The Village of Slocan to purchase waterfront mill property

by Jan McMurray

The Village of Slocan may soon be the new owner of the former sawmill property on Slocan’s waterfront.

According to a report written by Slocan CAO Michelle Gordon, the Village’s offer of $1.5 million for the nearly 20-acre piece of waterfront has been accepted, with a closing date of September 15.

“Council recognizes the importance of the site – not only for the future of the community, but for the region as a whole,” said Mayor Jessica Lunn in a Facebook post. “The 19.22-acre property presents an incredibly unique opportunity, and holds tremendous social, environmental, and economic value to Slocan Valley residents. Council looks forward to working with the community on a long-term, sustainable vision for Slocan!”

At a historic special meeting on July 30, council voted unanimously to give three readings to a bylaw to borrow $845,000 for the purchase. The borrowing bylaw has now gone to the inspector of municipalities for approval.

The Village plans to pay for the property with the proposed $845,000 loan from the Municipal Finance Authority, $180,000 from the Village’s Land Sale Reserve, and $475,000 from general surplus, states the CAO’s report, which includes information from Chief Financial Officer Colin McClure.

The bottom line for residents is a proposed 3% tax increase, to raise a portion of the annual payment on the $845,000 loan. This would amount to an increase of about $21 over 2020 municipal taxes on an average home in Slocan with an assessment value of about $164,000.

Mayor Lunn said that once the property is secured, council will need time to gather more information and strategize the best way to move forward. “We know that it has been several years since our OCP was updated, that we have many new residents in town – and interestingly, 2021 is Slocan’s 120th birthday. I would think that 2021 would be an opportune time to engage and strategize a sustainable vision and future for Slocan, inclusive of a thoughtful, sustainable and spectacular vision for the mill site. We are extremely excited at the potential to have a fulsome conversation that this community has wanted to have for many years now.”

The CAO report mentions that council has a confidential environmental report procured by Columbia Basin Trust, outlining the level of contamination and recommendations for remediation.

Mayor Jessica Lunn added in an email to the Valley Voice that there are several documents available to the Village that provide information on environmental assessment work that has been done to date. “We know that a remediation plan will need to be developed and submitted to the Province, and that the plan will likely be tied to future use of the site,” Mayor Lunn said. “Costs of remediation may vary depending on the plan.”

The CAO report also mentions possible private sector development on the land. “An immediate public sector investment does not preclude future private sector investments, based on a well-thought-out plan. Given the minimum lot size in the current zones, the proposed lot could support a variety of subdivision development scenarios.”

Since Springer Creek Forest Products closed down in 2013 and the property went up for sale in 2014, feedback from the public has favoured ownership reverting back to the Village, the CAO’s report says. So council started looking into buying the property, and staff assessed the viability of the purchase by consulting with ministry stakeholders and environmental engineers. Staff also consulted with its financial officers, the Municipal Finance Association (the Village’s lender), and the Columbia Basin Trust.

In mid-June, council learned that the principle owner of the mill site had died suddenly. Shortly afterward, the property’s price tag dropped from $2.3 million to $1.6 million. At an in-camera meeting July 6, council agreed to make an offer of $1.5 million, with a closing date of October 15. The price was accepted, continued on page 2

The Village of Slocan may soon be the new owner of the former sawmill property on Slocan’s waterfront.
Facing criticism, Kaslo council promises to redo anti-racism pledge

by John Botvin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Kaslo Village council has promised to rescind an anti-racism proclamation it passed in July that removed references to persons of colour and aboriginal people, and replace it with a stronger statement.

Council made the decision at its Committee of the Whole meeting on July 28.

The motion to rescind the earlier proclamation and replace it was passed without debate and barely a comment by councillors. However, after the motion passed, Councillor Kellie Knowles tried to explain the reason the change was made. “It was done in good faith, it was not done to discredit the global movement that was occurring at the time,” he said. “We are only human, and we were acting on the information that was presented to us for the first time.

“Most of our focus the last few months has been on how to deal with this unprecedented COVID pandemic and its disastrous effects on our community and the economy along with the regular running of council. I have to say these people here are genuine, and their hearts are in the right place. The time we put in making the community a better place should not go unnoticed.

Council unashed a firestorm of criticism after it passed a watered-down version of the provincial #DifferentTogetherPledge at its July 14 meeting. Councillor Henry Van Mill noted at the time that the pledge preceding the proclamation specified the racism faced by “persons of colour and indigenous persons.”

“I think it’s great, but I kind of don’t like that part,” said Van Mill at the time, and suggested council change it to refer to “all ethnicities, cultures and faiths.” That motion was carried unanimously.

Activists in Kaslo panned the change, saying it took the anti-racism out of the anti-racism pledge.

“As true as that all lives matter, when one group of people faces systemic discrimination and injustice in our society, we need to support and stand in solidarity with that particular group,” Kevin John urged council to change the proclamation back to its original statement, or adopt a stronger one his group, the Anti-Racism Collective of Kaslo and area, offered.

Councillor Van Mill said, “The Village of Kaslo believes in an inclusive society where all people feel safe, respected and are treated equitably and with dignity.

The Village recognizes this is a crucial time to listen and learn about discrimination and racism experienced by members of our community. Eliminating racism and discrimination in Kaslo is essential. We stand together and are committed to make positive changes for Black, Indigenous, and all people who experience racism in Kaslo and each of us hereby support the #DifferentTogetherPledge initiated by the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.”

The Committee of the Whole approved the change unanimously. The original motion was expected to be rescinded and the new one ratified at the August 11 council meeting.

Council will also consider adding an acknowledgement of Indigenous land title to the beginning of each meeting. That acknowledgement, made by many councils and school boards across BC, notes that the meeting and activities of council are taking place on unceded First Nations territory.

Council directed staff to look at the wording other boards use, consult with lawyers, and bring a proposed statement to an upcoming council meeting for discussion and adoption.
Nakusp’s first cannabis retail store to open

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative

Residents of Nakusp will no longer have to drive nearly two hours to pick up their recreational marijuana.

The village’s very own pot shop – Mount Odin Cannabis – will be opening up by the end of August, says one of the store’s owners.

“We’re basically nearing the last stages here,” says Chelsea Potter. “Once some shipments come in, we can do our final inspection – we have a fellow coming in to do that. And once he gives his final stamp of approval that everything’s up to code, we’ll be able to order our product and open!”

Potter and her partner, Colin Hanet, first came to Nakusp about two years ago and fell in love with the place. They also saw the opportunity for a cannabis store in Nakusp.

They began renting a location – 312 Broadway – and working to receive provincial and federal approvals for the store.

The name ‘Mount Odin Cannabis’ was chosen to reflect the community and nature that surrounds it, she says.

“The name was inspired by the mountain that’s local, and the mythological backstory, my partner really likes that, so we wanted to encompass that as well,” says Potter.

Things didn’t seem to move much from there, which recently prompted two other business people in town to ask council to change the rules to allow them to run a retail cannabis store. Under Village bylaws, only one cannabis retailer is allowed in town at present.

That rule was set after public consultations indicated residents only wanted one cannabis shop in town at the most.

“Potter says things were only quiet on the surface.

“We were keeping it quiet because it was a very long process for us, and we weren’t entirely sure as we went forward if we were going to get all the final approvals,” she says. “As we kind of have now, and we’re in the final stages, we were able to make a public announcement on our Facebook and Instagram pages and we are letting people know we are here, and we are getting ready to open.”

Potter says they want to make the store a pleasant experience for locals who want recreational cannabis.

“We’re using the beauty that surrounds us,” she says. “We have nice live-edge wood, plant life, river rock we have available in the area. We’ll also have a feature art wall. We reached out to local artists about having an art display on one of our walls, to give artists a space to showcase their work without having to worry about gallery fees.”

Being the only cannabis shop in at least a 90-minute drive will help give the couple a fairly sizeable catchment area, from New Denver to Edgewood to Galena Bay, as well as provide product for visitors to the area.

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Dear people of the Kootenays

Do not let the Zincton project pass. It is already clear that what the proponent already has is not enough. Being that the proponent’s business is already a successful business, that should make for some peace of mind. But, no, gotta get more. It is also very hard these days to say or believe that government cares about anything other than money. So, even if at the end there are protection measures to be put in place, it is all BS. Look at all the places that should have been left untouched. No, some mainstream had to mess with them, and mess them up. Don’t do your letter to be a millionaire when your lights go out. Got extra money? Help someone out. Protect some land. Do something kind. The hell with more ski bindings.

Barbara Curry Mulcahy, Moe Lyons & Kathy Hart

Numbers don’t lie

After reading Richard Caniell’s letter in your last issue wherein he provided the numbers of deaths and infections due to COVID-19 in different countries, I wondered about the actual ratios involved. When I did the math, I didn’t set out to prove or disprove anything; I was simply curious. Here’s what I found.

Sweden 7.2% mortality to infection. Denmark 4.6%, Norway 2.8%, Finland 4.5%, Portugal 1.5%. That’s right. Here’s how it works: the one week total of infections was 81,594. Multiply that by 4 and you get 326,376. The deaths in one month were 4,982. Do the math. It’s not taking the Coquihala, we added approximately one hour to our trip. Big deal! We had a very pleasant trip. And that’s what the poor souls in John Bovin’s article should have done. There was no reason for a five-line-up with no toilet facilities! The problem — DriveBC. They rarely update their signs. The highway sign for those days should have been routing motorists down through Westbridge to Hwy 3. We rarely see accurate current highway or ferry conditions posted on those signs.

The DriveBC highway sign talked about the floaty all the way back. We made a 10-year-old girl very happy. Kindness was very much appreciated and I just wanted the person there for us to find. It was very much appreciated and I just wanted the person who found the floaty to know that their kindness was very much appreciated and it made a 10-year-old girl very happy. We had a wonderful trip camping our way back home and my granddaughter talked about the floaty all the way back. So thank you so very much to whomever it was!

Becky Rousseau

Response to ferry line-up article

On Friday, July 3, my wife and I had to take a trip to New Westminster for medical reasons. We knew about the road closure on the Trans-Canada and that a large volume of traffic would be routed through Nakusp to the Needles ferry. The DriveBC highway sign said to expect a one-hour delay. We didn’t believe it! So we popped into Anderson’s Service in Nakusp, a block from Hwy 6, and asked them what they knew. They said to expect at least a four-hour line-up.

Guess what… we turned around and drove through to Castlegar. By not taking the Coquihala, we added approximately one hour to our trip. Big deal! We had a very pleasant trip.

And that’s what the poor souls in John Bovin’s article should have done. There was no reason for a five-line-up with no toilet facilities! The problem — DriveBC. They rarely update their signs. The highway sign for those days should have been routing motorists down through Westbridge to Hwy 3. We rarely see accurate current highway or ferry conditions posted on those signs.

The lack of a Needle Bridge was not the problem.

Heather & Doug Peters

Kaslo

Kaslo proclamation

It was disturbing to read in the July 30 Valley Voice of the shortcited (at best) amendment by Kaslo Village council (p. 3) of a proposed anti-racism motion. Council’s amendment pulled the teeth from an already approved anti-racism motion and removed references to target groups. Instead, the motion was changed to state weakly “…all ethnicities, cultures & faiths.” I must presume this was done in good faith, but it was also done without due care and careful thinking. This is a clear example of systemic racism in action: consciously or otherwise, old, entrenched ideas are commodified and supported without critical examination.

Bill Bryce

Kaslo

WELCOME BACK!

www.kaslohotel.com  250-353-7714

Goldene Re: Cutting Permit 405, Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face

The mountain caribou is an iconic large mammal that is seriously threatened with extinction in southern BC. The southernmost herds of the Selkirks and Purcells have already disappeared and an area of winter habitat for a small remnant herd at the north end of Kootenay Lake is threatened by logging. Cooper Creek is the outlet for a permit (CP405) on the Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face, an area where the shrinking herd is known to forage.

With the extirpation of these large mammals through habitat loss, it is incumbent upon our governments to move with extreme caution when considering whether or not to proceed with resource extraction. The loss of these animals through destruction of their habitat simply to extract a short-term economic gain would be sad commentary on our priorities. Why are we standing by as government after government leaves the problem of vanishing species to the future? If not now, when?

So little research has been done on this herd that it is unclear why the entire extent of their range encompasses. In the interests of preservation of one of the last herds of southern caribou, the cutting permit CP405 should be held in abeyance until a thorough study by independent authorities has established the herd’s habitat requirements.

Ymir

The Valley Voice

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

Circulation is 7,600 papers, providing the most complete news and advertising coverage of any single newspaper serving this area.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: CANADA $54.60, USA $84.00, OVERSEAS $126.00. E-Mail Subscription $22.40 (Prices include GST)

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Something needs to be done

It’s taken me a while to write this letter. Let’s start with me not wanting to be the one who everyone doesn’t like because of my opinion, even though it’s based on facts. However, things have gotten so out of control that I must say something. I have lived on the Slocan River for the last 30 years. For the past 12-14 years, since when the Poker Flat started, people have been floating on the Slocan River based on the Slocan River is getting more and more popular, and something needs to be done. Many issues are arising. I love floating, as do many.

Last year, August long weekend, I counted 400 floaters in two hours floating past my place in Passmore. This is only one access point. It wasn’t even the busiest day. I’m glad so many are enjoying themselves, but I’m wondering about the cost to our communities.

Where do all these people go to the bathroom? There are no portappatties at the bridges (except the rail to trails, that most don’t know about). I have lived on the Slocan River for the last 30 years. For the past 12-14 years, since when the Poker Flat started, people have been floating on the Slocan River based on clearly false and unsubstantiated allegations? What does it achieve? Clearly those who participated in the medieval style Facebook pillorying of two upstanding community members have an axe to grind. What are their issues and why are they choosing not to articulate them in a respectful manner?

The issue at hand is Lorna and Wayne’s documentation and reporting of potential forest health violations by property owners on Slocan Lake. First of all, Wayne and Lorna did not create the regulations. These are province wide and as a registered biologist, Wayne is legally obligated to report any violations of this nature. So what value of those who reacted so strongly to their actions was violated? Is it that we don’t appreciate government oversight? Is it that we think private landowners should do as they like with the shoreline in front of their private property? Or that ecological protection values shouldn’t trump human desires?

Or is there something more schoolyardish, that we don’t like tattletales? Or we don’t like those kind of people? Or we behear grudges from “Mr. Harley” and The Wilderness Society did long ago and need a place to vent?

All of these things can be discussed in a civil manner. And who knows what people on both sides of this uproar, we have enough shared values to begin. Most of us have attempted to teach our children and grandchildren to be honest, decent to others, kind to those who are more vulnerable, to support friends in need, not to steal. We also value our safe homes, food of our choice, our shared workplace, our freedom. I suspect we could make a long list of what we commonly value. We could also make a long list of our divergent values.

Let’s talk about the garbage people throw on the river. When I did my survey, I’d say 90% of people are drinking alcohol. Hope they all have a DD. There are never any police checking, so let’s just cross our fingers, I guess.

Also it’s very, very rare to see anyone in a life jacket. The local children may be trying to save that good that they are in their boats all alone. The water is cold and fast this year. I’m not saying let’s ban floating. I’m just saying something needs to be done by whoever is responsible for our waterway, please, and soon!

Chris Berger
Passmore

Facebook pillorying or sensible debate?

Recent problematic dynamics on the New Denver Communicator Facebook page has brought up some questions. How does a mature and responsible community deal with deeply divergent values? How best “to do unto others as you would have done unto you?” And what shared values would help us negotiate our conflicts and divergent values in a productive way?

What is the purpose of whipping up a froth of hatred toward Wayne and Lorna? I wonder if it’s based on clearly false and unsubstantiated allegations? What does it achieve? Clearly those who participated in the medieval style Facebook pillorying of two upstanding community members have an axe to grind. What are their issues and why are they choosing not to articulate them in a respectful manner?

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Zincton: a misguided, opportunistic, bad idea

There are already a number of backcountry ski developments in the region, three of them adjacent to the proposed resort in question, all hoping to expand. With the advent of global warming, ski resorts the world over are experiencing inadequate snow to furnish a worthwhile ski season. Why build yet one more resort when there are already a number of ski resorts and mountain biking injuries. I can picture a line-up of people from various communities, there will be a very high value on healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, as well as undeveloped Crown land and lifestyle. I think a very large number of people, who would construct this resort will be from out of the area and will leave when the job is done. Happens every time.

The proponent claims that the resort will be from out of the area and will leave when the job is done. Happens every time.

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Columbia Basin Water Hub to launch this fall

by Jan McMurray

Columbia Basin water data will soon be readily available online, allowing for more informed decision-making around the Basin’s water supply.

The Columbia Basin Water Hub is expected to launch in late summer or early fall.

“We’re just ironing out the kinks and really getting our community groups involved in water monitoring and data collection,” said Kat Hartwig, executive director of Living Lakes Canada (LLC), which is facilitating the project. “We did a lot of research to make sure we got the right platform that would meet the needs of the monitoring groups within the Columbia Basin, and we are making it as user-friendly as possible. Anyone should be able to go on to the Columbia Basin Water Hub database and see what’s being monitored, when, where, how, and where the gaps are.”

There are 10 watershed subregions in the Columbia Basin, Hartwig says. The hub was developed because “we have significant water data gaps and are so far in arrears in data collection in most of the subregions that we are working to facilitate a way to work together to support decision makers to make informed decisions.

When water is feeding into these subregions? What water is coming in, being used, going out? Once you understand this type of water balance, decision makers can begin to develop water budgets within the subregions.”

Hartwig says a new study out of the University of British Columbia suggests that glacier melt has passed its peak in the Upper Columbia, “so we may need to anticipate hydrological challenges in terms of supply. We have to start forecasting how much water we will have, and how much water we will use.

There is a sense of urgency in understanding how we contend with a diminishing supply, or drought and flood regimes imposed by climate change. These are massive and complicated questions we are all attempting to address very late in the game.”

Among the community groups that will upload data to the hub are the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, the Friends of Kootenay Lake, the Slocan Valley Streamkeepers, the Arrow Lakes Environmental Stewardship Society, and the North Kootenay Lake Water Monitoring Project.

“These very dedicated groups have been monitoring for a long time. The Friends of Kootenay Lake are retired hydrologists, engineers, foresters etc. so we have a lot of volunteer expertise and knowledgeable people working to develop water budgets within the subregions,” Hartwig said.

We also have significant water data gaps including on wetlands, groundwater, high elevation lakes and small to mid-size streams.”

The next step for the community groups will be to examine what the priority data gaps are and work to fill them, she said.

Living Lakes Canada is facilitating the project for now on behalf of the Columbia Basin Water Hub. Hartwig came from research contracting with the Columbia Basin Trust. Most recently, in 2017 and 2019, Nelson-based hydrologist Martin Carver reported on the water data gaps in the Columbia Basin and how to address them. Both reports emphasized the need for increased monitoring activities that will support the Monitoring Collaborative and maintain the database, said Hartwig, who expects the governance model to be completed within the next year.

Hartwig says the impetus for the Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Collaborative and Columbia Basin Water Hub came from research contracted by the Columbia Basin Trust. Most recently, in 2017 and 2019, Nelson-based hydrologist Martin Carver reported on the water data gaps in the Columbia Basin and how to address them. Both reports emphasized the need for increased monitoring activities that will support the Monitoring Collaborative and maintain the database, said Hartwig, who expects the governance model to be completed within the next year.

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RDKC RECYCLING PROGRAM

The RDKC has joined the Recycle BC (RBC) program and accepts new materials including plastic bags and Styrofoam. RBC is a Product Stewardship Program mandated to collect and recycle residential printed paper and packaging. For information regarding the new materials and categories, go to www.rdkc.ca. The New Denver recycling depot is now open. For any questions or concerns, please call the RDKC office at 1-800-268-7325.

WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Residents are reminded that watering restrictions are currently in effect and the use of sprinklers is prohibited between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on any day.

COUNCIL MEETING CANCELLED

Please note that the Village of New Denver Council has cancelled the August 25th Council Meeting. The next regular meeting will take place on September 8, 2020 at 7 pm in Council Chambers behind the Village Office. Meetings are open to the public at a reduced capacity due to COVID-19. For more information, please contact the Village Office.
Kootenay Connect $4 million conservation project finishes first year
by Jan McMurray
The $4 million, four-year ‘Kootenay Connect’ conservation project is nearing the end of its first year, and was recently featured in a news conference hosted by federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson and Project Manager Marcy Mahr. Mahr is a Hills resident and is managing the project for the Kootenay Conservation Program.

“Of all the projects funded by the Canada Nature Fund, Minister Wilkinson and I visited seven sites (or funds in a news conference) because he is so impressed with what we are doing in the Kootenays,” Mahr told the Valley Voice in an interview. “The level of cooperation and expertise in our region has allowed us to put together a package of 50 projects in four important Kootenay corridors. And we’re already seeing results on the ground.”

The federal government awarded the project with $2 million in August 2018 – the largest investment in nature conservation in Canada’s history. The project is being completed with funding from many regional and local organizations to add up to a $4 million investment in protecting species at risk and ecological connectivity in the Kootenays.

Kootenay Connect consists of over 50 projects that will benefit 28 federally listed species at risk and 36 species of local concern.

The four focal corridors of the Kootenay Connect project cover about two-thirds the overall length, from Three Forks to the cable car at Hunter Siding. The popular Galena Trail has been closed from Three Forks to the cable car since the closed portion of the trail. The plan is to do wetland restoration at Hunter Siding this fall, and along Upper Bonanza Creek and Summit Lake in 2021.

In the last year of the project, the focus will be on completing an application for conservation reserve status, which is what the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area has. “Thanks to this funding, we’ll have really good quality data for our conservation reserve status application,” King said. “It’s a real feather in the Kootenay Conservation Program’s hat, and ours, that we qualified for federal funding.”

Mahr says the work of SWAMP (Slocan Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Project) from 2014 to 2018 determined that the BBC is one of the most diverse places in the Kootenays for wetland types.

“We built up a lot of data through SWAMP and now we’re adding to that data,” King said.

King says being part of the Kootenay Conservation Program’s partner network has been invaluable. “We have shared in a wealth of knowledge with other groups in the Kootenays. It’s allowed us to cut corners, share resources, and just bounce ideas off one another.”

More information about the BBC project will be released soon, King promises.

For more information on Kootenay Connect: kootenayconservation.ca/kootenay-connect/
East Kootenay musician records debut album in Winlaw

by Jan McMurray

A young musician from Cranbrook just recorded her debut album at Sincerity Sound Studio in Winlaw, and she says she just can’t say enough good things about the studio and the Slocan Valley.

“Barry Jones [owner of the studio] is an incredible musician, sound engineer and human being,” says singer-songwriter-musician Maddison Keiver, whose band’s name is Maddison and the Night Skies. “This experience opened up so many opportunities for me. I met so many wonderful people in Winlaw and the Slocan Valley.”

Keiver found the Winlaw studio while she was applying for a provincial Creative BC grant for the project. She had already fallen in love with Winlaw last summer when she spent two weeks there visiting a friend – and then Sincerity Sound was on the list of accredited studios with Creative BC.

“All my first phone call with Barry, I knew we would work together and it would be a good fit,” she said. “I love Winlaw, with the off-grid living and all the musicians and artists there.”

Keiver received word in March that she got the $7,500 Creative BC grant. Then COVID hit, putting the project on pause. In June, Barry invited Keiver and two band members, Kyle Albrecht from Cranbrook and Jordan Lysenko from Creston, to bring a travel trailer and come and stay on the studio property while they did the recording.

“We worked so hard in the studio,” she said. “It’s an amazing being in that space and away from distractions – away from cell phones. I just told everyone I’d get back to them in three weeks. It was awesome.”

All of the piano tracking for the album was recorded at the Vallican Whole. Keiver says the music on the album was inspired by Blondie, the Pretenders, Heart, Joan Mitchell and “some new sounds, too, because I’m a millennial so it has a pop influence, as well.”

The album, called Self Reflections, will be released tomorrow, August 14. It will be available online – visit www.maddisunmusic.com for all the links. The CD will be available at Big Dog Music in New Denver, as well as the CD store. Vinyl records once they are made. Vinyl is quite expensive, she says, so she will launch a crowd-funding campaign where people can pay for their albums, and at the same time provide her with the funds she needs to have the records made.

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Bridge removal plan being reviewed as clock counts down to fish migration

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A federal Fisheries official says they’re reviewing plans to remove a bridge from Caribou Creek near Burton, while keeping an eye on the upcoming migration of kokanee salmon up the stream.

A private bridge across the creek was swept off its moorings by flooding as a result of the massive thunderstorm that moved through the area on May 31.

The bridge now lies in the water, and a logjam is building up behind it. Federal and provincial environment authorities investigated the situation in June, and DFO’s lead in the area says authorities investigated the situation in June, and DFO’s lead in the area says he’s confident work will be completed June, and DFO’s lead in the area says he’s confident work will be completed in appropriate time.

“Currently there is no compliance or enforcement actions being undertaken by Fisheries and Oceans Canada,” says Brian Levitt, the federal Fishery Officer and Field Supervisor for the region. “Our Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program is currently reviewing a project submission for the removal of the bridge, and… [staff] advised they’d be reviewing it in the near future to determine if there’s any fish or fish habitat concerns involved with the removal of the bridge, and determine if an authorization would be required or not.”

An authorization is required if someone is going to or possibly will cause damage or destruction to fish habitat while working around water. While the bridge washout was an act of god, explained Levitt, removing such a large structure could require removing shoreline vegetation or entering the creek bed to use heavy equipment, etc.

That can only be done with prior approval from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Staff will have to get moving to approve the plans, however, as time is running out for the project to be done in a way to limit impact on migrating fish. Under the terms of the Fisheries Act, work has to be done in the ‘Kootenay Region In-stream Works Timing Window,’ which is from July 16 to August 31, says Levitt.

“That’s to enable the migration of kokanee. It’s one of the considerations of the In-stream Works Window,” he says.

The bridge owner also needs to secure equipment and get appropriate approvals from the Province. Levitt says he understands the Province is working closely with the landowner. Provincial officials did not respond to calls for comment.

The deadline is coming up quickly, but Levitt says if the owner can’t get the permissions in time, there is a chance the work can go ahead after August 31.

“There’s always ways to mitigate those extra risks. Let’s say if it was to run into September 10-15, there may be increased requirements for the people conducting the works to ensure that the work has little or no impact.”

Levitt says following any work, Fisheries officers will attend the scene for a follow-up inspection to ensure there was no excess or unapproved damage to the habitat.

Meanwhile, the water is low on the creek, and the logjam behind the fallen bridge has grown since the collapse on June 1. But Levitt says fish are adept at finding their way to their spawning beds, even with new obstacles in front of them.

Plans to remove the private bridge that was swept into Caribou Creek in Burton on May 31 are being reviewed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Meanwhile, the timeframe under the Fisheries Act to remove the bridge ends August 31.

Ehl, Winnifred

Kathleen

September 26, 1924 – July 21, 2020

Winnie passed away peacefully on July 21, 2020 at home in Nakusp B.C. with family at her side. Winnie was born on September 26, 1924 at home in Galena Bay B.C. to Ann and John Olson. Winnie grew up on a farm and from a young age she worked hard. For years Winnie and her siblings walked 3 miles to school every day and 3 miles home. When Winnie was 22 years old she married her husband Albert Ehl. Together they had 2 daughters, Darlene and Laura and 1 son, Rodney.

Winnie had a passion for the outdoors and growing up on a farm gave her life skills to navigate mountains while berry and mushroom picking. Winnie was very family-oriented and had many life-long friends in Nakusp as well as across Canada. Winnie always had a smile on her face and a positive outlook on life.

Winnie was sadly pre-deceased by her granddaughter, Annette Laarz in 1973, her husband Albert in 1994 and her son Rodney in 2000. She was also pre-deceased by her brother, Peter and her 2 sisters Hilda and Nancy.

Winnie is survived by her 2 daughters, Darlene (Larry) and Laura (Tom) as well as her daughter-in-law Janis (Ron). Winnie also has many grandchildren and great grandchildren. We all will miss her dearly.

At this time, no service will be held due to the pandemic. In future, the family will hold a Celebration of Life which will be posted in the paper.

Valley Funeral Home in care of arrangements.
Toadfest 2020 hops online

There will be no Toadfest at Summit Lake Provincial Park this summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) is bringing a taste of the event online. There will be two free Toadfest sessions held via Zoom – one for kids and one for adults. Get an update on the ongoing work to help western toads at Summit Lake, check out some cool videos and photos, and talk to a biologist.

The online session for kids is on Wednesday August 26, between 12:30 and 1:30 pm. It is designed for elementary school age students, and includes videos, songs and games, and even an appearance from Toady, the Toadfest mascot.

The session for adults is on the following day, Thursday, August 27, again between 12:30 and 1:30 pm. Learn about the monitoring techniques and mitigation measures implemented at Summit Lake, get the latest results, and test your knowledge about western toads and other amphibians.

Register for either session by emailing fwcp@bchydro.com. Visit fwcp.ca/toadfest for more information, or call 250-352-1300.

Local photographer and filmmaker Isaac Carter is putting together the short videos for both sessions.

The online sessions are hosted by the FWCP with support from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. The FWCP is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of BC, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations, and public stakeholders to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams.

Hidden Garden Gallery intrigues with life drawings and collage

Hidden Garden Gallery intrigues with life drawings and collage

Two Toadfest sessions will be held online this year to replace the event at Summit Lake. Toady, the mascot for the event, will be at the lake for the video shoot.

Hidden Garden Gallery is located at 112 Slocan Avenue, behind Sweet Dreams Guesthouse. It is open Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am-3 pm.

Congratulations Emily Barber and Jan Vreys married July 18th, 2020 on Slocan Lake
by Jan McMurray

Little did Jody and Brenda Scott know what they were getting into when they planted 60 wine grape vines on their property to enhance the landscape for B&B guests and their daughter’s wedding.

More than a decade later, after a lot of learning about grapes and wine making, and a huge renovation project at their home, Jody and Brenda have opened the Valley of the Springs Winery.

It’s Nakusp’s first winery, and – not surprisingly – business is good.

“The way this is going, we’ll have to make more wine!” Jody says.

“We’ve had so much support from family, friends and the community,” Brenda says, “and a lot of local people and local businesses are sending tourists our way.”

After a year-long renovation project, the Scotts’ home now has a tasting room, a winery with tanks and barrels, and a ‘crush pad’ with a huge press that crushes a ton and a half of grapes at a time. “We’re missing a few of the pieces of equipment that big wineries have, but what we lack in equipment, we make up with our friends,” Jody jokes.

The couple’s two adult children, Stephanie and Owen, and their partners, are a big part of the business, as well. “When the kids decided to move back to Nakusp from the Okanagan, we decided to go ahead with the winery. We would never have done it without them. Brenda and I are hard workers, but it’s beyond us to wear that many hats.”

Between the family members, they certainly have the skills to make the business a success. Jody is a graduate of the Vineyard Management Program at Okanagan College. Brenda is a Red Seal chef. Stephanie has a degree in business administration, and her husband has mechanical skills. Owen has a Bachelor of Science in Earth & Environmental Science. His wife is a photographer and has artistic skills.

There are now just over two acres of vineyards on the Scotts’ property, and there is no room for more. They’ve planted five acres at Owen’s and are looking for another five acres.

“Our goal is to make 1,000 cases a year, which is between 9,000 and 10,000 litres. We have the equipment to do that, but we still need five more acres to do that,” Jody says.

To keep their licence, they have to make at least 4,500 litres or 500 cases of wine each year. He buys grapes from other vineyards in the area including Nakusp, Crescent Bay, Burton, Needles and Barnes Creek, and will have to supplement with grapes bought from the North Okanagan this year to meet his quota.

“Finding enough of the right variety of grape, preferably locally, is a challenge,” Jody says. “Maybe some more people in the area will plant now that they have somewhere to take their grapes.”

Anyone interested in viticulture in the area can contact Jody. On top of all his other experience, he was also co-chair of the Arrow Lakes Grape Growers Society, which completed a 10-year research project about wine grape growing in the Arrow Lakes Valley. The organization grew vines on a test plot in Burton and collected data from climate stations they set up throughout the valley.

“Finding enough of the right variety of grape, preferably locally, is a challenge,” Jody says. “Maybe some more people in the area will plant now that they have somewhere to take their grapes.”
NACFOR Senior Field Technician Erin McLeod says that bats are critical to our ecosystem and that accidental deaths are not acceptable. “Especially as there is no incidence of white nose syndrome in the bat population at this time, we need to keep the bat population as healthy and numerous as possible in case the syndrome does begin to show up,” she said.

NACFOR has been working with entomologist Darcie Quamme of Integrated Ecological Research and bat biologist Cori Lausen (Kasko) of Wildlife Conservation Society on the project. According to the NACFOR website, the project goals are to encourage stewardship and education on the ecological services provided by bats to the forest industry, collect data on incidental bat captures, and provide solutions to prevent capture.

Reporting on numbers of bats in traps will provide valuable information about bat species, food sources, population, distribution, and new information about bats in general. “For instance, we did not know that Douglas fir bark beetles were a source of food for the bats. But since they were drawn to the traps, we can infer that they do eat the beetles,” McLeod says.

A proposed solution to protect bats from the funnel traps is to place wire mesh over the bottom funnel. This prevents bats from becoming stuck in the trap. This system currently is being tested in the 18 traps in use this year. No bats have been found, so project participants are confident that the mesh is working.

“We are not able to monitor the traps individually, but as no bats have been captured yet this season, we are optimistic that the mesh is helping them either escape once they enter the trap, or is keeping them out of the traps completely,” McLeod said.

Generally warmer winters are leading to an increase in the Douglas fir bark beetle population. Foresters are concerned that the increase will lead to an epidemic similar to the pine bark beetle epidemic that led the beetles to attack healthy trees in addition to the diseased and dead trees that they normally feed on.

“We are fortunate to have community support through projects like this to help us anticipate threats and keep our forests healthy,” says McLeod.
Dry July marks change in the weather; temperatures remain normal for this time of the year

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

It took its time getting here, but July saw hot, dry, summer weather finally arrive in the West Kootenays. A summary of July’s weather was released earlier this month by forecasters at the Southeast Fire Centre in Castlegar.

And in short, the dry weather started soon after the month began. “Roughly two thirds of the month’s total rainfall fell on the first day as bands of convection tracked northward over the area,” the weather office says. They say the 18 mm that fell set a new daily rainfall record, “but fall well short of the monthly record of 68.4 mm in a day from 2012.”

After that, three small rainfall events were all that happened for the rest of July, dropping less than a millimetre of rainfall. The total monthly rainfall for the month was nearly half of average - 43% below normal.

The hottest day of the month came at the end of July, with 38.7°C recorded on the 30th – still, that’s only about 1.5 degrees short of the record set in 2003.

The mean temperature of the month (average of the highs and lows each day) was spot-on normal.
Some needy families in the RDCK’s Area D will be receiving parcels of healthy organic food under a new program designed to bring locally grown produce to low-income families and seniors in the West Kootenay.

The “Farm to Friends” program began this year as a project of the West Kootenay EcoSociety’s work on food security. Initial funding came from the Vancouver Foundation, and was supposed to go to running the farmer’s market in Nelson, a pillar of the EcoSociety’s food security drive. “Because of the COVID situation… when we lost the markets, we still had the grant, so we said let’s put it towards food security in a situation… when we lost the markets, we still had the grant, so we said let’s put it towards food security in a different way,” says Craig Mullin, who’s running the project for the EcoSociety.

The EcoSociety reached out to various food security groups in the region, and were given names of families that might want to participate.

“One of the families told me it was a ‘life-saver’,” recalls Mullin. “They were really pumped and really gracious. It’s been great. I don’t want to be too gushing, but I haven’t seen the downside yet.”

The group is working with three local organic farms — including Linden Lane farms in Pass Creek and Mr. Mercy’s Mushroom Farm in Kaslo — to bring weekly deliveries of their produce to 54 families.

The offerings change as the season progresses, says Mullin, but among the produce in recent packages are a half-pound of mushrooms, lettuce, garlic, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, kale, and garlic scapes. “It’s a win-win-win all around,” says Mullin, as farmers get fair value for their produce, the EcoSociety continues to build a larger framework for food security, and families get access to good food.

Besides some families around Kaslo, hampers of organic food are being delivered to people in Nelson, Castlegar, Trail and Rossland for the duration of the 16-week program.

Mullin and EcoSociety staff members go pick up the food at the farms and distribute it to volunteers in each community. The volunteers then deliver the food and families while following a COVID-19-safe, no-contact protocol.

The project will not only alleviate immediate need, but it can show in the drive to build up local food sufficiency by helping farms have stable markets.

“Next year they said they’ll be able to plant more,” he says. “A project like this, we’re pretty hopeful we’ll get funding from different areas, then we can let farmers know in January that they can plant x amount of vegetables, because we’ll be able to buy x amount from them.”

Archives seeks stories of how the pandemic has affected the Kootenays

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Kootenay Lake Archives want to know how the coronavirus has affected you, your family, and the community.

It’s invited senior students from IV Blumhøj School to record their feelings and experiences during the pandemic that shut down most of the country a few months ago. And they’re looking to hear from other citizens as well.

“One of our volunteers said, things have changed so much, here’s an opportunity to have students take pictures, of the way the skate park was closed, things the students wanted to do that they couldn’t and were told to stay home… so it started like that,” says Elizabeth Scarlett, the volunteer archivist for the Kootenay Lake Historical Society. “We were interested also in not just personal experience, but how the village looked, what was different – the streets were empty, things like that. We thought it would be interesting.

“It was such a change for all of us, we thought it would be interesting for the school, and then later the public to come up with how things have changed.”

At the least, the submissions will become material for a ‘people’s history’ exhibit of the pandemic in the West Kootenay Kootenay Lake region.
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Next Valley Voice Deadline: August 7, 2020
COMMUNITY

I visited were doing a very good job of providing a safe experience for customers with good distancing, cleaning and available sanitizers. The government COVID supports – CERB for the employees they had to lay off; CEBA loans to get them through the tough times during closure, and the wage subsidy – have been great for enforcement, it might have been stronger had they also decided to issue tags for the majority of people travelling in Canada with American licence plates – Canadian citizens living in the United States here to visit family. These people have every right to be here as long as they quarantine themselves for 14 days on arrival. Tags showing this status could perhaps reduce the amount of worry for British Columbians and incidents of harassment these visitors may receive. Restaurant and café owners told me that business was now quite good – very good in some cases. The ones who had fared better. I’m happy to say that the NDP negotiated just such changes to the wage subsidy legislation that were put into law when the House of Commons sat last week (yes, we are still in the summer).

The government will now be issuing these visitors with a tag that must be hung on the rear-view mirror that clearly states that they are travelling to Alaska and shows the deadline date for crossing the border. While I think this is a good idea for enforcement, it might have been stronger had they also decided to issue tags for the majority of people travelling in Canada with American licence plates – Canadian citizens living in the United States here to visit family. These people have every right to be here as long as they quarantine themselves for 14 days on arrival. Tags showing this status could perhaps reduce the amount of worry for British Columbians and incidents of harassment these visitors may receive. Restaurant and café owners told me that business was now quite good – very good in some cases. The ones who had fared better. I’m happy to say that the NDP negotiated just such changes to the wage subsidy legislation that were put into law when the House of Commons sat last week (yes, we are sitting several times a month through the summer).

I met several young people in Boundary Country who are working in positions funded by the Canada Summer Jobs program. It’s always good to put faces to the people we are supporting in this way. The Canada Summer Jobs program has a budget of over $400 million and provides work for thousands of students across the country every year. Expanding this successful program was an obvious choice the government could have made to help students who couldn’t find jobs in the COVID crisis and I imagine they might be wishing they had done just that instead of asking WE Charity. I hope you are enjoying August!

We have been blessed with some good hot weather at last, but there’s a hot wind blowing today and I’m listening to water bombers take off and land at the Penticton airport as I write this. Please be careful out in the woods, keep your distance in town and stay cool!

Four-way race for SD#10 Trustee

By John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

There’s going to be quite a race to be the new trustee sitting on the board of School District #10 Arrow Lakes.

Four Nakusp residents have thrown their hat into the ring to replace Melissa Teindl, who resigned last year:

Steve Gascon, Carlee Hughes, Aidan McLaren-Caux and Judy Struck all filed nomination forms last Friday, August 7.

The trustee will represent the Central Attendance Zone, a wide area that includes Summit Lake, Nakusp, and past the Halcyon Hot Springs to Trout Lake.

Voters will go to the polls Saturday, September 12, with an advance poll on Sunday, September 13.

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription

Only $10-$30

The Valley Voice August 13, 2020

COMMUNITY

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The Valley Voice August 13, 2020
Two regional women artists featured in Kootenay Gallery exhibitions

Arden Hilmar Gran
September 13, 1931 - August 2, 2020

Born in Nakusp an only child to Herta and Arvid Gran, Arden took his schooling in Nakusp. In his earlier years after graduation, he worked for BC Tel putting in telephone poles. He also worked on building arenas in western Canada and had a hand in building the Carena in Viking, Alberta (home of the Sutters). He was an alderman on the first Nakusp Village Council. Arden was also a charter member of the Kinsmen Club and the K-40s, where he contributed to many of the Kootenay's community events. Arden was also a charter member of the Kootenay SPCA.

He was very proud to have played commercial hockey on the same team with his two sons. He went to Cal Tech to learn his trade. He then put in 35 years working for Celgar, the local logging company, as a heavy duty mechanic, later becoming shop superintendent. When the company moved its offices to Castlegar, he then started his own company called Agran Services, doing a variety of jobs. Survived by his wife Judy of 62 years, daughter September (Tim), daughter-in-law Gwen Weighill, grandchildren Sheena and Olivia Grant, daughters of the Kootenay SPCA.

submit

The first two exhibitions at the Kootenay Gallery since the COVID shutdown open August 28 and run until October 31.
The two shows share a theme of the domestic from a feminine perspective.
The East Gallery will feature the art of one of the West Kootenay’s premier artists, Susan Andrews Grace. The West Gallery will show a retrospective of the late Winlaw artist, Ann Swanson Gross.

Poet and artist Susan Andrews Grace has created a body of work that she has titled Domestic Fetishes. “My fetishes are power objects relative to the world of an artist and woman who has done a heck of a lot of domestic work,” Andrews Grace says. “These are not the titillating fetishes of public imagination but more akin to the original fetish, an inanimate object used for spiritual purposes. Mine are made with the female gaze in mind and used for spiritual purposes. Mine are subtle, profound and occasionally outrageous.”

Ann Swanson Gross Retrospective comes from the Slocan Valley community, where Ann spent most of her life until she passed away in 2018. A collection of her works was donated to the gallery by Cindy Moser prior to her own death, and after works from a wide variety of friends and family were brought to the gallery from Valley residents Sam Simpson and Ann Harney.

Swanson Gross’s work is deeply personal, sometimes reflecting a sombre or troubled soul while other times, it is celebratory. The artist created two-dimensional images, often large-scale work with fibre-tipped, water-based pens. While her subjects were often friends and family, she created numerous self-portraits. She also created clay sculptures, many of tubescene female figures. A cross-section of both paintings and sculptures will be on display, alongside a portfolio of cards she had gifted friends over the years.

In lieu of an opening event, a come-and-go style open house will be held from 5 to 8 pm on September 25. To avoid crowding, there will be no formal speeches and admission to the gallery will be limited to 50 people at one time. Other COVID protocol will be in place and masks are recommended. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event.

Due to the pandemic, the Kootenay Gallery is currently open limited hours Monday to Thursdays from 10 am to 5 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm. The gallery is located at 120 Heritage Way, across from the airport, between the Doukhobor Discovery Centre and the West Kootenay SPCA.

COMMUNITY

Heaven No Evil, See No Evil, Speak No Evil by Ann Swanson Gross

August 2020

Something is very wrong with the handling of this virus and the health experts and politicians must know this by now. A noble effort to “flatten the curve” has morphed into insurrection and hooliganism for so many. So I will say “bombs away” to those at least who have not been scared out of their minds by pandemia hysteria and viral fear.

I have never seen reporting so distorted, cherycked, twisted, lubricated and sensationalized. Did you know that in the USA anyone who died and had no symptoms of flu (which covers almost everything) was reported to have died of Covid-19 even when they were never tested? Later, if you had ever tested positive and died of anything – stroke, heart attack, cancer, etc, – you were considered dead from Covid-19. This was admitted on National TV by a leading health expert. He said “it’s like Mother’s Against Drunk Drivers saying “if you ever had one drink in your life and you later have a car accident it will be considered an alcohol related accident.” No one knows what the real Covid-19 death rate is but is far less than reported.

It made sense in the beginning to “flatten the curve.” Now we think that at least those who have not been scared out of their minds by pandemia hysteria and viral fear.

The experts have contradicted themselves, reversed opinions, openly don’t agree and finally feather mass hysteria. In the end it is not sure, we don’t know, we’re still learning.” As a result people’s lives are being destroyed, the economy is being demolished and the government is printing billions it can never repay. The suffering has no end in sight. It is reported that tens of thousands of people, especially children, are dying day after day everywhere, not from the ‘flu, but from the government’s quagmire.” Catasstrophy. Covid-19 induced starvation is a grim reaper. This is a classic case where the cure is ten times worse than the problem.

Yes, thousands have died of the flu. Covid-19 as they die every day and they are the vulnerable people. But now we are being demonized by all the symptoms of Covid-19 and the entire world. We are on the verge of decimating society and the social fabric which glues us together.

Experts are nothing but a magic bullet to bring the pandemic to an end. But it will never exist. There has never been a successful vaccine for any flu or coronavirus and there never will be. The common cold either. Medical experts say it is 60% effective or this year 30% effective. 30% in medical terms is zero.

True vaccines may help a body defend for an exact disease target.

What manufactures are working on now are immune boosters, cell attachment disruptors, basically they are remedies to make you feel better and perhaps reduce the severity or length of sickness. It’s the same as calling Theraflo a vaccine. Call these therapeutic medicines. They may help you feel better, but they will not prevent you from getting the disease? Experts know this. But some pharmaceutical manufacturers are going to make trillions. Globally it is reported that 165 Vaccines (therapeutic remedies) are currently being worked on. One of the first remedies coming next year is Remdesivir. We know now that it will cost $4,000 CDN per treatment and the U.S. government has bought up all of the first 100 million doses. The expensive and other works from a wide variety

Respiratory (inalatory) is published in newspapers in the USA daily.

Got it! Everyone is waiting for a magic vaccine. That is a house of cards. That is a perfect storm. You will have Covid-20Z and one of those could make Covid-19 look like a mild case of indigestion. And remember, none of these first two are a true vaccine. Each one would need a specific new vaccine.

We must protect the vulnerable as best we can but for the vast majority who are otherwise healthy we must resume normal life. The current trajectory will bankrupt Canada and most other countries. It is unsustainable and needlessly futile. For example, in B.C. Global News reports every day “two more infections or five more admitted to ICU.” In a population of 5.2 million, we have had a total 189 deaths. That may seem high but 189 life threatenings drug overdoses every month and rising.

The social and economic destruction and additional death toll from this virus is mind boggling. We have pandemic Murder, suicides, drug deaths, child and family abuse and permanent mental issues especially in the young and in the old. And this is just the start.

This COVID train has run off the tracks, and worse, it is careening towards a precipice. If we can’t stop this now and transform our lives, then in the future, by May or June it may be months only away) the consequences are too terrible to think about.

Yes the advice of our experts is based on fear, threat, need to be hypervigilant, on medical models that are available and yes our doctors are practicing textbook good medicine. But it is devoid of any shred of common sense.

You’ve been told the death rate is 1 in 100 or 3 in 100. That’s a gross deception. It’s based on the ICU statistics of most elderly and vulnerable. Perhaps average is 5% and 8% or 10% or 12% or 15% or 30% or 40%. If I were to say it may be months only away) the consequences are too terrible to think about.

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CRUISING DOWN THE RIVER

The Slocan River Streamkeepers would like to remind and encourage recreationalists to stay safe and have fun this season while out on the lake or the river. Sadly, in the last year there have been two avoidable deaths from boating on the Slocan River.

- Be informed on safety basics: gear, river hazards, know self- and assisted rescue methods.
- Wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
  They save lives but only when worn. Make them mandatory.
- Learn to swim well. Cold waters can quickly render you hypothermic.
- Know before you go! River conditions can change from year to year. Watch carefully for submerged snags, logs, and other under-surface hazards.
- Check the weather forecast and be prepared for it to change.
- Be visible. Wear bright colors — red, yellow, or orange.
- Avoid paddling alone.
- Enjoy and respect wildlife — it’s their river home.
- Be responsible with your garbage. Be sure to have all your goods attached to your vessel at all times.

For more information about us, visit our website at: https://slocanriverstreamkeepers.wordpress.com/

Controversial summer for Slocan muralist submitted

Residents of the South Slocan will be receiving an injection of public art this summer — with a side of social commentary.

Local artist Matty Kakes has installed a large billboard measuring 8’ x 20’ on his property directly facing Pass Creek Road, just south of Krestova’s ‘Pump Hill.’ The muralist plans to use the space to practice his craft but also hopes it will contribute to a growing public art scene in the Slocan Valley.

Kakes, seen in the photo on this page refinishing the old-van

Pass Creek muralist Matty Kakes decided a while back a sculpture outside the Frog Peak Cafe (formerly part of a minivan) needed a refreshed paint job, and the restaurant owner agreed. After a buddy re-primed it with a more colourful base, Kakes began to add some decorative elements to the work. Kakes and two other artists will also be creating a mural on the café’s fence.

Busy summer for Slocan muralist submitted

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Kakes, seen in the photo on this page refinishing the old-van

Following worldwide protests against police violence and racism, Kaslo’s anti-racism community pledged to raise money for new books promoting tolerance and diversity. The program was called SLIDE: Support for Learning Inclusivity, Diversity and Empathy, and the fundraiser was able to pay for over 100 books for the library by authors who are black, Indigenous and people of colour. If you’d like to donate you can by e-transfer to slidebookfundraiser@gmail.com or by KSCU transfer to Masterplan account # 165478.

ARE YOU AN AMERICAN LIVING OUTSIDE THE US?

Voting from abroad is an easy 3-step process. You need to:
1. Request an absentee ballot (you can register as a new voter at the same time)
2. Receive your ballot (Your state will send out ballots at least 45 days before the election)
3. Return your ballot before the deadline. Deadlines vary by state.

Go to VoteFromAbroad.org and follow the instructions to get started.

Consider a Community Service?

Consider Nakusp Rotary

Call Sara for Details: 250-354-2833