Local residents join global fight against racism, police violence

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter, with notes from Kathy Hartman

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 was... continued on page 2.
Local residents join global fight against racism, police violence

continued from page 1

was ready to have a discussion,” 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 inequality, of engaging with people who oppose or don’t understand them, of tactics I’ve seen patterned out in your experiences.”

Since the rally, Law says she feels a weight off her shoulders, that they’re 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.”

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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 meaning. “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 come 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.

Jo Law leads Nakusp’s Black Lives Matter march on June 20.

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Jo Law leads Nakusp’s Black Lives Matter march on June 20.
West Kootenay woman dies in motorcycle accident near Kaslo

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

After two days of working in 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 ended up in 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 camera footage, is asked to contact WKTS in Nelson at 250-354-5180.

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 floatation 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 Hidden Garden Gallery kicks off the 2020 season July 7-12 with a silent auction art show to celebrate its 20-year anniversary. Check it out at the gallery at 112 Slocan Ave, New Denver, or online at www.hiddengardengallery.ca. Artists are donating half of the proceeds to the gallery. Final bids for each piece will be updated online at the end of each day until the end of the week.

A series of artist shows follows, July 14-September 6. Submitted by Cole Harris
The gallery proudly announces its first 2020 artist show: Nancy Anderson’s Photography of the Slocan.

The show runs July 14-19. Nancy was born in New Denver in 1930 and grew up on the Ross (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 1978, Kennecott Copper wanted to move the mining town of Rica. On the ranch, Nancy’s father, Sandy, was alone and lonely – his wife Mollie’s memory had failed and she was in a home near Courtenay. 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 had known in her youth. She had always had a camera, and her picture taking continued. When she died, in 2008, she left thousands of photos, a record of her life throughout 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 the context of her 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 Haisie 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 1-877-952-7277. Residents can also report sightings of bear, cougar, coyote or wolf in an urban area. These reports are uploaded daily to WildSafeBC’s WildSafeBC Facebook page (WildSafeBC New Denver-Nakusp and WildSafeBC Kaslo), or call your WildSafeBC community coordinator.

Silverton Council ponders campground questions
by Megan Lyons
At a Committee of the Whole meeting on June 23, Silverton council discussed its options for the local campgrounds for 2020. Consensus was to open Creekside Campground as soon as possible, and to hire a planner to redesign Lakeside Campground.

Council decided that Creekside would open on a first come first served basis this year – no reservation – and the campground could result in opening the campground could result in opening creekside campgrounds for 2020. Consensus was to open creekside campgrounds as soon as possible, and to hire a planner to redesign lakeside campgrounds.

Silverton Council agreed that 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 suggested keeping the campground open, while others believed that logging at Lakeside and upset they had received no notice about it.

Councillors asked staff to find silver linings in the bid 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, Ototschania, Grohman Narrows, Yahk, 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 10 am-2 pm; Crescent Valley (core depot) - Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9 am-5 pm; Edgewood (core depot) - Sunday 9 am-1 pm and Sunday, Wednesday 9 am-1 pm (June 1-September 30); Kaslo (core depot) - Sunday, Tuesday, Friday 9 am-3 pm (May 1-September 30) and Sunday, Tuesday, Friday 10 am-3 pm (October 1-April 30); Marblehead (satellite depot) - Wednesday, Saturday 10 am-4 pm; Nakusp (core depot) - Monday 9-12:30 and Wednesday, Saturday 9 am-4 pm; New Denver (core depot) - Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10 am-4 pm; Silverton (satellite depot) - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10 am-4 pm; Slocan (core depot) - Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9 am-3 pm; Winlaw (satellite depot) - Monday, Wednesday 10 am-4 pm.

Removal of the old bins happened in Burton and Edgewood June 25; at Marblehead June 26; in Slocan, 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 products 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 from businesses, institutions and industry. ICI cardboard recycling will be accepted only at the Crescent Valley, New Denver, Nakusp, Ototschania, 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 intended for 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.

Elise de Boer
Fauquier

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 have injured one of my ears, and scared away the wild animals I very much like seeing.

In addition to having my cane stolen from the Crescent Valley Post Office on April 8, 2020, a month later a trespasser walked into my part of the forest and stole a large, pink rock, that I’ve admired since I moved here.

I've seen this repeatedly. It is a snowball we couldn't control... to the thieves: Keep your hands off other people’s stuff.

Margaret Hill
Crescent Valley

Comments to Mountain Resorts
Branch re: Zincton
My preliminary areas of concern are habitat displacement, quality of life and affordability. This corridor of interest for up to 4,500 hectares of Crown land, not to include the privately owned lands, may have implications for further erosion of the wilderness habitat for several species.

Changing flow of water channels is also a factor of significant concern. As we already have 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 quantities 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 itself? 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
Kaslo

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 rational 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 a roadless wilderness park. If permitted, the Zincton development will not just bring in 1,750, there will be further expansion (plus the employees to serve these numbers). What follows such an enterprise is the 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 ordinary people 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 never, a little ski hill looked like a good thing... but we soon had a snowball we couldn’t control... problems we’d only read about before investors decided this was the promised land. Here, as elsewhere in the Green Mountains, property has become highly coveted, exploitable, expensive. Extra services required because of the current buying binge saddling us Vermonters with some of the highest taxes in the United States...”

“In the past generation, prices have soared from $50 a tillable acre to as high as $20,000 for a quarter acre lot... many newly purchased properties are fringed with no-trespassing signs and the imported sophistication behind (these signs) leaves no time for town affairs.”

In another part of the article, a man owning some woods and a weathered house told the Geographic that his land valuation and taxes have risen threefold.

This occurred some time ago, but the same thing has been repeatedly experienced in area after area in connection with this kind of development. The changes it generates are drastic and to me, completely unwanted. I’d like to see Valhalla Pure make a normal profit, not sacrifice our area to gain the extra percentage on the sales of ski equipment, at the expense of wildlife, scenic values and the simplicity that characterizes our lives here.

The developer’s citation in his rationale about ski equipment annual growth is the undisguised aim behind this venture, and I believe he has blindly ignored the impact the project would have at all these levels. I intend to object to the project in every public forum to which I have access.

Richard Caniell
Silverton
In the land of sweaters and sticks
And COVID and 5G and the internet. Sweaters: may you have a cozy one because we always seem to need one around. Sticks: while they can make life a little more troublesome, 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 wear it.

The internet, which it if it is 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,’ is the best option in terms of speed, reliability and of course privacy.

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 travel to the mountain caribou’s home (CBTs, 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 your part before it is too late. Read the book. Google 5G. I’ll let us oblige.

Karen Newmoon, a volunteer Biologist Brenda Herbison found a spike which upped in 2005/06 a...ing us and making our rules. They say we have to get a mask during our protests and if we don’t, they will make us do so. The internet, which it if it is 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,’ is the best option in terms of speed, reliability and of course privacy. 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 travel to the mountain caribou’s home (CBTs, 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.

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Karen Newmoon, a volunteer Biologist Brenda Herbison found a spike which upped in 2005/06 a spike which upped in 2005/06 a spike which...ing a feeling of support and wanting to do the right thing for our community and our planet. We can’t imagine too many local backcountry enthusiasts willing to pay for their ‘backcountry’ experience they have enjoyed and it is supporting the owner of the property and a lot of trauma. It was touching to see people who were living in poverty and then return to the Kootenays and support local entrepreneurs, keep businesses afloat and work in the tourism industry. It was touching to see people who were living in poverty and then return to the Kootenays and support local entrepreneurs, keep businesses afloat and work in the tourism industry.

In only a few years, speculation about a changing climate has become an inescapable reality. Racial and economic inequalities can no longer be ignored by affluent white people. Capitalist resource exploitation policies are having equally catastrophic ecological and economic consequences. And an overpopulated and overly mobile species has become a perfect petri dish for microbes. What better time has there been for people to look at themselves and their community and think about doing things differently? I won’t live long enough to see the proposed Zincton development acquire the putrid atmosphere that would make an aboriginal community run in the mountains an attractive and illustrative parable for visitors. I think we already have enough monuments to this old story.

Daniel Holley
New Denver

Response to ‘Where does Canada stand?’
I am responding to Ed Zak’s letter on Israel and the West Bank and Israeli Arabs rights.

Israel has issued a historic and clear claim to Judea and Samaria and the West Bank (even before it came into possession of these areas in an act of self defence in 1967). The question now is whether to fully assert its sovereignty title to certain of these territories by simply extending its law there.

The Jewish people’s claim to the historic land of Israel was recognized by the International Committee at the San Remo Conference in 1920 and in the League of Nations mandate in 1922. This was not a new right to the land but recognition of the Jewish people’s pre-existing claim as an indigenous people to reconstitute their national sovereignty in their ancestral homeland, including the area now called the West Bank.

Sovereignty also includes the right to yield lands. The Israeli people must now decide whether to fully assert their right to certain portions of Judea and Samaria (West Bank) or yield other areas to the Palestinian claimants for the sake of peace. Sadly, previous attempts to achieve peace by yielding disputed lands to the Palestinians were met by rejection, violence and bloodshed (Gaza a good example). We have travelled and worked in Israel and were impressed by how the Israeli Arabs and Israeli Jews have the same rights in freedom of worship, to own lands to the Palestians were met by rejection, violence and bloodshed (Gaza a good example). We have travelled and worked in Israel and were impressed by how the Israeli Arabs and Israeli Jews have the same rights in freedom of worship, to own lands to the Palestians were met by rejection, violence and bloodshed (Gaza a good example).

There are bombs coming into Israel very often and this causes a lot of stress and anxiety. I have also seen wounded people from Gaza and other countries that were sending bombs brought into the Israeli hospitals where they were treated, operated on and looked after and sent home. I know of no other country that does this.

Joan Law
New Denver

Support for Zincton
I support the proposed development as outlined in the Zincton Expression of Interest, May 20, 2020, prepared by Brent Harley and Associates Inc. provided that it follows a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process, and economic spin-offs all before, with the requirements of science-based due diligence for social, environmental, and economic impacts.

Citizens in the West Kootenays are fortunate to live in one of the most pristine and beautiful parts of British Columbia, maybe the world, if they can afford it. Jobs are hard to find and many young and older workers need to work multiple jobs to generate the income they need. Those who can’t work locally, or can’t make enough money working locally, end up travelling to other parts of BC, Alberta and elsewhere in Canada to generate income and then return to the Kootenays to support local entrepreneurs, keep businesses afloat and work in the tourism industry.

Pam Peake
Silverton

Zincton smoke-screen
Is there a better way to promote sell, for the most part, worthless private property? Probably not.

Really this reminds me of the gold old ‘profit-seeking’ tradition that was, and apparently still is, such a part of the local history. Go and stake a claim, build it up with its value with an unbelievable hyperbole such as: environmentally sensitive, socially and culturally responsible, near carbon-zero, blah blah. No “all environmental study has been completed, and yet a report has apparently concluded that caribou are designated extinct in the area, and that no signs of other ungulates were found. Really... not one Elk, nor a deer, nor an elk, nor a moose. Correct me if I’m wrong, but an ungulate is a hoofed mammal, and yeah I’m quite confident I’ve seen a few of these roaming about. For the proposed site. You have to then ask where such reports come from? Clearly not from anyone who has actually skied or liked London Ridge! Of course it’s a report designed to mitigate concerns the public may have of the adverse impact that 1,700 skiers, bikers a day could have... and it’s not accurate!

We’ve heard about the great economic spin-offs all before, with the likes of Retalack, I would argue that similar exaggerated claims were made then to garner approval for their proposal. Just the language David Harley uses “...Mountain Village” doesn’t evoke a feeling for the local communities and their environmental values. Harley specifically states it will be intended for non-locals who will be encouraged to book stays for several days, but then generally says that he sure there will be a core of dedicated local backcountry enthusiasts. Can’t imagine too many local backcountry enthusiasts willing to pay for their ‘backcountry’ experience they have enjoyed and it is supporting the owner of the property and a lot of trauma. It was touching to see people who were living in poverty and then return to the Kootenays and support local entrepreneurs, keep businesses afloat and work in the tourism industry.

Gerry Devine
Kaslo

Logging caribou habitat on the AJL Face
It was surprising to see the ‘good news’ article about the Silverton-Johnson’s Landing Face logging plans in your June 4 issue. Another perspective is needed here.

Proposed block 7 was entirely left out of the article while it firmly remains in Cooper Creek Cedar’s (CCC) cutting plans. This is the most contentious block that would destroy the habitat of active mountain caribou habitat.

Biologist Brenda Herbsin found evidence of three mountain caribou utilizing this exact area last spring. It is now thought that these caribou are part of the Central Selkirk herd. At last count, less than 30 animals remain in the herd. These are the last mountain caribou in the Kootenays south of the Trans-Canada. So, the mountain caribou on proposed block 7 represent 10% of caribou remaining in the Kootenays and are an example of the importance of preserving mountain caribou on the just south of the Selkirk herd and both the South Purcell herd have recently been downlisted from special conservation status. One of extinction must stop here! To log mountain caribou habitat within these circumstances is entirely irresponsible. Until our government simply looks the other way.

Karen Newmoon, a volunteer member of a community liaison committee with CCC, is the only individual quoted in the article. She stated...
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 toward a reasonable plan.” I am sure that very few people in the community would consider logging mountain caribou habitat a part of any reasonable plan. But this is much more than just a community 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 and Minister of Environment Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson re: minister-minister@ec.gc.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 any region deemed to be caribou habitat. However as we have a government that caters to the ‘money pigs’ of the world, the following should occur.

The people of BC must come first. All back roads in BC must be reopened and maintained for all people of BC. People who come here to enjoy it will pay a fee in an amount that will provide the money to maintain these roads. Having these roads open will provide access for salvage of woodland for BC mills, and allow BC to maintain.

Caribou and helicopters: If the ministry studying caribou wants to know where and why the caribou are disappearing or have disappeared, they should plot a graph showing the increase in helicopter fuel sales compared with the decrease in the number of caribou.

When this was suggested to the ministry, the response was simply: “you are preaching to the choir but I’m not allowed to say anything.” So the people whose wages we pay to advise the government on caribou habitat while welcoming these ‘money pigs’ to put their assets on helicopters.

Disposal of human waste: When Valhalla was opened, tourists polluted Silverton with garbage that contaminated Silver Creek. All human waste must be taken out. Absolutely zero on Crown land. The number of people will dictate the weight out. Absolutely zero on Crown land. The Creek. All human waste must be taken out. The 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

Racism in North America

That a racist was even elected president speaks volumes about white supremacy in the USA. It’s all been laid bare now, eh Donnie? The racist confederate statues are being torn down, even Christopher Columbus statues are being beheaded or tossed into the ditch. After 400 years of blatant racism, its reckoning time for the USA. Donnie is running out of years and police rating down way. Even Donnie’s generals are helping out it out of the White House. Donnie claims to be the “most militaristic” president of all time. Donnie dodged Vietnam because of bone spurs – it’s laughable.

The scary part will be after the November election if Donnie LOSES. Will the military keep King Don in the White House? Will King Don respect the US election and step down if he loses to Joe Biden? USA is looking like a thug country like Egypt, Turkey or North Korea. Not everyone loves a fascist strongman, Donnie. Your white base is finally waking up and their country has itself turned into a center of racism and Police State fear with a pandemic that will kill at least another 100,000 Americans by September.

It has taken me three weeks and I have to cut short this letter to write enough to submit my final comments.

To say that I am P*#$* Off would be an understatement. I am a senior on a fixed income, and over the last five years my Old Age Pension went up 7% or 1.4% per year or $1.86 per week. My tax bill went up the same five years went up 58.2% or 11.6% per year. My tax bill from 2019 to 2020 was $277.00 or 13.44%.

Let me start with the Village of Kaslo. In your press release you indicated no tax increase this year. When I received my tax notice, General Municipal taxes went up $38 and my Water Frontage went up $66 for a total of $104. So much for holding the line!

I understand the Village has to collect taxes for shared services with the RDCK, which increased by $115 over 2019, and by a total of $278 or 42.8% over the last five years. How can you guys crazy??? This is long past due that either you cut staff or services or both. Taxpayers on fixed incomes or minimum wage cannot afford to be cash cows. Nor should you have your hands in our pockets continuously. As elected representatives, it is your job to keep the salaries bureaucrats under control, which you are not doing.

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 increase their rates with no corresponding increase in service. I have never had an accident or a claim and am at their highest discount rate, but my invoice went up $51 or 10.6% in 2020, after an increase of $71 or 7.3% the year before. Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, both levels of government had no interest in protecting the money boxers, mentally ill or for drug addiction treatment. Now they have dipped into our pockets and our children and grandchildren’s pockets for billions of dollars that will likely never be paid back and will be a drain on our economy forever.

I sincerely hope that taxpayers wake up and elect representatives at the next civic, provincial and federal elections who will have some balls and stand up to the bureaucrats who advise them to spend, spend, spend.

Val Koenig

Kaslo

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 plagued until the end of time. When we forget history, it can seem like we are floundering in a sea of panic.

Truly, there are events in our lifetimes that leave us fearful. Unfortunately, we have developed for ourselves the illusion that which does its best to ignore suffering or to 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 truth is to deal with.

This plague has exposed our shortcomings when it comes to truth. We have avoided unpleasantness for so long that when something unavoidable happens we can’t deal with it, so we shut society down altogether. We avoid the truth in our fear, choosing to hide rather than deal with the truth.

There were those at the beginning of the plague who called on us to ‘flatten the curve’ – a common-sense idea which is intended to delay the infection rate over a longer period so that medical institutions wouldn’t be overwhelmed. But in our desire to hide from reality, we began to fool ourselves into thinking that ‘flattening the curve’ meant that the plague would go away and we would all be permanently safe. That wasn’t never the case. In our fear, we are now demanding that the shutdown continue whilst levelling accusations against others who want to go back to life, saying that they ‘want Grandmas to die.’ But ‘flattening the curve’ and shutting down was never a cure; it was simply meant to postpone. Death is not something we can stop. At best, we are only able to postpone it. This doesn’t mean we should be calling to the fears of others, but it also doesn’t mean that we should pretend that the truth is untrue. Death and plague are our reality. Even if we continue our shutdown, we will not make this plague go away.

Now is the time for us to think rightly, and deal with our fears in the right way. This plague has exposed the hopelessly and comfortless culture we live in. A godless culture is a 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.

Rhys Demman

Kaslo

Dialectic reasoning

Socrates was mentioned a couple of times in recent letters to the editor. We relate 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 arguments. Socrates is a Christian who can accuse it to it to call a debate, but debates are more adversarial and tend to involve our ego’s need to be right. In dialectic reasoning, we are expected to set aside personal interest in consideration for truth that lies outside ourselves.

In debates, there is a winner and a loser. The difference is each participant becomes the winners. Debates will often have an audience which the debaters wish to influence. Many of us enjoy listening to ‘the Debaters’ on CBC radio. The winner is the one who gets most of the cheers. In a serious debate, we must be more discriminating in order to avoid being misled. We must expect disinterest among the dabaters.

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 it was a losing proposition for them with their lobbying, their influence in the media, and of course their money. Wealth that was once used to buy one way out of purgatory 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 SGIs. They had to admit there was none. This, ‘conveniently,’ gives the industry the ability to maintain that there is no evidence of harm. It is a classic example of Trump disinterest. I watched an interview with a major investor in pharmaceutical products. The investor proudly stated that he realized a 20% return on his investment. This is a distortion.

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

Norbert Duerichen

New Denver
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 science consultant for the Ministry of Forests in Nelson.

“...the future. One thing all three scenarios indicated 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 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, bals 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 funding dollars this year, and this level of interest suggests there are many local organizations ready to address the conservation issues of this region and work towards the healthy functioning ecosystems that contribute to our prized way of life in the Kootenays.”

The KLLCF was established by the RDCK in 2014 by referendum. Property owners in RDCK Electoral Areas A, D and E pay an annual tax of $15 per parcel towards this dedicated fund, which provides financial support to local projects that help conserve and restore the area’s prized natural surroundings.

To find out if your idea for a conservation project qualifies, or if you have any questions about the fund, contact Juliet Craig at 250-352-2266 or email juliet@kootenayconservation.ca.

The application intake for 2021 projects will open in August 2020 and all applications must be received on or by October 30, 2020. For more information on the KLLCF, visit kootenayconservation.ca/conservation-funds/kllcf/.
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 hometown 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 20-plus years, played around with his land, and over time says. “My father, over 20–25 years, played around

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 it, gutted it, renovated it from top to bottom, and purchased the equipment. When the Valley Voice visited, he was in the initial 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 fuss 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 to 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

Free wildfire resiliency home assessments are being offered to residents of Slocan, Silverton or New Denver by the Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program’ (SVWRP) and are an important step towards creating wildfire resilient communities.

“Residents of the Slocan Valley live within the wildland urban interface, so the risk of wildfire potentially entering one of our communities is in a reality. Preparing for such an event is an important step. We have tools to help us prepare for wildfire, one of which is encouraging residents to do all they can to ensure their home is not susceptible to ignition if a wildfire were to come within close proximity,” says Stephane Martineau, manager of SIFCo.

The assessment will offer the homeowner clear guidelines on what can be done to minimize the risk of home ignition.

To inquire about a free home assessment, or learn more about the SVWRP, visit www.sifco.ca/svwrp or contact SIFCo at wildfire@sifco.ca to set up an appointment.

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

The Nakusp RCMP that a police vehicle could have resulted in a front line police officer not being able to respond to an emergency call for service from the public,” says Epl. Jaime Moflat.

The suspect’s image was captured on a security camera. It shows a male, approximately 5’6”- 6’ tall, wearing a light-coloured pants pulled up over a baseball cap, a pair of light-coloured pants and a pair of black shoes with a reflective tab on the back. He was carrying a light-coloured backpack with a black zipper.

If anyone has any information regarding this incident please contact the Nakusp RCMP at 250-265-3677.

Nakusp Public Library offers summer reading club with space theme

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 astronomer their questions through Zoom presentations in July and August. Participants will also be encouraged to explore the local area through scavenger hunt 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 producing. To receive the materials 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 during the week 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.

Community

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The Valley Voice July 2, 2020
submit

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 November 15.

And they need the public’s help.

“Our Gallery B exhibition will feature a timeline 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 particular, the Library is seeking a card catalogue. When the Nelson Library moved into a fully online catalogue, the standing catalogues were sold, DeGrace explains. Now they’d like to borrow one back for a while.

Anyone with library artifacts or ephemera is asked to call the library at 250-352-6333 or email Chief Librarian Tracy Therrien at therrien@nelson.ca.

Add your writing to the library

The library isn’t just a place to find stories – it wants to collect new ones in a writing contest open to all ages. Creative written storytelling methods are encouraged, including stories and anecdotes, poetry, and comics. Memories, such as funny or quirky moments at the library or the ways the library has had an impact are all welcome.

People can answer the question: “What did the library mean to you during COVID-19 isolation?” or get imaginative with “What will the Nelson Public Library of the future look like in 2120?” among other prompts. Submissions must be 500 words or less.

Prizes will be awarded in two story categories (Best Story and Most Creative Story) in three age categories (Children, Adult, and Teen). Contest prizes have been generously donated by the Canadian Federation of University Women Nelson and District.

Winners will receive a $50 gift card to a local business, but all entries will be considered for Touchstones Nelson historical exhibition this fall, or in its companion book. Guidelines for the writing contest can be found at www.nelsonlibRARY.ca. Email submissions to hgdildd@nelson.ca or mail to 602 Stanley St., Nelson BC, VIL 1N4.

Community

Woodpecker’s work

First the truly thrilling news: we have woodpeckers! Plus we see a fair number of local dead trees at the marsh property. This technique is helpful to create micro-habitat features and other important micro-habitat features and other immediate habitat for roosting bats, and variable in length (i.e., 50-100 cm). Stem scuffs serve as visual indicators/demarcators 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 and access water (for airborne insect prey).

For our Gallery B exhibition we have moved in to our newly created Big Pond at the south end of the Sanctuary! This means that an area that last year at this time was an ecologically sterile, compacted parking lot/road is now a pond that is home to baby amphibians beginning their life-cycle.

Wildlife biologist Jakob Duquette stopped by the marsh to check on the new wetland and found long-toed salamanders and Pacific tree-frogs breeding there. Adult Columbia spotted frogs were present too. The birds were very active so he stayed for a couple of hours and recorded 51 species, including two species that are vital to birds, plants, animals, and us humans.

Woodpecker

For water-based creatures to create habitats for terrestrial creatures… we recently brought in a specialist faller from Kokad Tree Service to cut down several tall dead trees at the marsh property. These trees were right next to the public-access, swamp-viewing area and we didn’t want them to fall over in a strong wind and potentially injure anyone.

In preparation to once again host school groups at the marsh, once school is back in session, plus we’re a far number of local people there for birdwatching and nature appreciation.

In the interests of safety we cannot let the experts to deal with these trees. Instead of cutting them down completely, we had them limbed and left as stubs about 16 feet off the ground so they could serve as wildlife trees. Cavities in dead trees are used as habitat for woodpeckers, tree-nesting ducks, bats, insects, etc.

Once fallen Adrian scalded all the way up a tree, limbing it as he went, he cut the tree

Holy Bat Tree, Batman! Expert tree-faller Adrian from Kokad Tree Service gives the thumbs-up to a bat site he just created in a dead tree at Snk’mp Marsh Sanctuary. The stil is to the left of his hands.

As the finishing touch, he cut a two-inch slit near the tops of the stubs to serve as a roosting place for bats. We checked with tree-faller expert and biologist Todd Manning who confirmed that this technique is helpful to create long-term tree habitats.

We hope to do more bat-slit creation in the fall, once we’ve completed the “heavy lifting” of the work of wetland restoration this summer. Here is what’s planned:

Our wetland restoration expert Robin AnnSchild will be with us once again, supervising the work

For expert machine operators Mike and Stuart Nelson. We will be concentrating on two areas that were considerably altered by the previous owner of the property.

The first is at the north end of the property where we’re working to remove fill (sand and gravel) that was pushed into the wetland. Times certainly change: it used to be the fashion to fill in wetlands, now we go to considerable effort to protect and expand them.

After all that in-fill is dug out (and returned to the gravel pit area) exposing the original wetland pond, we’ll also be recontouring the bank and stabilizing it with the dumps and debris we have stockpiled (brought to the marsh from the Silverton campground tree removal project) and then planting native shrubs and grasses.

We’ll also be tidying up the public marsh-viewing/interpretive area and developing a public access plan. The intention is to keep things natural, key ways and easily accessible for visitors who wish to quietly enjoy nature.

This site must be the fashion to rehabilitate the gravel pit area at the south end of the Snk’mp property. This area was seriously ecologically damaged by commercial-scale gravel removal and road-building.

Wetland

We’ve already done a considerable amount of work there (saving L’arche 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 nice vista.

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’mp will be turned back over to Mother Nature to heal its wounds and provide the wetland ecosystem services that are so vital to birds, plants, animals, reptiles, amphibians... and us humans.
Epic valedictorian speech by ya bois Chase ’n’ Aidan

by Aidan Ostrikoff and Chase Stoochnoff

Chase: High School seemed to go by really fast. It feels like I just woke up one morning in grade 7 and now I’m here. I remember thinking Campbell was the strict guy around here… BOY was I wrong.

Aidan: Yeah, and I remember thinking that Learning was this funny, tech dude who played video games… wait.

Chase: Hey, do you remember when that rumour of Joe retiring went around? Aidan: Haha, which one?

Chase: At the end of every year. Aidan: Oh yeah, that one. Well, have fun at the school next year, Joe.

Chase: What about Oly? Who’s gonna keep the other old man from making kids do jumps forever?

Aidan: Or give us a math lesson in every class but math.

Chase: But in all seriousness, we would like to say a very special thank you to all the teachers that have taught us throughout the years, the custodians for keeping us clean, the hot lunch program through the years, the custodians for keeping us fed with nutritious and creative meals, the Janitorium for providing us with a clean and safe learning environment, the bus drivers for getting us here on time… most of the time.

Aidan: All of these people and so many others have really made Mount Sentinel and Sequoia the warm and welcoming schools they have been for us, and we can’t thank you enough. Our school has really become a second home for many of us, and leaving it will be very bittersweet. We will take a little of you with us wherever we go, along with all the memories we made.

Chase: Thank you so much Mr. Leeming, Mr. Schindel and the entire Performance and Media Academy for all your hard work in making this virtual grad possible. And Leeming and Schindel, keep inspiring kids to create as awesomely cool things as you did.

Aidan: We would now like to make reference to some of the teachers who have left Mount Sentinel over the years, but are still with us in our hearts and memories. First we have Mr. Davina, who was one of our beloved science teachers, and crossword puzzle enthusiast. Waiting for the rest of the class to finish their work? Not to worry, Mr. Davina has an unlimited supply of puzzles just for you!

Chase: Next I would like to mention Mr. Brian Simpson. Brian and I had a bit of a special connection. He would never admit it, but he was obviously my favourite student.

Aidan: Right, and last, but certainly not least, the wonderful Ms. Shipley, who always made drama, English, and any class she taught super fun and meaningful. I’ll never forget the many plays and performances I got to watch and be a part of because of her.

Chase: While we’re making reference to people who sadly won’t be seeing us graduate, I’d like to make reference to the volunteer coaches for all of our sports teams. Thank you for all your sacrifices, we really appreciate for any injuries that may have happened over our time together. Sorry, coach.

Aidan: Wait, the phone! Campbell and Ms. Anderson are leaving next year! First we need to thank Ms. Sarah “Anki” Wick. Whether it was with an arm around us, or encouraging us to use our poor acting skills and put on a play, you always made English class fun.

Chase: I think I still have bruises from that damned clapping game.

Aidan: So have fun being some big shot principal in Crawford Bay or wherever, or not like we care. (Sad face.) And now we have to make mention to the man, the myth, and the legend, Chief Campbell.

Chase: I mean Campbell has been here for quite a while. He’s no Joe, but he was almost half way through his tenure 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. From 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. From 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.

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Aidan: And so this is it. The bittersweet end of the first chapter in our lives. And now, we’re all heading off to start our own journeys. Where life takes us, who knows. We may end up in places we never thought we’d be, but wherever it takes us, we will always have a home here at Mount Sentinel Secondary School.

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 the way of us planned it to end, but all of us have made a bad situation.

Aidan: We have come a long way together and although we couldn’t be together to celebrate the end of this journey, it is definitely one we will never forget. All the times we’ve had here, and the memories made, both good and bad, will help us all grow into the people we are meant to be.

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

Kole Friesen  Grace Lamb  Chase Siscofro  Peder Kratsios  Patrick Cunney  Tristan Geswein  Jacob Robinson  Tula Belanger

Emily Taburiaux  Brandon Barisoff  Aidan Ostrikoff  Ryan Kooznetoff  Hunter Te Boekhorst  Aisha Makortoff  Dyan Geswein  Freya Gurry

Kolby Gnaloff  Lavelle Gates  Caitlin Devora  Denny Hearnabnck Petit  Nathan Hernandez  Mina Sudbahan  Megan Koif  Kylre Harrce

Kemery Kars  Melissa Lutens  Yana Meek  Hannah Sclfelloff  Aisela Gyp  Logan Bhart  Abel Eliaz  Keiya Heany

Koby Lutney  Colten Hauge  Jeannette Heylger Y  Delena  Bmabshow  Eric Halvth  Solara Wild  Rowan Cotbene  Ryan Henderson

Xavier Moore  Jennah Hanafi  Mia Daniel  Haley Sclfelloff  Kyle Katabom  Wesley Podovilenoff  William MacDonald  Gavin Hesven

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
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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Mt. Sentinel grad Freya Emery receives Beedie Luminaries Scholarship

Congratulations to Freya Emery, the recipient of 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.

As all of you know, school has been very different for the past couple of months. Life has been different for all of us, and we have all experienced unique challenges.

We have had to rethink our post-secondary education and other aspects of our future, and with all of this uncertainty it has been hard at times to continue with our schoolwork and online classes.

We made it though, with the help of our community, our families, our friends, and our teachers, we are here today to continue into the next chapter of our lives.

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.
Congratulations to the 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!

New Denver Community Pharmacy

Congratulations Graduates! Prolifically supporting our community and our 2020 graduates

Rutabaga’s Whole Foods

wishes the Graduating Class every success!

Main St
New Denver
358-7900

Sandvilla

Congratulations Graduates and Best Wishes for the future!

SDIO

World Class Learning in a Rural Environment

RHC

To the Graduating Class of 2020

CONGRATULATES

THE LUCERNE 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 every day.

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. Danne’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. Ener 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 as to reflect our unique personalities, and we have still 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 into the world; our 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 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 feel quite real, we are all here today and we are all here together, and we hope to keep it that way. I had a German friend once and when he was leaving Canada to go back home, I had to say goodbye. Saying goodbye and letting go can be incredibly hard. But he told me in Germany, they have a saying, “People always meet twice in life.” Now maybe it isn’t an actual German saying and instead, this was his way of comforting me, but I hope he was right.

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

Justin Anderson: Kaslo Community Forest Trades, Royal Canadian Legion #74, Alan Houdsziska Memorial, Columbia Power Corporation, Hospital Employees’ Union, Kaslo

Jenna Cameron: Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake, Kaslo Community Forest Trades, Edie Allen, Sinclair Memorial, JVH Parent Advisory Council, Rowan Wilse Memorial

Rosie Carter: Royal Canadian Legion #74, Howard Green Memorial

Finlay Chant: Kaslo Community Forest Trades, Kaslo Golf Club, Village of Kaslo

Jacob Cymko: Columbia Power Corporation, Howard Green Memorial

Kailen Coghlan: Kaslo Masonic Lodge #75, Howard Green Memorial

Ethan McCowan: Kaslo Masonic Lodge #25, Howard Green Memorial

Kailen Coghlan: Columbia Power Corporation, Howard Green Memorial

Jacob Chymko: Columbia Power Corporation, Howard Green Memorial

Ethan McCowan: Columbia Power Corporation, Butler Buffer Memorial

Julian Enns: Columbia Power Corporation, Howard Green Memorial

Jace Lamoureux: Selkirk Board of Governance Early Entrance, BC

Congratulations Grads
Go confidently in the direction of your dreams
Cornucopia

The Natural Choice
Healthy, happy, bright

Class of 2020, the future is yours.
Nothing can stop you!
Kaslo Masonic Lodge #75

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.

Best wishes to all of our Grads!

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Kaslo Building Supplies
250-353-7628

Kaslo Masonic Lodge #75, Howard Green Memorial, Selkirk Board of Governance Early Entrance, BC
JV Humphries school graduates a class of 22 young men and women in 2020

Angel Gomez Perez
Aza Hohmann
Callum McDougall
Elliot Whitney
Ethan McGowan
Finley Chant
Jace Lamoureux
Jacob Chynko
Jaden Smith
Jenna Cameron
Joshua Huber
Julian Enns
Justin Anderson
Kahlan Coghlan
Layla Tyers
Liam Tremblay
Murphy Threeh
Nikii Scott-Cox
Quinn Einer
Rosie Carter
Sayle Matthews
Tyler Hasme

Angel Gomez Perez Aza Hohmann Callum McDougall Elliot Whitney Ethan McGowan Finley Chant Jace Lamoureux Jacob Chynko Jaden Smith Jenna Cameron Joshua Huber Julian Enns Justin Anderson Kahlan Coghlan Layla Tyers Liam Tremblay Murphy Threeh Nikii Scott-Cox Quinn Einer Rosie Carter Sayle Matthews Tyler Hasme

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

Eric’s Meat Market & Deli
“Serving Kaslo and Area since 1942”
Congratulations & best wishes to the 2020 Graduating Class of J. V. Humphries School!

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

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

Congratulations, Graduates!

Supporting your health & wellness

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

Toll-free: 1-888-244-3977
Nakusp starts new community garden

by MoE Lyons

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

Thanks to the generosity of landowner Dennis Bruneau, the Old Firehall Collective has organized a large community garden up Hot Springs Road. Bruneau 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 to take this seriously, and stresses, “They have to understand they are committing themselves.”

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 individuals or families is 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 Community Garden, it was initially sponsored by Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services, and eventually found its main home behind St. Mark’s Anglican Church. Unfortunately, the church is now for sale and this garden is no longer available.

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 Kooteny Co-op.

VILLAGE OF NEW DERNEW PUBLIC NOTICES

PROPERTY TAXES

Property owners of the Village of New Denver are reminded that the 2020 Property Tax notices have been mailed out. If you have not received your notice, please call or email the Village Office.

Residential property taxes are due on or before Wednesday, July 15, 2020. If possible, please arrange your payment by mail, e-transfer or KSCU online payment. The Village Office is open to the public in a limited capacity allowing only one person at a time.

Completed home owner grant forms are due on or before July 15, 2020 and can be mailed to the office or placed in the drop-box located outside the office.

For information regarding property tax deferment programs, please visit our website.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION REBATES

Planning to do some wildfire mitigation this summer? Did you know that you can get up to 50% of mitigation costs (maximum $500 per property) reimbursed? To qualify, you will need to have a FireSmart Assessment on your property conducted by a qualified Local FireSmart Representative. After your first assessment, you are required to complete activities that are recommended and that are eligible under the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program. After completing the activities, a follow-up assessment is required to review your activities, as well as costs or receipts before your rebate is approved. For more information on eligibility or rebates, please contact the Village Office.

Residents who would like a free home or land assessment on their property can contact Slocan Integral Forestry CO-OP (SIFCo) by phone 250-226-7012 or email wildfire@sifco.ca.

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Municipal garbage collection takes place every Tuesday for residential properties in New Denver. Residents are reminded that solid waste must be bagged, tagged and placed at the garbage can before being placed curbside 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) 356-2316 - office@newdenverca - www.newdenverca.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 Nakusp.

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, 2019 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:

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

• Slocan Valley Regional 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 Development Strategy, 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 ($300,000): 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 • Former BC minister and MLA Ed Conroy passes away submitted

Former BC minister and Kootenay MLA Ed Conroy passed away June 26 at the age of 73. He died of natural causes.

“It is with a heavy heart we learned of the passing of our dear friend Ed Conroy,” said New Democrat BC Government Caucus Chair Jagrup Brar.

“Ed gave so much to everyone in British Columbia, and did so with kindness at every step. Our entire New Democratic caucus sends our condolences and love to Ed’s wife Katrine, and their entire family.”

Ed Conroy served as the Minister of Children and Family Development.

In addition to serving as a minister and MLA, Ed Conroy was a towboat operator, school trustee, school board vice-chair, and helped create the Columbia Basin Trust along with Corky Evans.

Ed lived with his wife Katrine in Pass Creek, where they ran a ranch breeding prize-winning Polled Hereford cattle.

He is survived by his wife, four children, their spouses, nine grandchildren and a large extended family.

Ed Conroy has served as the NDP MLA for the renamed constituency (West Kootenay Boundary and Kootenay West), and is currently the Minister for Children and Family Development.

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 Nakusp.

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.

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Open burning temporarily allowed in Southeast Fire Centre

July 2, 2020
The Valley Voice

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.

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 by calling 1-888-797-1717. A burn registration number is not required to light a Category 2 open fire.
by John Borin, 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 Kaslo. 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 facility built between Kaslo and New Denver.

Council wrote to the Mountain Resorts Branch, who are reviewing the proposal, that it needs “further information before being able to consider supporting such a venture.”

While council recognized the economic boost it could give to the region, they cautioned that there were other proposals in the works for the same area.

“They are in consideration of these potential developments as a whole rather than individually,” the letter reads, “…as together these proposals can bring significant benefits and undesirable impacts to the area.”

Among those impacts would be greenhouse gas emissions, increased traffic along the winding, narrow highway, the greater demand placed upon public services like emergency services and infrastructure, as well as impacts on affordable housing in the area.

“What with great interest, we would appreciate being included in future consultations on this and other proposed developments in the area as they evolve, and hope that the proponents will reach out to us in Kaslo about their plans at an appropriate time,” council concluded.

Aerodrome upgrade

There’s going to be a lot of work up at Kaslo’s Aerodrome over the next few years. Council’s Committee of the Whole (COTW) reviewed the current situation at the 100-year-old facility at its recent COTW meeting. Among the plans are a number of new hangars for airplanes, better roads in and out of the area, and new security fencing.

“New development, the growth of heli-skiting, and limited space available at Nelson Airport have increased the demand for hangar space in Kaslo,” staff noted.

But first council needs to know who owns what up there: legal surveys and land titles are many decades old, if they exist at all in some cases. So council approved a plan to spend $20,000 on a complete re-do of the surveys of the facility. From there, legal titles will be refreshed and the real work can begin improving the airport. The bulk of the money for the project will come from a Rural Development Fund grant ($16,000) as well as the Aerodrome’s own reserves.

COVID Recovery support

Acting on a recommendation from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Committee Village staff will write a letter to local businesses to let them know that the Village is there to help and support them. Staff will draft a letter that describes the services available from the Village, property owners, information about support programs and initiatives from other organizations, and general planning and development matters.

A night at the ballet at City Hall

A bit of higher 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 delighted as local performing artists, and our hope is to film our contribution in advance of the long weekend,” 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 and why I think the Kaslo City Hall would be a great fit for a performance,” she added.

Kaslo council, June 23: Zincton, aerodrome upgrades, and water for the Thrift Store

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 site is to provide 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 KNL region (Nelson, Balfour, Ainsworth Hot Springs, Kaslo, East Shore, North Kootenay). 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 clipping in the $1,000 towards the project’s approximately $8,300 budget – if the money raised benefits the Village.

Peanut gallery to reopen

As the province moves towards reopening more sites, many of the same. Council adopted a provincial directive allowing it to partially reopen its public gallery 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 of the public.

The changes approved by council will come into effect at its July meeting. Zoom access will continue, however, for those who follow 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 $9,000 to help the Thrift Store get running water.

The Thrift Store is in a building leased to the Village from 1980.

The building was never hooked up to water service, but that became a possibility when a sewer main was installed along the laneway 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 building. However, though – the auxiliary is responsible for all renovation and building costs, including plumbing and permitting. They are to look for a grant for the ongoing water and sewer utility fees.

The value of the project – mandatory connection fees, materials and three days of Village crew time to bring the 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.

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The Valley Voice July 2, 2020

22

KASLO & DISTRICT

VICTORIAN HOSPITAL OF KASLO AUXILIARY SOCIETY NEWS

August 2020

Lamoureux this year. Tuition was granted for a paramedic to upgrade skills, which will provide increased services at the Kootenay Boundary Healthcare Centre, JVH breakfast program, Kaslo Community Acupuncture Society, JVH Exercise Room, NLKCSS Health Services, Kaslo Seniors and individuals have all benefited from VIKAS support.

At this time, the Thrift Store is closed and is being refreshed and repainted. When all your COVID-19 cupboards are cleaned, efforts are donated, there will be space for them. As the store is small, a limited number of consignments will be allowed in at a time. Your patience and support will be required. Purchases will continue to be made by donation (transfer or cash)

Because of the Thrift Store closure, VIKAS income is down, and community support programs will be affected. The auxiliary will help by donating cash or food. Members of VIKAS and staff are volunteers.

To join as a volunteer, contact President Dianna Parker (250-353-0373, diannamsmith75@gmail.com), check the Facebook page or drop by the Thrift Store. Donations can be made at the kaslo VIKAS account #25098 Zimerzner, marked ‘donation’ or ‘membership.’

The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society invites our members and community to follow operations on our social media sites where social distancing measures are in place: https://kaslocommunityforest.org/

https://www.facebook.com/kaslocommunityforest/ Find links provided to join virtual board meetings every third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. ACUPUNCTURE AGAIN!

KASLO COMMUNITY ACUPUNCTURE will be starting Friday, June 26, 1:00 at a new location, 430 “B” Ave – Kaslo Community Church, back entrance. Extended hours 1- 5, every 2nd and 4th Friday. By donation or MSP. Only 4 allowed at a time, no waiting space at this time. Watch for posters & Facebook for more details.

& closed

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The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society invites our members and community to follow operations on our social media sites where social distancing measures are in place: https://kaslocommunityforest.org/

https://www.facebook.com/kaslocommunityforest/ Find links provided to join virtual board meetings every third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.
Kaslo 2.0: planning a ‘renaissance’ for the post-COVID world

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

July 2, 2020

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 Randy Morse. “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?

“This is the moment for rural BC to come back into the spotlight, to be the economic driver of our province,” 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.”

July 2, 2020
The Valley Voice
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 Glenacres 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 person — were: traffic, safety, privacy and noise.

“I am now extremely concerned that my property will become less valuable,” wrote Catherine Padini, a nurse who said she was “devastated” when she received notice of the project. She wrote she was moving to Nakusp and was building on a neighbouring property. “…As it stands now I am wondering if it may be wise for me to put up a fence or a construction on my lot and put it up for sale.”

No one spoke in favour of the proposal.

Complicating matters was a revelation that a covenant had been attached to all the properties in the initial subdivision, back in the ’70s, that forbids building multi-family units. While that wasn’t necessarily a deal-breaker, council was concerned enough about the community feedback that the requested zoning change was unanimously rejected.

Bike rack designs wanted

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 an unused bike rack located outside the arena doors to a spot just outside the Save-On grocery store.

Council and administration

The facility announced last week it was going to reopen its chalets, campground and pools on Monday, June 29, though work on signage and protocols for occupancy restrictions will be completed.

There are the typical provisions: people are to keep physically distant, not visit the facility if they have symptoms of COVID-19, be 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 those 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 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 are still closed for cleaning between those periods.

Nakusp Hot Springs cautiously reopens; others remain closed to public

by John Boivin, Local journalism Initiative reporter

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Storm damages private bridge near Burton

by John Boivin, Local journalism Initiative reporter

A private bridge across Caribou Creek near Burton was swept off its moorings by a result of the massive thunderstorm that moved through the area on May 31.

“Fisherman of the creek,” said a spokesman for Nakusp’s maintenance operations. “The bridge now lies in the water, and a log jam is slowly building up behind it.”

Officials say they’re on top of the situation.

“We became aware of the washout we attended the site,” said Tennant. “That washout is the weight of the water and debris from the flooding event. We left him with information he would have to review in order to have the bridge removed.”

The Province’s natural resources ministry was also investigated and has a team consulting with the owner about the cleanup process, Levitt added.

“While the stewardship team is trying to help the landowner find the best way to get the bridge out of the creek,” said a spokesman for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, which oversees such situations. “The landowner is working on getting the bridge removed, and the in-stream works have to be authorized by [the department].”

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 of trustees held its last meeting until fall in mid-June. Here are the highlights.

Superintendent Terry Taylor says it’s “probably one of the best races” across the school district with students and staff 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 next, 57% were in classes with their teachers and support staff.

Forty-three percent of families to date have chosen to remote learn, said Taylor, either because remote learning is working well for their family, or that it isn’t working but change isn’t ideal for their kids at this time, or returning to class in June didn’t meet the family’s needs.

Taylor thanked staff for their adaptivity and flexibility in teaching kids both remotely and in person.

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 of course on the current conditions 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 "remains on target for opening as scheduled September 8th and remains on budget," Taylor told the board. Design work on play areas is proceeding after consultations with user groups who may lose a bit of public space. However, the new daycare’s play space will be available to the public after school hours.

The district is still waiting for word from the Province for funding for a new daycare attached to Nakusp’s elementary school. Word on that should come this summer.

• The board is finally getting around to replacing its antiquated accounting and human resources software. If approved the spending of $200,000 over the next four years for adoption and support of new software to replace its old system. And you can’t accuse the district of always chasing after the latest computer developments.

23: Are you ready for fire season?

Development Implementation Project, a partnership among the Villages of New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and RDCK, and the Silverton FireSmart Society (board)’s out for summer

by Kathy Hartman
Help to fireproof your property

New Denver residents who want to reduce wildfire risk on their property can now get some free help from the Village, in partnership with SFICo (Slocan Integrated Forestry Co-op). 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. All private homes in the New Denver area are eligible for the funding, but there is only enough money for a limited number of homes, making it a first-come, first-served program. A FireSmart rep will come and visit your home and make recommendations to reduce the chance of a wildfire spreading through your property. Once the FireSmart recommendations have been completed, program officials will estimate costs (e.g. receipts and/or proof of labour) and approve the rebates. Rebates are limited to 50% of the total cost of the eligible activities identified above and no more than $500 per property.

To book a FireSmart assessment, visit www.sfic.co or contact the Village office.

Trails and forest service roads need repair

The extreme weather events this spring have taken a toll on many popular trails and forest service roads in the area, and the Village says it now has the Notice on Title removed. Hellyer did some renovations without a building permit, which contravenes a building ordinance. Council voted to place a Notice on Title with a Notice on Title maker sectors; cannabis industry development; tourism marketing.

Homeowner slapped with a Notice on Title

Hellyer said “I come from Hills, There, either you do it right, or you do it again. Yes, it’s safe.”

Councillor suggested that since Hellyer took pictures of the job, perhaps an engineer could approve his work. That would allow him to have the Notice on Title removed.

Donation Store Opens July 6 with COVID-19 Modifications

Monday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

• All patrons will enter through the Highway 6 door and exit through the Slocan Avenue door. Hand sanitizing will be mandatory; a station will be available at the entrance.

• No personal shopping bags will be allowed; single use bags will be supplied.

First week only: NO DONATION ITEMS ACCEPTED $5.00 BAG SALE

Thanks for your continued support. We look forward to serving the community again.
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**SLOCAN SATURDAY MARKET** featuring **local farmers, food and artisans** every **Saturday, 10 am-2 pm June, July and August.** See **you there.**

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**SUMMER READING CLUB** is available **now**! **Register** at **bc.cca**. **No computer?** **No problem! We have other**

**CLASSIFIED ADS** fun activities for you. **Call Nakup Public Library** at **250-226-3563**.

**AT THE HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY** **Nancy Anderson’s** photographs 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**. **Visit** our **website**. **For more information please visit hidden-SG.ca**.

**FOR SALE**

**SOLD OUT** $999 for a **best** offer. **Modular building** - approx. 28’ x 32’ /w truss roof. **Building** - approx. 28’ x 32’ /w truss roof. **Must** be dismantled to be moved. **Removal** and **site clean up** to be completed by **August 15, 2020. Located at W** E Graham School, 915 Harold St, **Slocan, BC. For information or to arrange for viewing** contact: **Bruce MacLean, Director Operations**, 250-354-4871 or **Bruce.MacLean@sd8.bc.ca.**

**REIKI, HANDS-ON HEALING** and CCMA sessions for **past** and **present** students. **Also** classes. **Ages** 18-35, **30 yrs experience**. **Winnipeg, 250-226-7268.**

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

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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 their way 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 licences 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.

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

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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The Cannabis Production Regulatory Navigator has been created to help prospective cannabis cultivators and processors work their way 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 licences 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.

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

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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.

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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 materials 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 courts 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

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 #mkmkootenaylocal. 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 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/mkmkootenaylocal-photo-contest/

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.

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 Charles; 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/waysotohelp/ would be greatly appreciated.

Laurence’s family express their thanks for the care provided by the staff of Halcyon Home, Minto House, and Dr. Craig Courchesne. Valley Funeral Home in care of arrangements.
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 for 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 licencees (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 $156,900 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 Nora 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. While this year has been challenging, the RDCK was able to secure some funds to replace portions of the aging structure.

RDCK board Chair (and Area D Director) Aimee Watson made the most money from her position, at $105,190 in salary, committee work and expenses. Area C Director Walter Popoff made $67,896 in salary and expenses; and Area K Director Paul Peterson made $54,384. For directors who also sit on municipal councils, Nakusp Mayor Susan Hewat made $34,567 for her RDCK and other committee work; Nakusp Councillor Joseph Hughes made $28,872; New Denver Councillor Colin Moss made $27,937; Silverton Councillor Leah Main, who is active on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, made $43,185; and Slocan councillor Jessika Lund made $26,540.

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;
- Sangita Sudan, the general manager of Columbia Basin Trust, who made $131,749 plus expenses;
- Paul Hargreave, the general manager of regional planning tables, who both earned $131,749 plus expenses.

Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives funds disbursed

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 ($100,000) and Health Connection bus service ($25,000); Arrow Lakes Cross-County Ski Club - snowmobile and groomer purchase ($39,000); Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital and Health Foundation - Urologist and ENT Support Project ($20,649); Kootenay Co-op Radio - upgrades to service ($8,125); Nakusp Centennial Golf Course - update golf cart fleet ($14,000); Nakusp Fire Brigade – road rescue stabilization equipment ($15,000); Nakusp Public Library - new computers ($9,999); Nakusp Rail Society ($10,000); Nakusp Ski Club - grooming 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 ($6,870).

A complete list of all the grant recipients can be found on the RDCK website.
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 Shauna Robertson, who brainstormed ways to deepen outdoor experiential learning. What resulted is the outdoor classroom, a sheltered 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 the 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 Shauna 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 about our community 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 creations 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 Anniah 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 then will 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.

For more information about Whole School programs, visit www.wholeschool.ca or contact the school at wholeschool@gmail.com or call (250) 226-7737.

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, Rosebery Highlands, South Slocan, McDonald Creek 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 reservoirs decline to critically low levels.

Stage one water conservation measures include watering of lawns (including new lawns), gardens, trees and shrubs only between the hours of 7pm and 10am. 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.

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