sentinel Secondary School graduates a class of 48 young men and women in 2020

Kobe Frogan, Grace Lamb, Chase Stacknoff, Roder Healyte, Patrick Courney, Tristan Geswein, Jacob Robinson, Tara Belanger

Emily Taburieux, Brandon Lofcoff, Aidan Lofcoff, Ryan Katzaudio, Hunter de Batenhorst, Asia Kacaboff, Dylan Gresen, Freya Gresen

Kayla Shlakoff, Lovez Beters, Lali Devora, Danny Hrudiafeb Pulver, Nathan Hordiafeb, Maja Buchphan, Megan Koh, Ryan Fleckos

Tanner Kunda, Melissa Sbelleff, Tara Paduas, Hannah Sbelleff, Estelle Cyp, Logan Bhar, Abriel Bydz, Kayla Heaney

Jody Letney, Colton Hauge, Isainta Heygic, Daenerys de Batenhorst, Eric Hittel, Solara Weid, Rowan Lotrze, Ryan Henderson

Xavier Moore, Jenmiah Hanley, Mia Langan, Haley Sbelleff, Kyle Kacaboff, wesley Fobdwelekeoff, William Macleod, Gavin Hoxon

Your accomplishment is unprecedented.

To the graduating class of 2020, we are so very proud of you!
You reached this milestone in a way that’s never been done before. Ever.
Wish we could high-five each of you, but we’ll simply offer all the emojis we can.
Don’t give up. Your future awaits. And we’re cheering you on.

— Your Families, Teachers, Staff and Board of Education
Mt. Sentinel grad Freya Emery receives Beedie Luminaries Scholarship

Winlaw resident Freya Emery is the recipient of a $40,000 Beedie Luminaries Scholarship. This new scholarship program is “aimed at giving promising BC students the opportunity to advance their education, achieve their dreams and inspire others and is for “students who are resilient, have grit and are ready to make a positive change in their lives.”

“I am grateful to my teacher Danny Leeming and counsellor Mark Bonikowsky for encouraging me to apply for this scholarship,” said Freya. “They assured me I was the perfect candidate, and they were right!”

As a member of Mt. Sentinel’s Academy Performance & Media program for the last three years, Freya’s dream is to continue her education in design and visual communications and has been accepted into the ‘IDEA School of Design’ at Capilano University.

“Freya has worked tirelessly to capitalize on opportunities provided her and created some of her own, from publishing her own book to contributing to a grad mural in these final days of her grade 12 year,” said Mt. Sentinel Principal Glen Campbell.

With most post-secondary schools moving to online learning for Fall 2020, Freya will begin her studies on the virtual CapU campus in September, and won’t be moving out of the valley just yet. Along with the scholarship money, Beedie Luminaries are provided access to mentors, paid summer internship opportunities, student support and access to the Beedie Luminaries online community.

Winlaw resident Freya Emery, a Mt. Sentinel Secondary School grad, has received a $40,000 Beedie Luminaries Scholarship.

“I am grateful to my teacher Danny Leeming and counsellor Mark Bonikowsky for encouraging me to apply for this scholarship,” said Freya. “They assured me I was the perfect candidate, and they were right!”

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Winlaw resident Freya Emery, a Mt. Sentinel Secondary School grad, has received a $40,000 Beedie Luminaries Scholarship.
Lucerne Valedictorian Speech – Gabriel Nemiroff

Hello everyone. Thank you for being here today to celebrate with us. Throughout our time spent here at Lucerne, we’ve grown as individuals, as members of our community, and we’ve all learned a lot.

In Math class, Mr. Kipkie taught us valuable problem-solving skills, and through sciences he helped us understand the world we live in and how it functions.

We learned about new languages and cultures with Mr. Lada, and also how to use Google Translate.

In Ms. Baker’s English class, we studied all sorts of literature, and we learned how to construct arguments, and use evidence to back up our beliefs.

So, when Mr. Kipkie tells us that the moon landing was real, we say to him: there’s no way man – the earth is flat, and therefore the moon doesn’t exist.

This past year we have all achieved some really neat things. Mason, Aleks, and I constructed the first Lucerne Basketball team in over a decade.

Over the years, Raven has become an amazing artist. She has used her talents to create a mural for the counselling office, and along with Aleks and Charlie, they designed the logo that is currently on our gym floor.

Devon built a Go Kart from scratch and is now beginning the construction of a custom sailboat, which is cool and all, but I’m still waiting for the lightsabers and jetpacks that you promised back in Kindergarten.

Lucerne School has taught us to make the best out of situations, and to always look for a silver lining. Some of us have taken the opportunity to work and save money during this pandemic, we’ve taken on new projects, and spent more time on our hobbies and passions.

We have learned to look for the positives. No longer do we hear dad jokes every morning over the PA system, instead we get an optional video on the Nick Graves YouTube channel.

I’d like to sincerely thank everyone who helped us get to where we are now. Parents, teachers, friends, school administrators, the volunteers and school staff that made this ceremony so special for us, and of course all of the lovely people in our community.

We wouldn’t be here today without all of you, so thank you so much. For everything.

I’d like to end this speech with a quote from Mr. Graves: “What do you call a fish with no eyes? Fshhh.”

Thank you everyone.

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Bursaries and scholarships – Lucerne School

**Arrow Lakes Teachers’ Association Scholarship:** Devon Duerichen & Gabriel Nemiroff; Lane Haywood Memorial Bursary: Devon Duerichen & Gabriel Nemiroff.

**Lane Haywood Memorial Scholarship:** Mason Jennings; Rotary Club Scholarship: Gabriel Nemiroff.

**Community Health Care Auxiliary Society Scholarship:** Raven Lovas; **Columbia Power Corporation:** Devon Duerichen & Gabriel Nemiroff; **Mission Statement Award:** Devon Duerichen; **District Authority Award:** Devon Duerichen & Gabriel Nemiroff.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Gabriel Nemiroff;

**Cinta Batik Arts Scholarship:** Raven Lovas; **General Bursaries:** Mason Jennings, Raven Lovas & Aleksander Ratynski; **Edith J. Greer Scholarship:** Aleksander Ratynski; **Sandy Harris Scholarship:** Gabriel Nemiroff; **Health Careers Bursary:** Raven Lovas; **Chie Kamegaya Memorial Scholarship:** Devon Duerichen & Gabriel Nemiroff; **Fujiko Matsushita Scholarship:** Gabriel Nemiroff; **Special Award:** Mason Jennings, Silvertown/New Denver Legion Branch 101; **Jo Lee Bursary:** Devon Duerichen & Gabriel Nemiroff; **Katrine Conroy Bursary:** Devon Duerichen; **Slocan Legion Branch #276:** Mason Jennings & Aleksander Ratynski; **Kootenay Savings Community Foundation Bursary:** Gabriel Nemiroff; **Columbia Basin Trust Community Youth Service Award:** Devon Duerichen.

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Congratulations 2020 Mount Sentinel & Lucerne grads!

May the unique challenges of this year bring you strength & wisdom for your next adventure!

MLA Katrine Conroy, Kootenay West
1-888-755-0556
Katrine.Conroy.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Congratulations to the Lucerne Graduates of 2020 from the Council & Staff of the Village of New Denver

Proudly supporting our community and our 2020 graduates

Congratulations Lucerne Graduates of 2020!

Village of New Denver

Congratulations to the Graduates of 2020 from the Council & Staff of the Village of New Denver

New Denver Community Pharmacy

Congratulations Graduates! Proudly supporting our community and our 2020 graduates

Rutabaga’s Whole Foods

wishes the Graduating Class every success!

Main St
New Denver
358-7900

Congratulations to the Lucerne graduating class of 2020 from

-Valhalla Pure-
New Denver

Congratulations to the Lucerne Graduating Class of 2020

Congratulations

To the Graduating Class of 2020

The Lucerne Graduating class of 2020: Aleksander Ratynski, Mason Jennings, Raven Lovas, Gabriel Nemiroff and Devon Duerichen.
Valedictorian Speech - JV Humphries Class of 2020

by Sage Matthews & Jace Lamoureux

We’d like to begin with a confession and an apology. We may, or may not have written this speech less than 72 hours ago... But we also think that if there is one thing that can bring our mismatched class together, it is that we procrastinate. A LOT, and that we don’t always have our socks pulled all the way up, if you know what I mean. So we’re sorry Mr. Rude and Ms. T for probably stressing you two out. But we know you’re going to miss us and our questionable life skills.

Despite being born in different areas, we all grew up in Kaslo. With not a lot to do other than dirt biking at Glacier and having a little too much fun on the beach, we learned to make the best of everything we had. Because of our small class size, we became friends with people we may not have and we were always open to trying new things. Seventh and eighth grade is when we as a class really became “us.” From getting some new independence from going downtown for lunch, to getting your first locker. It made us not only grow stronger as a group but as individuals.

Now there are probably some common memories we all share. We know we can’t read your minds to find them, but we think we’ve got them down pretty close. Take your mind back to grade six… Are we the only two who had chalk and other small things thrown at us in Mr. Dummer’s class? You’ve all got to remember the push-ups too. But if that was too long ago to remember, we can still hear the nostalgic noise of Mr. Einer screaming at us when we were late for class and the smack of his meter stick on the tables we sat at. And what about prom? Eh? There’s no way we can forget that.

It was a night filled with dirt, mud, campfire smoke, stars, and laughter. It was as unique a night to reflect on our unique class, and we’ll leave it at that.

Finally, today we are in the act of making what is perhaps the most significant memory yet. It feels surreal to be here all together again today. It’s interesting how even though we have such a relatively small graduating class compared to, well, almost everyone, we still have become a broad spectrum of individuals.

But standing before you today is a class of future doctors, nurses, carpenters, mechanics, and anything else you can possibly think of. We have no doubts that our fellow students will be successful in whatever career or life choices they decide to pursue. But there are many people that, without them, we would be nowhere near as ready to begin the next chapter of our lives, as we are today. That’s why some time has to be spent paying a great thanks to the people responsible for preparing us: Our families, who have supported us and have been our safety nets as we went out of Mr. Dummer’s class.

And we hope one day in the near future we can all be reunited and can reminisce about all the good memories we made not only at the school but in this little town called Kaslo, which we will forever call our home.

JV Humphries scholarship recipients

Congratulations Grads

Go confidently in the directions of your dreams

Cornucopia

“The Natural Choice

Healthy, happy, bright

RecycleBC no longer allows blue bags for curbside residential recycling collection.

Thank you, Kootenay Waste Services, for helping distributing the new recycling bins to residents!

If you responded to the survey, we will do our best to fulfill your requests for the large bin or tote. You can also use your own bin if it clearly indicates it is for recycling. Please write your address on the bin and the lid with permanent marker.

Do you have leftover blue bags? They can be used for regular garbage collection.

Accepted recyclables go in your bin. No need to sort materials. Please secure the lid to keep items dry and from blowing away.

The more material you can recycle, the more money we get back from RecycleBC to help fund the Village’s curbside collection.

JV Humphries Class of 2020

The teachers and staff at JVH who were ever supportive of our passions, strengths, and helped us through our weaknesses as well. And the community of Kaslo and surrounding area for being here for us to explore, make memories in, learn new things, and for being the place we can call home.

Even though we have all had different starts, whether that was growing up in Kaslo vs. Up the Lake, or outside of Canada, or having changed growing up in Kaslo vs. Up the Lake, or outside of Canada, or having changed schools a couple of times, we’re all here, and connected nonetheless for the rest of our lives. Over the past 12 years, we have all worked towards the same goal together. And here we are, finally, we are graduating. Although graduation doesn’t mean we will forever be a single entity, it is that place we can call home.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

The Valley Voice July 2, 2020
JV Humphries school graduates a class of 22 young men and women in 2020

Congratulations, Graduates!
May you be guided by your heart, inspired by your dreams and motivated by your knowledge. All the best!

Aimee Watson
Director Area D
RDCK

Supporting your health & wellness
Kaslo & New Denver Community Pharmacy
250-353-2224
403 Front Street • Kaslo, BC

George
"Home of anything"
Toll-free: 1-888-244-3977

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!
Congratulations to the J.V. Humphries graduating class of 2020!

The Sky is the limit, Graduates! Set your sights high

From the crew at Woodbury’s and JB’s Pub

Angel Gomez Perez
Aza Hofmann
Callum McDougall
Eliot Whitney
Ethan McIvor
Finley Chant
Jace Lamoureux
Jacob Chynko
Jaden Smith
Jenna Cameron
Joshua Huber
Julian Enns
Justin Anderson
Karen Coghlan
Layla Tyers
Liam Tremblay
Murphy Troseh
Nikki Scott-Cox
Quinn Einer
Rosie Carter
Sage Matthews
Tyler Helme

Angel Gomez Perez Aza Hofmann
Callum McDougall Eliot Whitney Ethan McIvor
Finley Chant Jace Lamoureux Jacob Chynko Jaden Smith Jenna Cameron Joshua Huber Julian Enns Justin Anderson Karen Coghlan Layla Tyers Liam Tremblay Murphy Troseh Nikki Scott-Cox Quinn Einer Rosie Carter Sage Matthews Tyler Helme
Nakusp starts new community garden

by Moo Lyons

An exciting new community gardening project has just started in Nakusp.

Thanks to the generosity of landowner Denis Brunceau, the Old Firehall Collective has organized a large community garden up Hot Springs Road. Brunceau has agreed to lease five acres to the organization for $1/year. The gardening committee has now fenced off one acre and it is tilled and ready to go.

Old Firehall Collective coordinator and society president Rosemary Hughes is pleased that there has been so much interest in the new community garden. Currently, six people have plots, two of whom have two plots each. The group hopes for at least another three plots to be taken in this phase.

Hughes says interested people have been asked to take this seriously, and stresses, “They have to understand they are committing to something.”

Each individual plot is 4’ x 100’ and can be shared among more than one person. Individual gardeners provide their own tools and materials, and will have the same plot year after year. There is a small fee for use of the plot.

This year, any spaces not leased by individual gardeners are available to local children as part of a school project to grow pumpkins, which they will sell at Hallowe’en. Hughes describes this as “a great learning experience for the kids.”

The garden is also involved in a province-wide potato-growing project. Hughes says the community garden is organized by a group of established gardeners that meets regularly. Although they don’t all necessarily use the garden themselves, they hold workshops and offer mentoring to people who want to learn how to garden.

Nakusp has had a community garden since 2009, growing out of weekly meetings held by a small group of avid gardeners. Known as the Hummingbird gardeners, they hold workshops and they don’t all necessarily use the garden; they hold workshops and offer mentoring to people who want to learn how to garden.

Although the new community garden site is not as accessible as the previous one, the group decided it was too good an offer to pass up. It is on the bus route to the hot springs, and people have agreed to carpool. The site has beautiful soil and is in an open area, meaning it has full sun all day long.

The Old Firehall Collective’s mission is: “To restore agriculture and promote self-sufficiency in food production within a 50-mile radius of Nakusp.”

Funding for the fencing was provided by the federal New Horizons for Seniors Program and from the Kootenay Co-op.

Garbage Collection

Municipal garbage collection takes place every Tuesday for residential properties in New Denver. Residents are reminded that waste must be bagged, tagged and placed on a garbage can before being placed curbstside for collection. Do not place garbage outside before 6 am. Please assist the Village in its efforts to remove bear, dog and crow attractants by ensuring that solid waste is placed in secure containers.

115 Slocan Avenue · P.O. Box 40, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0
(250) 358-2316 · office@newdenver.ca · www.newdenver.ca

Rural Dividend grants focus on recreation and job creation

by Jan Murray

The suspension of the Rural Dividend program has been lifted, and a round of grants of nearly $14 million has been announced for recreation and economic development projects throughout the province, including in the Kootenays.

This round of Rural Dividend grants was suspended last fall “in order to support workers and communities in the interior as they face an unprecedented situation in the forestry sector economy,” said Minister Doug Donaldson in a September 19, 2015 letter to all Rural Dividend Fund applicants. Donaldson said applications would be “retained for vetting and funding consideration at a future date.”

That “future date” has arrived, and grant recipients were identified from applications submitted last summer during the sixth intake of the Rural Dividend Program. There were 338 Rural Dividend funding applications submitted in this sixth round, including applications for community development projects in Nakusp, Kaslo and the Slocan Valley.

“Priority was given to economic development projects that have a focus on and a potential for job creation,” says a government press release.

Successful projects in our area are as follows:

- Nelson Co-work Society, Lift Co-work phase two - Building Capacity ($100,000): The Lift provides dedicated co-work space for local and seasonal individuals and groups to use for office work, workshops, etc. This project will take the lift from a lean start-up to a fully operational facility.

- Slocan Valley Regional Economic Development Implementation Project ($100,000): Complete project with outcomes to include agriculture and tech sector business retention and expansion, cannabis industry transition, attraction strategy, affordable housing, connectivity, non-profit network development, digital media, refresh Economic Strategy Development, and destination marketing.

- Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services, Mt. Abriel Trail Network - Destination, Peak to Beach ($100,000): Further develop Upper Polygon Down Hill Destination Trail from the peak of Mt. Abriel to Upper Arrow Lake, showcasing Nakusp and area as a world-renowned mountain biking destination and attraction for tourists and residents.

- Community Futures Central Kootenay, Kootenay Business Transition and Investment Attraction Project ($100,000): Increase regional supports for small business transitions, and grow Imagine Kootenay’s investment attraction initiatives through marketing, succession-planning resources, and connecting investors to opportunities.

- Regional District of Central Kootenay, RDCK Trail Connectivity ($100,000): Improve existing trails and establish key connections to external venture capital through a high-profile investment summit.

More than $2.6 million is going to 24 projects across the Kootenay and Boundary regions. In total the province is providing nearly $14 million in grants for over 150 projects to support economic development and recreational opportunities for rural British Columbians.

Although the new community garden site is not as accessible as the previous one, the group decided it was too good an offer to pass up. It is on the bus route to the hot springs, and people have agreed to carpool. The site has beautiful soil and is in an open area, meaning it has full sun all day long.

The Old Firehall Collective’s mission is: “To restore agriculture and promote self-sufficiency in food production within a 50-mile radius of Nakusp.”

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(250) 358-2316 · office@newdenver.ca · www.newdenver.ca
Effective at noon Pacific Time on Thursday, June 18, the following amendments have been made to both Category 2 and Category 3 open burning prohibitions within the Southeast Fire Centre’s jurisdiction.

Given weather patterns and time of year, the BCWS has identified a brief window to temporarily allow category 2 open burning throughout the entire Southeast Fire Centre and category 3 open burning to be allowed in specified areas.

Category 2 open burning:

Category 2 open burning will be temporarily allowed throughout the Southeast Fire Centre’s jurisdiction. Category 2 open burns include one or two concurrently burning piles no larger than two metres high by three metres wide; stubble or grass burning over an area of less than 0.2 hectares in size; the use of fireworks; burn barrels and burn cages; sky lanterns; and exploding binary targets.

Anyone planning to conduct category 2 open burning, should always check the ventilation index, follow the open burning smoke control regulations and practice safe burning. Create a fireguard around the planned fire site by clearing away twigs, grass, leaves and other combustible material. Have an adequate source of pressurized water on hand. Never leave a fire unattended and make sure the fire is fully extinguished with ashes cold to the touch before leaving the area for any length of time.

Category 3 Open Burning

Category 3 open burning will be temporarily permitted for the Arrow, Kootenay Lake, and Columbia fire zones within the Southeast Fire Centre’s jurisdiction.

However, category 3 open burn prohibitions will remain in effect for the Boundary, Cranbrook, and Invermere fire zones. Anyone wishing to light a Category 3 open fire must obtain a burn registration number ahead of time by calling 1-888-797-1717. A burn registration number is not required to light a Category 2 open fire.
Kaslo council, June 23: Zincton, aerodrome upgrades, and water for the Thrift Store

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The council meeting opened with a talk on the future. Randy Morse of the BC Rural Centre appeared as a delegation to discuss what the community will look like, its opportunities and challenges, as the world cautiously (and in some cases prematurely) eases out of the COVID-19 lockdown. And he said Kaslo could become “a lodestar across the basin and beyond.” The proposal was forwarded to the COVID recovery committee for approval. See more on this story elsewhere in this edition of the Valley Voice.

More info on Zincton ski project

Proponents of the Zincton ski resort proposal for Highway 31A likely didn’t get the letter of endorsement they were hoping for from council as they move through the regulatory process. Council had been asked by the project owners for support for their project, which would see a ski resort town and backcountry support for their project, which would have been asked by the project owners for support programs and initiatives from other organizations, and general planning and development matters.

A night at the ballet at City Hall

A higher bit of culture is coming to City Hall. The Kaslo Dance Studio has been given permission to film a dance performance on Thursday, July 9 from 3 to 7 pm in the municipal building. The performance will be a part of the virtual programming Kaslo Jazz Society is offering during the August Long weekend.

“The Studio and its students will be highlighted as local performing artists, and our hope is to film our contribution in advance of long weekends,” wrote dance teacher Glynis Waring.

The virtual jazz festival planned for August “wishes to spotlight local Kaslo heritage and significant buildings to bring more awareness to the beautiful town,” which is why “I think the Kaslo City Hall would be a great fit for this performance,” she added.

Open for business website

Council approved spending $1,000 to support a new website planned by the Nelson-Kootenay Lake Tourism Association. The goal of the web site is to make the information to locals and visitors on which businesses are open and to what level during COVID-19. The group hopes to increase awareness of what locals and visitors can experience in the NKL region (Nelson, Balfour, Ainsworth Hot Springs, Kaslo, East Shore, North Shore). Council did have some debate over the project’s value, considering its own economic development group is working on a similar site. But in the end, they felt more exposure is never a bad thing, and approved shipping in the $1,000 toward the project’s approximately $8,300 budget – if the project can be found in the Village’s advertising budget.

Peanut galaxy to reopen

As the province moves towards reopening, the peanut galaxy is doing the same. Council adopted a provincial directive allowing it to partially reopen its public galaxy during council meetings and allow for in-person delegations. Up to 10 people will be allowed in the room, including council itself and staff – which should leave seats for about three members of the public.

The changes approved by council will come into effect at its July meeting. Zoom access will continue, however, for those unable to attend council hearings at a socially safe distance.

Water for the Thrift Store

After 120 years, the building housing the Kaslo Auxiliary Society’s Thrift Store is going to get running water.

While in camera, council approved a motion to spend just under the $5,000 to help with the project. One provision to the Village water and sewer systems, allowing it to reopen. The Thrift Store is in a building housing the Kaslo Auxiliary Society. This brick building was first used as a bonded warehouse and subsequently used as the Village’s fire hall until the early 1970s.

The building was never hooked up to water service, but that became a possibility when a sewer main was installed alongside the lane way to the rear of the building in last year’s sewer expansion project. The auxiliary wants to connect to water and sewer so a washroom can be installed. The Thrift Store cannot reopen due to COVID-19 health regulations, because there is nowhere to wash hands.

With the auxiliary planning to add a washroom to the rear of the building, council approved paying all connection fees and costs to bring the service to the auxiliary. While new, too, the auxiliary is responsible for all renovation and building costs, including plumbing and permitting.

The project was approved for the ongoing water and sewer utility fees.

The value of the project – mandatory connection fees, materials and three days of Village crew time will be about $4,000. The fee for the water and sewer service to the rear of the property – is valued at $8,965.

The matter was discussed by council in camera because it related to Village-owned real estate.

Victorian Hospital of Kaslo Auxiliary Society news

Lamoureux this year. Tuition was granted for a paramedic to upgrade skills, which will provide increased level of care at the Village Medical Centre, JVH Breakfast program, Kaslo Community Acupuncture Society, JVH Exercise Room, NKCLSS Basketball team, Kaslo seniors and individuals have all benefited from VKHAS support. At this time, the Thrift Store is closed and is being freshened and repainted. When all your COVID-cupboard-cleaning efforts are done, there will be space for them. As the store is small, a limited number of customers will be allowed in at a time. Your patience and support will be required. Purchases will continue to be made by donation (transfer or exact cash). Because of the Thrift Store closure, VKHAS income is down, and community support programs will be impacted. Please help by donating cash or time and energy. All members of VKHAS and staff are volunteers.

To join as a volunteer, contact President Dianna Parker (250-353-1037, diannamsmith75@gmail.com), check the Facebook page or drop by the Thrift Store. Donations can be made directly to the Thrift Store account #250998 Maximizer-0, marked ‘donation’ or ‘membership.’
Kaslo 2.0: planning a ‘renaissance’ for the post-COVID world

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

July 2, 2020

The Valley Voice

Everybody on Kaslo’s COVID Recovery Committee turned to the communications guy at the table. “I don’t want this to sound like I’m a drowning man,” he said. “But it’s been a decade on a dozen crises, problems, connections and opportunities they might have rebuilding the town’s economy, when all that point had been completely shut down for nearly two months.

They needed something to capture that they were trying to achieve.

Randy Morse, who works as a communications director for the BC Rural Centre, thought a minute.

“How about ‘Kaslo 2.0: Stunning, stubborn and smart?’”, he said.

“It’s not necessarily going to be ‘the’ slogan, but it was a conversation starter,” says Morse, recalling events a month after the meeting. “And it does — in a fun, tongue-in-cheek way — describe who we are.”

Stunning, he says, obviously refers to the local topography. Stubborn is for the perseverance of four generations of dreamers — entrepreneurs and families in the boom-and-bust economy. Smart refers to the next ‘gold’ rush that Morse says could make Kaslo an example for the world.

COVID Recovery Committee

Kaslo’s mainstay tourism economy has been hit hard by the pandemic. With its famous jazz festival cancelled and hotels empty, businesses on the busy main street were hurting.

“It was a deep feeling of helplessness, almost, ‘what can I do?’” that prompted Village Councillor Kellie Knowles to reach out to Kaslo’s council strike an emergency COVID Recovery Committee. “I thought let’s just start with that, a meeting where people can come in, talk about their issues and seek solutions together.”

The committee heard moving stories from many businesses about their situations, says Knowles.

Developing a strategy could take months of study and research — if the community hadn’t just happened to have a series of 30-day economic strategies already in place for Kaslo’s COVID Recovery Committee.

“I thought let’s just start with that, a meeting where people can come in, talk about their issues and seek solutions together.”

The committee heard moving stories from many businesses about their situations, says Knowles. They began developing a communication strategy for tourism as well.

And then they hired Sarah Sinclair.

On the ground

“This pandemic is hard, but no harder than our mill shutting down, or our hospital shutting down,” says Sarah Sinclair, an economic development consultant — and born and raised Kaslovian. “The people of our community will rise up and raise Kaslo. It was those kind of challenges and opportunities.”

They began developing a communication strategy for tourism as well.

“Everyone talks about a tourism recovery plan,” she says, “but it’s even harder than our mill shutting down, or our hospital shutting down.”

Smart world

Kaslo is sitting on another ‘gold mine.’ But it’s not metal. It’s made of glass.

While tourism has been the mainstay of the town’s economy for decades, it’s the community-controlled, fibre-optic high-speed internet network that points the way to the future.

“Watching the tech sector, tracking the families and individuals that want to work with the kind of product that the Kaslo infoNet Society can offer – that to me is the gold there,” says Knowles.

“We’re going to see is this growth through that sector, because we have the lifestyle to offer, and the product people need to compete globally.”

A lot of hope is riding on the new “co-working” space at the historic lighthouse, a lodestar, to every other community across the basin, across the province and beyond,” predicts Morse.

The idea will be discussed further by the COVID Recovery Committee.

But all this is not going to happen overnight. There are months — if not years – of work ahead.

And the recovery committee is hardly working in a vacuum. The area’s representative on the RDCK board, Aimee Watson, has been working on building up food security systems for the community. Other regional and provincial politicians are working on supporting the tourism sector, forestry, agriculture, etc.

But the people trying to build the community’s future say the elements are in place for Kaslo, not just to survive the pandemic, but to thrive.

“It’s not a recovery plan. It’s a ‘renaissance’ plan,” says Factor 5’s Burton. So is Factor 5. It’s not just getting back what we lost, it’s about where do we go from here, what kind of community are we building out of this?

“In this moment of sustainable recovery, we can leapfrog into this new era, where we are no longer just a tourist destination for the province and beyond,” predicts Knowles. “In the past we know it’s the rural economy that’s held up the province. And we’re going to see that again.”
Nakusp council, June 22: Council nixes rural multi-unit housing proposal by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Nakusp Village councilors met face-to-face for the first time since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic on June 22, and wasted no time getting down to business.

No to housing proposal
A public hearing opened the meeting, with residents of Clifton Road telling council they didn’t approve of a plan to build multi-unit housing in their rural neighbourhood. The developer wanted to build a four-unit structure, with three one-bedroom units along with a unit for the homeowner. But to do so, he needed to change the zoning from R2 Suburban Residential to R3 Multi-Family Residential.

The proponent noted a “history of lack of rental accommodation supply in Nakusp for many years, but considerable worsening supply over the last two years” as a reason for supporting the project.

But his neighbours were having none of it. Among the concerns council received – both written and in presentations that night – included traffic safety, security, privacy and noise.

“I am now extremely concerned that my property will become less valuable,” wrote a resident who said she was “devastated” when she received notice of the project. “I am now extremely concerned that my property will become less valuable,” wrote a resident who said she was “devastated” when she received notice of the project.

Council and administration
Council continued its quest for the installation of bike racks downtown, a process that’s taken the better part of a year. This meeting, they got the job part-done. Council passed a motion to have staff move all unused bike racks located outside the arena doors to a spot just outside the Save-On grocery store.

Nakusp Hot Springs cautiously reopens; others remain closed to public
by John Boivin, Local journalism Initiative reporter

Nakusp’s famous community hot springs are reopening – cautiously. The facility announced last week it was going to reopen its chalets, campground and pools on Monday, June 29, though there will be restrictions in place.

There are the typical provisions: people are to keep physically distanced, and not visit the facility if they have symptoms of COVID-19, been exposed to someone who has or may have had it, or have travelled outside of the country in the last 14 days.

Access to the pools will also be limited. The hot springs will be opened (with capacity restrictions) for camping and chalet guests only from 9:30 to 11:30 am and 7:30 to 9:30 pm daily. Public and guest access (again, with capacity restrictions) will be permitted from 12 to 7 pm daily. The pools and change rooms will be closed for cleaning between these periods.

Other hot springs remain closed
The Village-run hot springs facility is the only one in the area opening up to the public at this time. Ainsworth Hot Springs remains closed until further notice, and only will see if the rack is being used by the public over the coming weeks. Depending on public use, staff will then look at possibly commissioning up to five more racks for locations and parks that would be custom-made by a local artisan. The public will be asked to submit designs.

Breakwater coming
Tennant also told council construction of the new marina breakwater has commenced and is expected to be complete and ready to be shipped July 13. Marine Construction will be installing the structure once it arrives. The boat launch will be closed for the construction period – once the exact date is known, the public will be notified. The project is expected to total $317,000 which is within the $350,000 amount budgeted, he said.

Storm damages private bridge near Burton
Levitt says no further action is planned by the department as the owner has been given guidance on the federal procedures. The owner will have to apply for permits to remove the structure.

The bridge was legally permitted and installed more than 30 years ago and was insured, Levitt says.

Levitt says fish habitat in the creek was likely already impacted by scouring caused by the water and debris from the flooding event.
School (board)/s out for summer
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter
No more pencils, no more books, no more line-by-line debates on capital spending: SD #10 Arrow Lakes’ board held its last meeting until fall in mid-June. Here are the highlights.

Superintendent Terry Taylor says it’s “bittersweet” to leave their students and teachers excited to be back in school. Classes resumed on June 1, with junior elementary students (K-4) attending twice a week, and older students (Grades 5-12) once a week.

Taylor reported that in week one, 53% of students were in schools and in the rest, 44% were online. Like most public facilities, there are restrictions. The restored office hours are 8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to make an appointment with staff. A FireSmart app will be available.

The Ministry of Education’s plans for the fall include full-time attendance for K-7 and 40% attendance for high school students. Taylor says, depending on our health officer’s continuation of the provincial health officer. Final decisions about September’s return-to-school will be made by the ministry in late August.

• SD #10’s new day care projects are proceeding. The Goat Mountain Child Care Centre in New Denver remain on target for opening as scheduled September 8th and remains on budgets.

Development Implementation Project, a partnership among the Villages of New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and RDCK, is underway. Ron LeBlanc, the Slocan Valley Economic Development Coordinator, will present a plan for the funding to stakeholders in August. The funding can be used to support business retention and attraction; expansion in agriculture and tech/ maker sectors; cannabis industry transition; affordable housing; internet connectivity; non-profit development; tourism marketing.

Village ditches KSCU credit card
The Village voted to cut its ties with the Kootenays Savings Credit Union’s credit card division. The credit union said it was unable to transfer the Village credit card from one staff member to another. That causes issues when the staff person leaves their position or the Village office.

The system they are replacing uses MS-DOS as its base – an operating system that became obsolete when Windows 95 was released a quarter-century ago.

The new climbing wall at Nakusp Secondary cost $84,223, reported the board’s chief financial officer. The project, launched by a group of students about three years ago, received $55,000 in donations from various local organizations and individuals, and used about $27,000 from the NSS Trust Fund to complete. The opening of the facility has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but will eventually be used by both students and the public.

The trustees are hoping to start the new school year with a full board. They passed a motion asking the minister of education to approve a plan to allow a byelection to replace Melissa Teindl, who left the board last year. The byelection was going to be held in early spring, but the pandemic put a halt to those plans, and the school district needs ministerial approval to hold a new one. They’re also hoping the Province will allow them to offer mail-in ballots for people who can’t or don’t want to attend a polling station. If approved, the trustees hope to welcome their newest board member to the table in September.

• School district staff at the board offices will be taking a break this summer as well. The annual office shutdown will be from July 27 to August 7. Other than that two-week period, district personnel will be available during regular office hours through the summer.

The board will next meet on September 15.

New Denver council, June
Help to fireproof your property
by Kathy Hartman
New Denver residents who want to reduce wildfire risk on their property can now get some free help from the Village, in partnership with SIFCo (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative). The municipality has been approved to use grant funding to offer homeowners two free visits by a local FireSmart representative, and rebates for work completed.

The restored office hours are 8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to make an appointment with staff. A FireSmart app will be available. It will be sending letters to the RDCK requesting prompt reopening of the Galena Trail, and to the Province of BC requesting immediate repairs to the road to Idaho Peak. According to Councillor Gerald Wagner, the west side of the Galena Ridge’s cable car tripod was undercut by the latest storm, creating a safety issue. Meanwhile, the RDCK has closed the trail between Three Forks and Alamo, where a large slide has taken out the trail. The cable car has been closed since last season, and wasn’t reopened due to COVID-19. The June 1 storm (and subsequent extreme weather events) caused erosion of sections of the Carpenter Creek Canyon Trail, the Idaho Peak Forest Service Road, and the Silverton Creek Forest Service Road. As a result, these routes have been closed to ensure the safety of the public. These roads and trails are top attractions for the area, bringing thousands of tourists and the associated economic benefits to the community each year. Tourism officials are concerned the closures will have a negative impact on the economy, at a time when many businesses are already struggling from the pandemic-related travel restrictions.

Funding for economic development
The Province has provided a $100,000 Rural Dividend grant for the Slocan Valley Regional Economic Development Implementation Project, a partnership among the Villages of New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and RDCK, and the Province. Ron LeBlanc, the Slocan Valley Economic Development Coordinator, will present a plan for the funding to stakeholders in August. The funding can be used to support business retention and attraction; expansion in agriculture and tech/ maker sectors; cannabis industry transition; affordable housing; internet connectivity; non-profit development; tourism marketing.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**FOR SALE:** 2006 or better; Classic modular building - approx. 28’ x 32’ / 700 sq. ft. Sale includes all skirting/boarding, stairs - railings must be dismantled to be moved. Removal and site clean up can be completed by August 15, 2020. Located at W.E Graham School, 915 Harold St, Nakusp, BC. For information or to arrange for viewing: Bruce MacLean, Director Operations, 250-354-4071 or Bruce.MacLean@sd8.bc.ca.

**SOLICITING** for NEW homes or addition, at a price you can afford. This offer is not for the faint-hearted, as you must be willing to build your own home. rattler natural homes • building supplies • contracting. For a free preliminary design consult, call 250-999-7619 or mountaintopcoffeeco.com, 250-999-7619.

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**HEALTH**

**SHAVE TREE MASSAGE THERAPY** now welcoming new and returning clients for therapeutic and relaxation treatments. Treats, quiet, professional office located in Windsor. Available: Jessica Coonen RMT 250-226-6887 shadetreevanagaguy@hotmail.com.

**YOGA WITH TYSON ONLINE** free: Chair Yoga & Feldenkrais. Enjoy 1-hour classes anytime at home. Info/Registration: tyson@tchoucha.ca.

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

Starting your own business? If so, call Community Futures to learn about the free Business Plan Workshop open to anyone! And if you’re eligible, you may also qualify for the Self-Employment Program, where you will receive ongoing business training and coaching and usually financial support while you start your business. To learn more call 250-367-3742 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

**THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business? If so, Community Futures offers business loans, coaching & training; and delivers the Self-Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more information or to register call: 250-367-3742 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bca.

**COMING EVENTS**

**SLOCAN SATURDAY MARKET** happening every Friday this season in the heart of New Denver. It will look a little different this year, as we have modified our space to welcome you when you come and support your local farmers, artisans and food vendors. New hours: vendors will be ready to serve you from 9:30 am to 12 pm. See you there.

**SLOCAN CASTLE INN** featuring selections from albums of the Slocan, featuring selections from albums in the attic. This show runs July 14-19. The Hidden Garden Gallery is located at 112 Slocan Ave, New Denver, behind Sweet Dreams Guesthouse. The gallery will be open 10 am - 3 pm, Tuesday – Sunday. For more information please visit hiddenkangoroyal.ca.

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**HELP WANTED**

**SALES ASSOCIATE** for new coffee shop in Nakusp. Kaslo Mountain Top Coffee. Send resume to support@ mountainscoffeeroos.com, 250-999-7619.

**EXPERIENCED BARISTA** for new coffee shop in Nakusp. Kaslo Mountain Top Coffee. Send resume to support@ mountainscoffeeroos.com, 250-999-7619.

**Serving the West Kootenay**

**EXTRA HELP WANTED** for Person with Disabilities. Located in Kaslo, BC. $19.50/hr. 20 hr. contact. 360 hrs/wk. English language proficiency. Min. high school diploma. Min. 7 mos. exp. work with child with intellectual disabilities. Duties: personal care, accompany child on long distance swims (i.e. pool and lake), assist in regular exercise program, therapeutic diet plans and execute recommended therapies. First Aid and advanced swimming certification required. Live-in position. Apply to Fiona Nay at fionanay@yahoo.com.

**PHARMACY ASSISTANT** and Front End Cashier/Merchandise Position Available. Excellent Part-time/full-time career opportunity available. Candidate must be energetic, have a positive attitude, and be able to multi-task in a fast paced multi-faceted environment. Successful applicant should be customer care oriented, have excellent organizational and interpersonal communication skills, Pharmacy Assistant or Cashier/Merchandiser and/or related retail experience is an asset. Please email resume to nakupharmacychoce@gmail.com.

**RECIPE, HANDS-ON HEALING AND CCMBA sessions for past trauma, also**

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**HELP WANTED**

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Low-interest financing for home energy retrofits submitted

British Columbians wanting to switch from fossil-fuel-based heating to cleaner, more energy-efficient heat pumps now have access to low-interest financing as part of CleanBC.

Depending on the type and efficiency of heat pump chosen by homeowners, the loans will have interest rates as low as 0% over a 5-year repayment period and are being offered as an alternative to CleanBC home-heating retrofit rebates.

The Province’s CleanBC program aims to reduce the environmental impact of existing buildings and to waste less energy. By using more clean energy and using it more efficiently in buildings, greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced and air quality improved.

Canadian firm Financet will manage the low-interest loan process, which conforms to all Canadian finance and privacy requirements. Specially trained contractors will guide homeowners through the online loan approval process on site or remotely – in most cases providing on-the-spot loan approvals for upgrades to change from fossil fuel home-heating systems to electric heat pumps.

CleanBC is a pathway to a more prosperous, balanced and sustainable future. CleanBC was developed in collaboration with the BC Green Party caucus and supports the commitment in the Confidence and Supply Agreement to implement climate action to meet BC’s emission targets.
New resource helps cannabis producers enter the legal market

Cannabis producers looking to enter BC’s legal market can now use a step-by-step online guide that helps simplify and streamline the licensing process.

The Cannabis Production Regulatory Navigator has been created to help prospective cannabis cultivators and processors work through the steps required to get their regulated and approved products to market.

“This new tool will provide clearer and more accessible information about how to enter the legal cannabis market in BC,” said Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

“Transitioning more cannabis producers to the legal framework will help increase public health and safety, while creating stable jobs that support BC families and communities.”

BC continues to make progress in reducing unlicensed cannabis production while supporting the economic development of the licensed sector. In 2019, the value generated by licensed cannabis producers in BC increased by $600 million, while unlicensed production decreased by 20%.

“The online navigator will help Indigenous, small-scale and craft producers overcome the cost and complexity of attaining the appropriate licenses and approvals,” said Michelle Mungall, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness.

“Simplifying the regulatory process will help more producers get their businesses running and create job opportunities across the province.”

The Cannabis Production Regulatory Navigator is a guide for businesses of all sizes for cultivating (such as growing and harvesting) and processing (including manufacturing and packaging) for commercial purposes in BC.

“When the Cannabis Act came into effect in October 2018, transitioning legacy growers, often unaccustomed to regulation, were challenged with the prospect of navigating three jurisdictions of government, plus the standard rules required to operate a successful business in BC,” said Paul Kelly, manager, Cannabis Business Transition Initiative Program, Community Futures Central Kootenay. “The Province’s new navigator puts much of it in one place, providing an excellent tool to demystify the pathway to cannabis production licensing.”

The BC government provided funding to Community Futures Central Kootenay to help startup and existing cannabis businesses establish operations in the legal economy. Over the next two years, this program is expected to support more than 100 clients in their transition to licenced and sustainable cannabis businesses.

To date in BC, there are 66 standard cultivation licence holders, 10 micro-cultivation licence holders, five nursery licence holders, 51 standard processing licence holders and two micro-processing holders.

The Cannabis Production Regulatory Navigator is online: www.gov.bc.ca/growlegal

Minister Michelle Mungall and Paul Kelly (Community Futures) tour Rosebud Cannabis Farms in Salmi, with owner Che Leblanc and his staff.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Your ad could be here for only $19.50 + GST

Business Directory

RESTAURANTS

Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

Grocery • Health Food • Meat

New Market Foods
338-6th Ave • New Denver
Mon-Sat 9-6
350-353-7844

Gaia Tree Whole Foods
Community Market

- All Organic Produce
- All Organic Grains
- Bulk Ordering – Community Discount Day: Last Friday of the month Mon-Sat 9-6 Sun 10-4
Downtown Winlaw • 250-226-7255

AGRICULTURE

Pleasant Valley Trailer Sales Ltd
250-545-2000
877-476-6538

Southdown Dump Trailers
Trains Can’t Be Retard!!!

We Have:
Trailers, Panels, Wire Fencing, Feeders…

Even small ads attract notice in the Valley Voice
RCMP execute drug search warrant in Castlegar

Police officers with the Castlegar RCMP Crime Reduction Unit arrested six individuals during the execution of a search warrant, obtained under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act at a local home on June 24.

The search of the property resulted in the seizure of substances believed to be cocaine, fentanyl and crystal methamphetamine, along with approx. $850 in cash. Police also seized a firearm and ammunition which were allegedly unlawfully possessed, as well as other related items used to support the occupants involved in drug trafficking.

The search warrant was executed on a residence situated in the 3100 block of Columbia Avenue in Castlegar.

The warrant was authorized by the court as part of an active investigation into suspected drug trafficking in the Castlegar area.

Six men were taken into police custody without incident during execution of the warrant, states Sgt. Monty Taylor, Castlegar RCMP Detachment Commander.

A 56-year-old man and a 42-year-old man, both residents of Castlegar, face potential drug-related charges.

A 46-year-old Castlegar man faces potential drug and firearm-related charges, along with criminal charges for allegedly breaching prior court-imposed conditions.

All three males have been released from police custody on strict bail conditions to appear in Castlegar Courts on October 21, 2020.

Contest to support local businesses

submitted

Share your love for local businesses and products and enter to win one of three amazing local gift baskets valued at $200. To enter, share a selfie with your recent local purchase on Instagram or Facebook with the hashtag #mmmkootenaylocal. Entries must clearly feature the local company or business name in the photo or post.

All residents of the Nelson-Creston riding are eligible to enter.

"Now more than ever, every dollar we spend at a local business goes a long way towards supporting our neighbors and our communities," said Nelson-Creston MLA Michelle Mungall. "So, let's get out there and show off our local businesses by buying local."

Winners will be drawn at random on August 31, October 29, and December 17, 2020. If you don’t have access to a social media account, contact Mungall’s community office of by phoning 1-877-388-4498 or emailing michelle.mungall.mla@leg.bc.ca for alternative ways to enter.

For more details on eligibility, how to enter and deadlines please visit http://michellemungall.ca/news/mmmkootenaylocal-photo-contest/

Laurence
Charles-Lundaahl
November 11, 1952 – June 18, 2020

Laurence served as a volunteer member of the Fauquier Fire Department for twenty-five years, and frequently gave back to his community through music and entertainment.

Laurence will be forever remembered by his children Patrick and Finlay Charles-Lundaahl and Neoma Parent; the mother of his children, Lotta Charles-Lundaahl; brother Terry Charles; sister-in-law Brenda Charless; son-in-law Zakary Parent; and his two nephews. Laurence was predeceased by his father and mother, Ron and May Charles.

A Celebration of Laurence’s life will be held at a later date. Memorial donations made to Parkinson’s Canada at https://www.parkinson.ca/getinvolved/ways-to-give/ would be greatly appreciated.

Laurence’s family extend their thanks to the care provided by the medical staff of Halcyon Home, Minto House, and Dr. Craig Courchesne. A Celebration of Laurence’s life will be held at a later date. Memorial donations made to Parkinson’s Canada at https://www.parkinson.ca/getinvolved/ways-to-give/ would be greatly appreciated.

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Laurence Charles-Lundaahl
November 11, 1952 – June 18, 2020

It is with great sadness that the family of Laurence Charles-Lundaahl announce his passing on June 18th, 2020. Laurence was born in Surrey, UK and lived in England until moving to Canada in 1982, and ten years later landed in Fauquier, BC.

Laurence served as a volunteer member of the Fauquier Fire Department for twenty-five years, and frequently gave back to his community through music and entertainment.

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RDCK board, June 18: Board supports anti-racism pledge

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Pledge against racism

Staff at the Regional District of Central Kootenay will be drawing up anti-discrimination and anti-racism policies for the regional government. The move comes as the board of directors unanimously decided to endorse the ‘Different Together Pledge’ initiated by the province’s lieutenant governor.

RDCK recreation and parks reopening

The board approved the RDCK COVID-19 guidelines for the reopening of recreation and park services. The guidelines include following public health orders and recommendations, having safe work procedures in place as per WorkSafeBC, and following the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association guideline for restarting operations.

Building Code

Changes to the Building Code are coming, as the Province has a goal that all new buildings must be net zero energy ready by 2032. To help local governments phase energy efficiency in to their building bylaws, the Province has come up with a five-step approach, called the BC Energy Step Code. However, the step code is not mandatory. It is up to local governments to use it or not.

The RDCK is considering incorporating step one into its bylaw, but directors have been feeling the heat from builders and residents in the district lately, who say the extra costs associated with the new standards are yet another barrier to making homes more affordable.

The RDCK decided to submit a motion to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to consider calling for building affordability and flexible low-cost building methods to be priorities for the revision of the BC Building Code in 2022. The motion goes on to ask the Province to promote building code standards that are non-structural and non-safety related through incentives, and not punitive or prescriptive measures.

Wildfire mitigation

Another motion submitted by the RDCK to the UBCM asks the Province to commit to establishing and supporting regional planning tables to take a coordinated approach to wildfire mitigation. The planning tables would include local governments, First Nations, forest licensees (including community forests), Ministry of Forests, BC Wildfire Service, BC Parks, water user groups and other interested parties.

Winlaw Boardwalk contract

The Winlaw Boardwalk project took another step forward when the RDCK board approved entering into a contribution agreement with the Columbia Basin Trust. The project will see three aging boardwalks repaired and upgrades made to other park infrastructure to ensure the Winlaw Regional and Nature Park is accessible and inclusive for all users.

The Trust has approved a contribution of nearly $156,500 to renovate and replace portions of the aging structure.

Compressor for Passmore Fire Department

The Passmore Fire Department is getting a new air compressor system. The existing system has failed and a compressor is required to fill SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) personal protection equipment, like oxygen tanks.

Regional Fire Chief Nicola Hannon said in a report to the board that several fire departments will be buying equipment, and the bulk purchase will result in some savings. The money for the equipment ($35,000) was earmarked as a contribution to reserves, so the purchase should have no impact on taxation.

Financial statement released

The RDCK has filed its annual financial statement. The statements included a financial overview of the RDCK’s financial position at June 30, 2019, and the financial results for the year then ended.

The report also gives a glimpse into the pay of the district’s executive. The highest paid employee in 2019 was Stuart Horn, who had two jobs – chief administrative officer and chief financial officer. He earned $237,537 plus expenses.

Other top earners were:

- Environmental Services Manager Uli Wolf, who made $137,333 plus expenses; and Sangita Sudan, the general manager of development, who made $27,937. Silverton Councillor Leah Main, who is active on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, made $4,183; and Slocan councillor Jessica Lunn made $26,540.

Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives

More than $1.5 million dollars will be distributed this year through the Columbia Basin Trust’s Community Initiatives and Affected Area program (CIP/AAP) grant funding. Among the more notable projects in the Arrow Lakes, Slocan Valley and Kaslo areas are:

- Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services - Food bank ($10,000) and Health Connection bus service ($25,000);
- Arrow Lakes Cross-County Ski Club - snowmobile and groomer purchase, equipment shed ($25,000); Burton Internet Society - enhancement program ($7,000); Edgewood Community Parks board - landscaping and drainage around public washroom ($6,550); Kootenay InfoNet Society - alternate power source, trenching ($9,477); Kaslo Outdoor Recreation and Trails Society - trail re-alignments ($5,000); Kootenay Search and Rescue ($7,366); Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital and Health Foundation - Urologist and ENT Support Project ($20,649); Kootenay Co-op Radio - upgrades to service ($6,125); Nakusp Centennial Golf Course - update golf cart fleet ($14,000); Nakusp Fire Brigade - rescue stabilization equipment ($15,834); Nakusp Public Library - new computers ($9,999); Nakusp Rail Society ($10,000); Nakusp Ski Club - groomer shed expansion ($25,011); North Kootenay Lake Community Services ($39,000); Slocan Golf Club ($17,270); Slocan Solutions Society ($8300); Slocan Waterfront Restoration Society - community events/brochures ($2,753); Vathalla Hills Nordic Ski Club - grooming ($4,870); W.E. Graham Community Services Society - youth network van ($6,873).

A complete list of all the grant recipients can be found on the RDCK website.

What’s happening at the

The Japanese Canadian Internment Centre is now open!

Did you know that in 1941 the population of Kaslo was 468? In 1942 about 1000 Japanese Canadians were interned in this village, tripling the population nearly overnight. Initially there was opposition and tension, but by 1944 the experience
Outdoor classroom completed at Winlaw Elementary School
submitted by Winlaw Elementary School

Once again, amazing things are taking shape at Winlaw Elementary School – this time, an outdoor classroom.

The vision began in spring 2014 with teacher Linda Out and parent Shanna Robertson, who brainstormed ways to deepen outdoor experiential learning. What resulted is the outdoor classroom, a sheltered outdoor learning space, which represents values held by the school and the community: learning outdoors, fostering stewardship and working together.

Activities envisioned to take place in the new outdoor learning space include gathering before and after nature lessons, hosting presentations and discussions, sharing, singing and storytelling. The outdoor classroom was built beside the school garden and forest to facilitate connections and studies of plants and animals.

The project began as the ‘Growing Nature Stewards’ program and gained $5,000 from Canadian Scholarship Trust. The community further supported the project goals through the RDCK Community Initiatives, aka Dot Day, where nearly $3,000 was raised. Other contributions came from the Winlaw PAC, TRC Timberworks, the Elder family, Cascadia Roofing, Maglio Building Centre, Ryan Boisvert, Blair Jewell, Home Hardware, Principal Jon Francis and the dozens of parent volunteers who helped construct and raise the roof of the outdoor classroom.

A special thanks to Tim Reilly from TRC Timberworks, who volunteered many hours with the design, timber frame cutting and coordination of construction.

Winlaw Elementary looks forward to Growing Nature Stewards in the upcoming generations of students at the school. Many thanks to principal Jon Francis, teacher Linda Out and parent Shanna Robertson for bringing this vision to fruition for the Winlaw Elementary learning community.

Students at Whole School show love for community elders submitted

During the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, Whole School students have been thinking of our community’s elders. They decided to find an artistic and socially distanced way to express their love and support.

While learning at home, each student came up with an image of joy that they decorated and attached to a stake for installation on the berm on the edge of the Passmore Lodge property. In the first week of June when students came back to school, they continued to work on their projects and then installed them with their families at the end of the school day.

“I was amazed by the beauty of the kids’ projects,” said Anniinh Lang, Whole School principal and teacher. “Having the students decide for themselves what they want to do for their Generosity Project is key to its success as they are invested in the outcome, but they overwhelmed my expectations and we hear a lot of gratitude from the elders, which made it all worthwhile.”

The Generosity Project is part of the students’ self-discovery through The Circle of Courage – one of the primary learning and integration tools in the Whole School’s curriculum. It is a model of positive youth development based on the medicine wheel and the principle that to be emotionally healthy all youth need a sense of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. Their yearly project gives them the chance to highlight an issue that is meaningful to them and within a larger community context. This year expressing appreciation for elders loomed large.

The art installation will be up outside the lodge for another week or so and will then be moved to the Whole School fence. In recent years, Whole School students have also volunteered in the spring to help residents of the Passmore Lodge by tidying up the yard and gardens.

The Whole School emphasizes small, multi-age classes of 15 students or less in a nurturing, home-like environment. Applications for kindergarten and elementary level students are accepted. Financial help is available.

To learn more about Whole School programs, visit www.wholeschool.ca or contact the school at wholeschool@gmail.com or call (250) 226-7377.

Water conservation measures implemented in RDCK submitted

Residents of the Regional District of Central Kootenay who get their water from community systems are being asked to observe summer water conservation measures.

That includes the communities of Burton, Fauquier, Edgewood, Denver, Nakusp, Riohacha and Woodbury Village.

Stage one water conservation measures are automatically activated each year June 1-September 30 for all RDCK water systems.

There are four stages, and stricter measures may be required if demand increases significantly, hot and dry weather prevails, or if reservoir levels decline to critically low levels.

Stage one water conservation measures include watering of lawns (excluding new lawns), gardens, trees and shrubs only between the hours of 7 pm and 10 am. However, watering using drip irrigation, a watering can, and or hand-held hose is permitted any time.

Stage two water conservation measures include watering of lawns (excluding new lawns), gardens, trees and shrubs only between the hours of 7 pm and 10 am. However, watering using drip irrigation, a watering can, and or hand-held hose is permitted any time.

Stage three water conservation measures include watering of lawns (excluding new lawns), gardens, trees and shrubs only between the hours of 7 pm and 10 am. However, watering using drip irrigation, a watering can, and or hand-held hose is permitted any time.

Stage four water conservation measures include watering of lawns (excluding new lawns), gardens, trees and shrubs only between the hours of 7 pm and 10 am. However, watering using drip irrigation, a watering can, and or hand-held hose is permitted any time.

A complete description of RDCK water conservation measures stages one through four can be found at www.rdck.ca/water.