by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp Citizen of the Year ceremony was held in the lovely backyard of Rotarians Kees and Mayumi van der Pol on September 1, with 25 people in attendance. The outside venue and smaller size of the event this year were in keeping with guidelines from the provincial health officer due to the pandemic.

Ernie Knecht and Janis Dahlen were honoured as Citizens of the Year in an intimate gathering among beautiful flower gardens, and with delicious appetizers by Tobias and Sabrina. Mayor Tom Zeleznik brought greetings and congratulations from the Village of Nakusp. “Our community could not survive without volunteers,” he observed. “Volunteers continue to make our community a great place to live, work, play and raise a family.”

Ernie Knecht was nominated by Jerry and Linda Van Immerzeel. Jerry introduced Ernie, who he first met when Ernie was a teacher and avid horseman. Now, the two men work together on the ATV Club board of directors. Ernie has also been involved in the Rod and Gun Club, the Summit Lake Ski Area, and the Nakusp Secondary School Scholarship Society.

Ernie said he has been dedicated to making life better for himself and others. He came to Nakusp fresh out of university with the intention to stay for two years, but has now been in the community for 49 years. “Everybody’s responsibility is to donate something back to the community through a club, organization or your profession,” he said.

Ernie was the founder of the scholarship society, and spent 36 years on the board of directors, 34 of them as chair. Over those years, the fund has grown significantly. He said it was “particularly an honour for me to be recognized for all that hard work, and having my wife proofread everything for me.”

Brenda Scott, Janis Dahlen’s sister, introduced Janis on behalf of their brother, Bob, who nominated Janis for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Janis worked at Overwaitea for 30 years, and was one of the employees who started the annual Easter Egg Hunt. She was chair of the July 1st Committee when the Duck Race began, another popular event that continues to this day. She was on the board of the Figure Skating Club for 15 years, and was chair for five years. Once retired, she ran for Village council and sat as councillor for 12 years. Her career as a local politician included serving as Nakusp’s director on the Regional District board for five years, president of the Association of the Kootenay Boundary Local Governments and director on the Union of BC Municipalities. Janis has also been a foster parent, with her husband Dan, for 30 years, providing a home for more than 50 children so far. She has been delivering Meals on Wheels for many years, and has also served her family in many ways.

Janis accepted the award and described her work with the Figure Skating Club as “nothing but fun.” Her biggest reward is that her granddaughter competes internationally in figure skating for Kelowna, and has a coach whose first job was in Nakusp. She said her political work enabled her to travel across Canada and learn so much. As for her foster parenting, she said it isn’t always a happy time but it is very rewarding. “I can’t do it without a lot support from my husband Dan, the community, the Ministry of Children and Families and from my family and friends,” she said. “It takes a village to raise a child, and there’s no better place than Nakusp to do that.”

During open mic, Karen Scott sang the praises of Janis as a foster parent. Karen, a social worker, said she loved working with Janis as well as being part of her family. The last speaker was Norm McCarvell, former district governor of the Rotary Club. He congratulated Ernie and Janis, and the community of Nakusp and the Nakusp Rotary Club.

The Nakusp Rotary Club has been sponsoring the Citizen of the Year Awards for 46 years.
A game of hide-and-seek that could last centuries has just begun along the Kaslo River Trail.

About 30 people showed up on Sunday, September 6 for the ‘start’ of the game, which features some very patient participants.

‘Hide and Seek’ is the latest installation of the ‘Discover the Koots’ series of sculptures, the creation of a trio of artists from Argenta – Yvonne Boyd, Christopher Petersen and Spring Shine.

“We figured the Kaslo River Trail is a really perfect place to have it,” says Boyd. “It’s just outside of town, it’s in a really beautiful setting, and it’s an easy walk for families, which is exactly what our goal is, to have them in places like that.”

‘Hide and Seek’ features a series of installations along the beautiful Kaslo River Trail, eight in all. Full figures, or just heads, and sometimes a mix of both can be found peeking out from rock faces, hidden behind boulders or stationed right along the trail.

The installation is both a work to be enjoyed and an invitation for anyone who’s ever played in the woods to join in the fun.

“We were walking along here, and just admiring the rocks,” she says. “And it was, ‘wouldn’t it be cool if something was coming out of the rock here?’ and ‘Oh look, there’s another rock over there.’ And then, ‘Oh hey, this is a perfect place for hide-and-seek. Do you guys remember playing Capture the Flag?’ And it evolved from there.”

The sculptures are designed to last for a very long time – Boyd notes cement bridges have a half-life of about 90 years.

“It’s cement, there’s steel inside, but it’s totally encased, it’s not going to rust for a very long time,” she says. “We design them to be people-friendly, and our hope is that they will grow mosses and lichen and grow even further into the surroundings.

“It’s really amazing,” she says of the notion that these sculptures will outlast their creators. “I just have a huge amount of gratitude for the place we live that allows us to do that.”

It’s the third in the ‘Discover the Koots’ series, with other installations in Castlegar and Meadow Creek. The project was sponsored by the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation and Trails Society, and funded with help from the Columbia Basin Trust Public Art Grants and an online GoFundMe campaign.

Boyd says the trio isn’t done with their playful creations yet. They plan another installation in Slocan village, at the head of the Slocan Valley Rail Trail this fall. They hope eventually to create a series of sculpture installations in other communities across the West Kootenay.

The idea is to create a world-class sculpture circuit to be discovered by people hiking, biking, canoeing or kayaking in the region. The group will use promotion and geocaching of the ‘Koots,’ as they call the figures, to inspire public art touring for years to come.
**Talbott Creek fire’s neighbours keep watchful eye on situation**

**by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter**

It’s no fun having a front row seat to a forest fire. “It’s pretty stressful,” admits Shauna Robertson, a resident of Valican.

The community on the west side of the Slocan Valley has been living right under the Talbott Creek fire, a persistent blaze on the south end of Perry Ridge that’s now into its third week. It was sparked by a lightning storm that passed through the area on August 17.

Robertson, who’s lived in the area for 14 years, says people are taking the fire in stride, and strategies change depending where people live and the fires’ behaviour.

“It was a lot more stressful after the local fire departments and fire protection units came by to put us on evacuation alert, right before the first big wind storm [August 23],” she said. “People were going around their properties, doing FireSmarting or putting on sprinklers.

“Others were moving valuables off their properties into storage, things they couldn’t just put into their cars if we were ordered out.”

Robertson started a Facebook page for local residents to provide a source of reliable information and resource-sharing for people living under the evacuation alert issued by the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

So far, an evacuation hasn’t been necessary. While the fire has grown significantly in the last two weeks – starting at five hectares in size and growing to over 520 earlier this week – the BC wildfire service has worked hard to keep the fire in check.

At press time, the BCWS said the fire continued to mostly exhibit lower-level Rank 1 and 2 fire behaviour.

“This means the fire was predominantly burning as a smouldering ground fire or low surface fire with small areas of moderately vigorous surface fire and moderate rates of spread,” the service said.

Crews continued to make progress in the last two weeks, utilizing helicopters and heavy earth-moving equipment to build fire breaks, reinforcing those with back-burns and control lines.

“A large portion of these lines are blacklined, which means crews have saturated the perimeter of the fire in water along the guards and no combustible fuels remain in these areas,” said the BCWS. “This helps crews control the fire at the guards as these sections of fire perimeter are extinguished. Only small sections of the guards remain to be blacklined and will continue to be worked on Tuesday and Wednesday.”

In a sign the fire crews were gaining an upper hand, an area restriction that had closed off the Little Slocan Forest Service Road to all but through traffic was lifted in time for the Labour Day long weekend. Restrictions still apply to some branch FSRs in the area, however.

Despite being so close to the fire, Robertson says there’s little direct sign of it. The BCWS helicopter’s work is often work early, probably the biggest sign of the fire, but very little smoke has settled on the community below. The only real sign of anything is an occasional ‘firebrand’ – small chunks of burning embers sent aloft by the fire – that occasionally land in people’s yards.

“Otherwise to see the fire, you have to get in your car and drive a ways away to get some distance,” she says.

Robertson says the community has nothing but praise for the work of the pilots, ground crews, and heavy equipment operators working seven days a week to protect their community. She also gives high marks to the job done by local volunteer fire departments and property protection units, who’ve maintained a vigil with mobile pumps and firefighting equipment during the high wind-events.

At press time the fire wasn’t considered a threat to homes or structures, but the evacuation alert remained in place. Robertson says her family is prepared to leave, but they’re keeping it all in stride.

“There’s always risk when you’re living in the mountains, there’s always a risk in life,” she says, noting there was a large landslide nearby soon after they moved to the area. “We still love where we are.”

**SHELLEY BORTNICK,**
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Thanks, Van Mill
Thanks to Councillor Van Mill from Kaslo for listening to all points of view, then giving his honest opinion and voting for what he feels is right. This is what he was elected for.

Paddy Flanagan
Kaslo

Dear MLA Mangull:
I’ve seen the BC Civil Liberties Association’s comment on the recent CV19 legislation and agree with the concerns. It is understandable that people who live may require temporary draconian responses: cf. War Measures. But where secrecy and novelty affect social, environmental and financial security, they are abhorrent and must be eliminated. Novel, unaccountable and permanently enhanced powers are not acceptable.

I trust you will pass along this concern.

Rev. F. Mark Mealing
Meadow Creek

Elk hunting
Just because we can buy all the toilet paper or the meat in the store doesn’t mean we should. Who would admit to knowing those who would do that?

We are legally permitted to hunt anywhere in BC as a resident hunter. But where does that stop these days with the climate and environment issues and the loss of habitat?

Nakusp has a group of hunters ‘par excellence’ who have hunting for over 20,000 years or thereabouts, and backed off in alarm. Racism is like the 20-acre waterfront which was avoided plagues like the pandemic, skirmishes, and more important, it is verbatim and in lockstep with each tribe avoided other tribes like racism personally.

I don’t know who you are, who you represent or what your real motives are, but your letters are vindictive, vengeful and very, very suspicious.

I have been overwhelmed with support for that letter. Emails, phone calls and strangers on the street. So far 93% positive feedback. Finally, people are talking. If you’re still not questioning this insanity, perhaps you need to give your head a shake.

Bruce Freeman
Kaslo

Response to Richard Caniell
At first I was going to ignore your response to my COVID letter but then I realized that again and again you attack opinions that differ from official government positions. You wrote an entire page quoting chapter and verse the exact news we are bombarded with day and night. You don’t even add anything original or new. In your case however, the criticism is vitriolic and even venomous, as though you took these opinions personally.

We see this type of thinking in third world countries and especially in communist countries. Your attacks on other people’s opinions do not just disappear; they attempt to shred and discredit every point while reminding everyone they must believe and not question what the news media tells them. This is very unusual in a democratic society – almost weird. Everything you say is verbatim in lockstep with government positions and official policy.

I don’t know who you are, who you represent or what your real motives are, but your letters are vindictive, vengeful and very, very suspicious. I have been overwhelmed with support for that letter. Emails, phone calls and strangers on the street. So far 93% positive feedback. Finally, people are talking. If you’re still not questioning this insanity, perhaps you need to give your head a shake.

Bruce Freeman
Kaslo

Racism
In the musical South Pacific, an American soldier sings: “It has to be taught, it has to be carefully taught.” He’s talking about racism.

Not true. Even young children discriminate against others who look “different.” I should know. I was five when I got owly horn-rimmed glasses. That was enough to get me excluded. I can give many examples of such discrimination, exclusion, or ostracism. My children were three, four, five, and seven when a foreign student from Nigeria joined our church. Far from his family, he was intrigued by these very blonde and blue-eyed kids. But the kids had never seen a person with black skin and backed off in alarm. Racism is inborn.

Way back when, 30,000 or 20,000 years ago or thereabouts, this served a useful purpose. Several, actually. They lived in tribes. Each tribe claimed its own territory, and each tribe avoided other tribes like the plague. That avoided border skirmishes, and more important, it avoided plagues like the pandemic we are seeing today.

Today, some eight billion people are living cheek by jowl everywhere, a veritable smorgasbord for bacteria and viruses. Any virus can get from Hong Kong to New York in a day, and from there to Los Angeles to Paris to Timbuctu. Far from serving a useful purpose, racism is worse than a pandemic.

“We must live together as brothers, or perish together as fools.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Eljhe de Boer
Fanshier

Congratulations, Slocan
Congratulations to Mayor Lunn and her council for taking the initiative on a super good investment: the 20-acre waterfront which was the old mill site next to the beach in Slocan!

Even though the mill closure of 2014 meant for a huge negative impact on Village tax revenue, still Slocan certainly came into this incredible deal with no debt and the $21 annual increase in municipal taxes to help with the government investment will I’m sure be seen as well worth it by all.

At their most recent monthly public meeting, the Village hosted Michael Zimmer, a fisheries expert on waterways and salmon restocking. He explained many things, including proving false a rumour that any salmon coming up here from the ocean would surely be contaminated. And that a hatchery – even one that would stock kokanee which doesn’t need to return to the ocean – was easily fundable and do-able. He talked about the levels of technology for things like day-lighting creeks, such as Springer as it goes under the concrete at the old site, or amazingly even finding out the DNA through water samples of what kind of fish are in the river/lakes, etc. Yes, there has been a lot of progress in terms of how to extricate ourselves from the environmental mess we’re in and we need not worry that we don’t have the know-how, or funds for many good projects going forward.

While Mayor Lunn talked about potential for community conversations, it is the case that there have already been many studies and ideas floated for the old mill site over the last few years, including an extensive one done by the Selkirk urban planning graduating class under the tutelage of Rob McCrae, which detailed a variety of exciting enterprises and activities that could co-exist at the site.

So, three cheers for the restoration and development to come and may the public who, let’s face it, with sufficient information and our wonderful Canadian backbone, ingenuity and integrity, usually knows best, take full advantage of the propinquity of our times, in partnership with a very progressive thinking Village office!

Daphne Fields
Slocan

Those actions affect the local hunters that live in this area that depend on elk for food. What is the answer to this dilemma? Best we find one before the government solves it for us. Manage your own areas, we’ll manage ours.

David Shirk
Rosebery

Editorial/letters policy
The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libellous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.

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The smallest ripples first

As I read through the letters in last issue, it became clear to me that if we are part of a social engineering experiment, “it’s not what we think it is. How is that in just two decades, the majority of people on the planet have come to accept Google LLC as the source of all knowledge and wisdom? We call it ‘information,’ and we only question it when it doesn’t give with what we already believe. Down that rabbit hole, we have a fight. We can find evidence to support any half-formed notion or theory we can think of. We go so excited about making connections that we ignore all the connections that don’t really exist outside the internet.

And now, over the past decade, we have been able to share all that knowledge and wisdom on social media. It’s not necessarily a bad thing to be aware of what’s going on in the big world outside our communities. But to be constantly tuned in to everyone’s opinion on everything is crazy-making. Our brains and nervous systems were not designed to handle this.

Little by little, the internet in general and social media in particular have been eroding our connection to the immediate world around us, as well as our ability to reason, think critically (not judgementally!), and empathize with other people. I wonder if the makers of social media care that we are using their product to tear our neighbours apart over semantics, rumours, and differences of opinions?

A wise elder has said that change happens like a pebble dropped in a pond: the smallest ripples first. If we really want to make positive changes in our world, maybe we should start by putting away our digital devices and refocusing on our communities, our families, and our own mental health.

Sarah Lawless

Kaslo priorities

Given a choice, would Kaslo’s water users prefer to preserve the watershed that supplies the town with water or spend another million dollars to extend the sewer system three blocks? This is a choice facing council and as usual the residents have not been consulted.

For over a century, the Kemp Creek watershed has supplied problem-free gravity water until a forest fire was uncontrolled in 2007 and caused the ground to become hydrophobic. This means that for a second time, the water from an extreme rain that didn’t get absorbed in the ground but ran down to scour the edges of Kemp and Josephine Creeks to damage the dam, road and water treatment plant.

In a 2007 report, Peter Jordan of the BC Forest Service identified these problems and made recommendations to council but no action has ever been taken. Fortunately, there is a solution available and that would be to plant mountain alder in the watershed, but the trees need to be ordered by November for next spring’s planting season.

While making these improvements, a water mainline could be installed from the two million gallon reservoir to the hangar area at the Kaslo Airport. This would be an easy feat given the ground conditions. Then the Nelson Forest Service could establish a marshing point at this elevation where helicopters can bucket water to any forest fire that threatens the town’s borders.

However it is unclear if the council is proceeding with needed repairs this year. Instead, council may be considering a completely new and costly water system that utilizes electricity from Kootenay Lake. These however would be at risk should a forest fire burn the power lines between Kaslo and Ballou.

There is merit in restoring Kaslo’s water system and one would expect Mayor Hewet and her council to have some vision and approach Minister Doug Donaldson for a grant from the Ministry of Forests to lobby for some of the surplus funds that will be available from this year’s fire prevention grants.

Instead they are pursuing funding from the Invest Canada Infrastructure Program that will pay 100% of the costs from Kootenay Lake.

Their priorities are wrong and we have no time to waste as next year will be too late when the federal, provincial and municipal governments start looking for the prolific spending that has occurred this year.

Patrick Mackle

Kaslo

A challenge to the “COVID-19 is a hoax” people

What if the three following questions (and perhaps cite a source in answer) are asked about 100 words.

Who or what organization is purporting all of the hoax? How are they benefiting? What will they gain? Cite sources.

I was only able to find one letter that answers most of those questions. In the Valley Voice August 27 letter, this was what I could find: Who or what organization is perpetrating this hoax? “Bill time” creeks are not moving as expected...” is a vehicle to lead the world in a predetermined direction: an end to humanity as we’ve known it and a fusion of the human brain with artificial intelligence (AI), under 24/7 surveillance controlled by a centralized authority. Is it a “depopulation through vaccination.” What will they gain? Not clear in the letter. Cite sources: World Economic Forum website.

Karyn Shaundell

Winlaw

Facebook and protection of Slocan Lake

It is notorious in this day and age that Facebook has played a huge role in spreading misinformation. Misinformation is used to spread extremist, hatred, violence, which have become a pandemic of our era. The platform enables people of like mind or like origins to congregate. In some cases this is a great benefit: in others, it makes for the highly contagious spread of false claims and targeting of select groups for defamation and hatred. It is so big a problem as to become a major political issue in many countries it has produced not only a surge of hatred but also increasing virulence of hatred.

Sadly, the Slocan Valley now has its own problem of this kind, though it is just getting started. Recently, directors of the Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) received shocking false allegations against the society, as well as against the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology (VFE) on the publicly-accessible New Denver Community Forum website.

While VWS and VFE share the common goal of environmental protection, they are two separate organizations. The boards of the two organizations have only one director in common (bear biologist Wayne McCroy, RBIO). VFE works to acquire private land for conservation. It has played a major role in preserving the Slocan Lake ecosystem by purchasing the Valhalla Mile, a piece of private land in Valhalla Provincial Park, and by purchasing the marsh at the head of the lake. It is about 25 years old.

VWS is 45 years old and began by forming a successful nine-year campaign to create Valhalla Park and several others. VWS works mainly in the protection of public land and resources.

The current issue is a complaint filed by VFE with government, concerning foreshore development on private land in Valhalla Park. Although we generally support one another, the two organizations keep their work fairly separate. For instance, the Valhalla Wilderness Society did not send anyone across the lake to view the development and take photographs. VWS sent a complaint with government against the Slocan Lake development, and did not have any input into the complaint filed by VFE. VWS has not sent any correspondence government, VWS directors and staff did not send our members to look out in front of the property. We did notice that there was an unusual number of kayaks on the lake this summer, but they appeared to be tourists.

The one overlapping director of the two organizations, Wayne McCroy, inspected the property. VWS directors totally trust Wayne to serve other organizations, knowing that his work is always aimed at protecting the environment and is highly credible. Wayne grew up in the valley and was working to protect Slocan Lake decades before some of the current directors had even come to the valley.

When VWS learned that the two organizations were being attacked with preposterous allegations, its board members studied the complaint filed by VFE and inquired into the context of how it all came about. In conclusion, VWS can only commend Wayne and VFE for tending to this important issue.

Some years ago, an RDC poll found that the majority of north valley residents wanted protection for Slocan Lake. There are laws in place to protect the forested and riparian zone, but unfortunately this is a time when the government has severely limited its compliance field staff. The only hope of having the laws mean anything is for citizens, and others, to speak out to alarm the government to possible violations.

In fact, if you travel on forest service roads, you will find a government sign urging compliance to report “known or suspected violations of fisheries, wildlife or environmental protection laws” on its RAPP line, a toll-free line. Once a complaint is made, the matter is decided by the government and no harm is done if the development is in compliance. Wayne and the VFE acted as good environmental citizens by inspecting the development and filling a complaint.

The correspondence of false claims and hatred that have resulted is a sign of our times in which conspiracy theories and libel are rampant on Facebook. Claims that the two organizations are working to harm the landowners are both ridiculous and false. Our joint field staff have been working to protect the lake for 45 years and have major achievements to prove it. VWS would like to thank the many citizens who have made statements in support of VF and VWS in the Valley Voice and newspaper articles.

Craig Pettit, VWS director

New Denver

September 10, 2020 The Valley Voice

LETTERS
The Valhalla Foundation for Ecology clarifies local matters

This letter is in regards to two disturbing matters which have been circulating in the community. A few weeks ago, people accused the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology of misdeeds.

The first matter pertains to the reporting of our concerns about possible förestry violations at several private properties on the west side of Slocan Lake to the Natural Resource Officer. A few questions were put to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Our violation report to the NRO service of the Ministry of Forests was the result of the complaint by our Valhalla Foundation for Ecology colleagues of damaged ecosystem services such as water filtration, flood control, and carbon sequestration. In the course of this work, done with all proper permits from the BC Environment Ministry, we have documented many roads and rehabilitated them to mimic wetland topography. We have worked collaboratively with a neighbouring private landowner, who also owns a portion of the wetland area, to decommission and reconnect it to nature on their property. This was done at their request and the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology was reimbursed for the cost of this decommission work.

After the work at Säk’mp was complete, members of the extended Leontowicz family posted widely in several Facebook community groups, claiming that a family memorial bench (another said a plaque) had been removed in the course of our work. The location and nature of this structure or plaque is unclear. No one has provided us with photos, video, or location description in spite of our efforts to communicate with the family. This concern has been of considerable curiosity and interest.

One clarification: the above matters were not referred to us by the Facebook group the family is a member of. If not within the BC implementation of Section 47 of the Charter, it is our intention not to engage with the Facebook group in any way. The Facebook group is not asking for evidence to be submitted of such evidence as to photos to back up one’s report, it also specifies not to involve with the involved parties in any way. The proper authorities are now dealing with the matter and we will not be discussing it further.

We encourage posting on social media personal threats against us, defamation, inflammatory comments, and libelous statements, desist or we will consider legal action. This will include the administrator(s) of any Facebook group that allows such defamation of character, libel, hate speech, and removal to remain posted by the group they control.

The second matter concerns the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology’s wetland restoration work at our Snk’mip Marsh Sanctuary. This work is being done on private property belonging to our foundation. We are a registered charitable organization with a mission to conserve and restore ecologically valuable land.

We purchased this 35-acre property on the open market, for the full asking price, in the summer of 2017. It was purchased from the estate of Peter Leontowicz. The funds for this purchase were donated by many individuals in our community and by foundations that support environmental conservation and ecological restoration.

This summer we completed phase four of a multi-year clean-up and restoration project at the sanctuary. Our goal is to restore the property to its highest possible ecological potential, and meet the needs of nature first. Enhancing the Bonanza Marsh wetland is providing much-needed additional habitat for amphibians and many other threatened and endangered species, as well as enhancing the marsh’s ecological services such as water filtration, flood control, and carbon sequestration.

If anything representing a memorial was disturbed, it was done completely inadvertently. We are sorry this has brought up painful emotions and memories for this large family and their friends. We invite anyone in the family to contact us directly if they have knowledge of what or where this structure or plaque was, and we can talk about what could be done in memory of their family members who have passed on. We cannot speak for the neighbouring landowner (owner of the property closest to the lake) but we suggest the Leontowicz family also contact them to discuss this matter.

In summary, in the absence of information about any memorial locations, in spite of several attempts on our part to discuss the matter with the Snk’mip Marsh Sanctuary administration from the previous owner’s family, we were simply and methodically going about our project: the ecological restoration of this wetland area.

One clarification: the above matter involves the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology, not the Valhalla Wilderness Society, which is a separate organization and is not involved.

We hope the community will take the opportunity to enjoy nature at the Snk’mp Marsh Sanctuary and will celebrate this rare wetland that we are privileged to steward. Together, let’s celebrate what has been accomplished for the rare and endangered creatures that desperately need this type of habitat to survive on our beleaguered planet.

Lorna Visser and Wayne McCrory, Directors

Valhalla Foundation for Ecology

Zincton proponent provides update

The Zincton family would like to thank the thousands of people who have engaged. The love and appreciation for Zincton and what this Kootenays is about, whether for, against or undecided.

Zincton is 100% local – we started backcountry skiing in New Denver area in the mid 1970s. We first invested in New Denver in 1983, built in 1989, lived here full-time since 2003-04, and raised two kids here. We wouldn’t do this project if we didn’t think there were so few opportunities for our kids. That’s what Zincton is all about – community development.

Indigenous Nation support is required. The Sinixt Nation lived here for thousands of years, and are currently based in Colville, Washington. We are working with representatives of the many Nations who have varying land ownership rights here in the West Kootenay. Zincton is a member of the “1% for the Planet” environmental action organization. From the beginning of our Zincton efforts, we have been committed to spending a minimum of 1% of gross revenues on ‘preserve and protect’ initiatives every year.

GROW-OP CO-OP: Zincton is being designed as a model ‘high-elevation, high-latitude’ ecovillage with indoor activity production systems. We are working with experts in hydroponic, vertical indoor farming techniques, and visionary community planners, combined with rahalea. We are innovating to significantly improve inclusive recreation is an important priority for Zincton, and an opportunity for further innovation.

Zincton Village is designed to be run like an “innovation incubator.” Each residence will offer their own guest rental suites, enjoys all on-hill access and services, and will be run like an ‘innovation incubator.’

The eco-system management strategy will not change, remaining free and unrestricted for non-mechanized users. Heavy metal ground and water remediation of numerous past mine wastes – some operated for over 85 years – support our minimal summer use approach. We will not build any new trails or roads, nor any permanent structures until the health risks in the Retalack zone are quantified and remediated. Zincton’s priorities are to preserve alpine meadows, wildlife corridors and huckleberry zones. Zincton is a member of the “1% for the Planet” environmental action organization. From the beginning of our Zincton efforts, we have been committed to spending a minimum of 1% of gross revenues on ‘preserve and protect’ initiatives every year.

GROW-OP CO-OP: Zincton will install state-of-the-art water treatment and centralized sewage systems with onboard, self-monitoring diagnostics, sensors and wireless controls.

HIDROGEN BUSES from Kaslo to New Denver: Zincton will run clean and silent buses for staff and guests to the Zincton base camp in season. Current versions of hydrogen buses are reliable, clean, and low maintenance – tailpipe emissions are H2O only. Zincton buses will reduce noise, traffic, congestion and wildfire & vehicle interactions on Highway 31A.

OPPORTUNITY: The economic impact of 150 on-hill, and 100 secondary jobs in Kaslo, New Denver and the North Slocan will go a long way to ensuring that our small villages grow and continue to attract the many Nations who have varying land ownership rights here in the West Kootenay. Whistler Blackcomb, Celebrity and Rainbow are reviewing verified data, and will be flexible to ski the proposed tenure for free by starting from the lakes. All skiers and snowboarders will benefit from Zincton’s availability. Zincton’s proposal winter use is a wildlife “threat” is a stretch – our backcountry zone will have one of the lowest ‘threat’ areas and highway. To say Zincton’s restrictions – alongside existing ski area design these days. Huge increases in the Selkirks. Whistler Blackcomb, Celebrity and Rainbow are reviewing verified data, and will be flexible to ski the proposed tenure for free.

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Our ‘comparative advantages’ are

RICK HANSEN GOLD: Zincton is designed to achieve Gold Certification for adaptive and vision impaired, and we will continue to push to significantly improve inclusive recreation is an important priority for Zincton, and an opportunity for further innovation.

GROW-OP CO-OP: Zincton is being designed as a model ‘high-elevation, high-latitude’ ecovillage with indoor activity production systems. We are working with experts in hydroponic, vertical indoor farming techniques, and visionary community planners, combined with rahalea. We are innovating to significantly improve inclusive recreation is an important priority for Zincton, and an opportunity for further innovation.

Zincton Village is designed to be run like an ‘innovation incubator.’ Each residence will offer their own guest rental suites, enjoys all on-hill accommodation revenue – eliminating dark homes, reducing density and impact, and maximizing creativity and hospitality. The role of the Zincton Lift Company will be to host, roads, safety, marketing and reservations. All remaining village service and business operators will be owner operated. Our best efforts will go into promoting Zincton as our rugged mountains, deep snow, and amazing views. We can solve the November-April problem, lighting up existing ‘dark homes’ by giving seasonal residents powerful reasons to become permanent residents. We look forward to your assistance amplifying and promoting the vision for our communities’ futures. Our kids deserve recreation, local health care, jobs, opportunities, and a bright future.

David Harley
New Denver
In April 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) changed the use of masks in the context of COVID-19 and concluded: “At the present time, the widespread use of masks by healthy people in the community setting is not supported by the current available scientific evidence.” The WHO confirmed that masks carry uncertainties and critical risks including increased risk of self-contamination. According to an experiment controlled trial study, the use of cloth masks actually increases the risk of respiratory infection. Researchers found the risk of infection with influenza-like illness was 13 times higher in hospital workers using cloth masks compared to medical/surgical masks, and over three times higher when not wearing a mask at all.

2. Physical Distancing, Measures are Arbitrary

The imposition of two metre physical distancing is arbitrary rather than evidence-based. The World Health Organization recommended only one metre distancing. There is no scientific evidence to support the effectiveness of two metre distancing to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission. Former Canadian chief public health officer, Dr. Joel Kットman stated “We need approaches with a better balance of benefits and harms. Rather than generalised restrictions for all measures, we must have more tailored approaches... only to leave the door open to legal action.”

3. PCR Testing is Scientifically Meaningless

The PCR test result to identify SARS-CoV-2 is not intended for use as a diagnostic tool. The PCR test used to identify the SARS-CoV-2 virus was never designed as a diagnostic tool and should not be used as such. There is no scientific evidence that current PCR testing is measuring the SARS-CoV-2 virus or making this data unreliable. The SARS-CoV-2 virus purportedly be identified from a CV-19 virus had been identified, purified, and scientifically confirmed to detect the virus. The testing for SARS-CoV-2 is based on assumptions and speculations rather than established scientific facts.

4. Concern with Positive Test Results

Public Health, under the direction of the World Health Organization, has directed physicians to not distinguish between those who died from CV-19 and those who died from CV-19. This is unprecedented in medicine. Ontario Public Health admits to arbitrarily inflating the number of CV-19 deaths by 50%. These measures artificially inflate the number of deaths attributed to CV-19 and makes this data unreliable as a measurement of risk. More reliable way to measure the impact of CV-19 is to examine whether all-case deaths in the first six months of 2020 is greater than all-case deaths during the same period in the previous decade.

5. COVID-19 Comparable to Annual Influenza/Pneumonia

The number of deaths attributed to CV-19 is comparable to a moderate to severe influenza season. People should have the right to full disclosure of all information pertinent to adverse impacts of mitigation measures, including information on legal and constitutional human rights issues, and the public should be guaranteed access to a transparent process in authorities establish public health policy.

9. Censorship of Alternative Perspectives and Treatments

Information that challenges the current COVID-19 narrative is actively censored in the mainstream media and on social media platforms. Media appear to have been instructed to suppress any information that challenges the official narrative. This censorship prevents accountability and transparency, unnecessarily inflates fear and panic, and prevents the consideration of treatment strategies other than vaccination.

The public health experts globally have had their public statements and videos removed because they challenged the measures being implemented by governments. The majority of COVID-19 deaths are attributed to SARS-CoV-2 virus. The SARS-CoV-2 virus was never designed as a diagnostic tool, and therefore unreliable as an indicator of the risk of infection. More than 95% of individuals whose deaths are attributed to CV-19 had one or more chronic illnesses, and fewer than 5% occurred in individuals under age 60, and most of these individuals had chronic disease. At least 82% of deaths attributed to CV-19 in Canada occurred in senior’s care facilities. This means that less than 18% of deaths occurred outside of老人 care facilities. More than 95% of these seniors had multiple chronic health conditions.

6. Data Manipulation

The Vancouver District Health Authority estimates that 40% of CV-19 deaths were due to CV-19. This is misleading. The Vancouver District Health Authority estimates that 80% of CV-19 deaths in the previous decade. The rate of CV-19 for the vast majority of the population is significantly higher than 3.3/100,000. The official CV-19 death rate per million is 241 per million, 230 per million.

10. Lack of Science to Support Measures

The financial consequences of CV-19 measures include massive job loss, bankruptcy, closure of businesses, homelessness, and incalculable debt. Our economy is in “free fall.” The social fabric of our communities has been severely impacted by government measures. Our democracy and rights and freedoms are in serious and immediate danger. One only needs to witness the destruction in Australia and New Zealand to appreciate how vulnerable we are to tyranny.

12. Inmate Immune System

We all possess immune systems that have adapted to challenges and allowed humanity to survive. Every time we are exposed to germs, viruses and bacteria, our immune system grows stronger and stronger. Inmate regulations are necessary for the very survival of our inmates. They prevent us from spreading disease to others, we may gain in the short term, but we may neglect our own immune system in the long term.

Number of COVID-19 deaths, as of August 30, 2020, the mortality rate attributed to CV-19 is 241 per million, a difference of 11 deaths per million. Given the deaths attributed to CV-19 are purportedly inflated, there is no reason to support the claim that CV-19 has a higher mortality than annual influenza pneumonia.

6. The Risk of Infection in Children is Extremely Low

The risk of infection in children is extremely low. According to a public statement issued by the Medical Health Officer in Ontario, SARS-CoV-2 has a very low infection rate in children and youth. In BC, less than 1% of children and youth have tested positive. There is no conclusive evidence that children pose a risk to other children or adults. The closure of schools and childcare facilities has significant negative mental and socioeconomic impacts on vulnerable children and their families.

According to Dr. Mark Liyus, MD, Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer with Vancouver Coastal Health, “Although children are often at increased risk for viral respiratory illnesses that are not the case with COVID-19. Compared to adults, children are less likely to become seriously ill or require hospitalization due to severe illness as a result of infection and less likely to transmit the infection to others. Personal protective equipment such as medical masks and gloves are not recommended in the school environment.”

There have been no deaths in children in Canada attributed to COVID-19.

What Is Needed Now

What is needed during this critical time is leaders who fully inform themselves to enable them to make decisions based upon evidence rather than politics. We also need leaders who do not succumb to media pressure or the public’s over reaction due to fear and anxiety. The public, including our elected officials, are being bombarded with misinformed information from extremely biased and manipulative media outlets and public institutions.

We must respect the rights of all Canadians as well as our elected representatives who are acting emotionally rather than logically and rationally.

Recommended Actions:

Eliminate all mask mandates.
Eliminate all physical distancing measures.
Open all businesses immediately.
Open our schools without masking or physical distancing requirements.
Open our courts and courts with social distancing can still hold their governments accountable.

Allow open and honest debate about this major crisis and the measures needed to treat it.

Recognize that financial conflicts of interest are distorting our understanding of this condition and the measures needed to treat it.

Insist on robust peer-reviewed science and evidence-based measures to guide our actions.

Defend our rights and freedoms and the sovereignty of the human body.

Tell the truth. An injection on mandatory vaccines will filed in Ontario Superior Court. Follow Canadian Constitutional lawyer Rosalina Gallo on Twitter @RosGalonaGallop


– Paid for by concerned private citizens –
RDCK completes investigation into Slocan Lake foreshore development; provincial investigation ongoing

by Jan McMurray

Complaints of possible foreshore violations on Slocan Lake waterfront properties across from Silverton have been investigated by the Regional District of Central Kootenay and are still under investigation by the Province.

Nelson Wight, planning manager with the RDCK, reports that the RDCK investigation is complete. “There were about 10 properties that we looked at, but not all had development violations that violated our regulations,” he said. “Furthermore, for those that did, the majority were likely developed prior to those bylaws coming into effect.”

Wight explained that when any bylaws have been breached, the RDCK first seeks to gain compliance with a request to the owner. “In this situation, any owners to whom we have made that request are cooperating,” he reported.

Wight says the RDCK found contraventions of the OCP, floodplain management and building bylaws during the investigation. “RDCK enforcement officers require that property owners obtain development permits prior to land disturbance, vegetation removal or other related activities within 30 metres of the natural boundary of Slocan Lake; the Floodplain Management Bylaw has regulations pertaining to the siting of buildings, such as a setback of 15 metres from the natural boundary and flood construction levels; and the Building Bylaw requires building permits for many building-related activities.”

“Because most of the development that we found in violation to current regulations was done prior to those bylaws coming into effect, we followed up with a letter to the owners explaining the current daily regulations,” Wight said. “We have found that when owners are made aware of the regulations they are more likely to heed them in the future.”

Wight says the RDCK is doing a review of development permit areas around Kootenay Lake, and this will help educate the public on best practices for stewardship of the sensitive lake ecosystems, lakes and streams. Public meetings as part of this review are planned for this fall.

**Roadmap to renewable energy future unveiled**

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

“IT’s going to take some experimentation, courage and foresight” to get West Kootenay communities to reach the target of producing no greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The West Kootenay EcoSociety has unveiled a blueprint for what it believes is the best way to create 100% renewable energy by that date.

Over the last two years, the EcoSociety got nine of the region’s elected councils to agree to the ambitious goal. But those municipal leaders have been waiting to see the details of how they were supposed to achieve it.

That plan is now being distributed to councils for discussion.

“The actions included in the Plan give participating local governments a good start toward a distant destination,” says the introduction to the Plan. “To reach the end, communities will need to adjust to the changing landscape and adapt their actions accordingly.”

**What to target**

The plan details ‘Big Moves,’ a suite of strategies and actions focused on protecting land and biodiversity at the community level. Because local governments have limited jurisdiction, the plan focuses on four key areas: reducing greenhouse gas emissions; improving transportation (electric vehicles, public transit and active transportation to cut emissions); buildings (building energy-efficient new buildings and retrofitting older ones to cut consumption); waste reduction and Resource Recovery (composting, landfill gas capture, and landfill diversion); renewable energy generation (encouraging solar, wind generation, and other options).

“Where local governments’ authority is limited, they can work together to advocate for policy change at provincial and federal levels, and use incentives and education to promote desired behaviours,” the report suggests.

**How much to do?**

The report also outlines the size of the job facing the municipalities. For the RDCK’s unincorporated regions, greenhouse gas emissions have increased from 160,000 tonnes annually to 102,000 tonnes by 2030, a drop of 27%. Other municipalities, though producing much smaller amounts of GHG, also face similar challenges. The Plan targets 32% while Kaslo only has to achieve a 19% reduction in emissions by 2030.

In all the communities, vehicle emissions remain the greatest source of greenhouse gas production – up to 60% in some cases – so the EcoSociety calls for significant and comprehensive change, “in a way that is meaningful and achievable.”

The plan then breaks down annual targets for each community. For New Denver to meet its 32% reduction target by 2030, nine gas vehicles would have to be replaced by EVs every year and 10 buildings a year would have to be retrofitted, among other initiatives. Municipal staff will incorporate the strategy into official community plans, bylaws, and other policies, “which will lead to the development of relevant initiatives and infrastructure.”

The plan will be updated every three to five years to allow for unanticipated technology and societal changes that may currently only be occurring in the coming three decades.

“We must carefully measure our progress and be adaptive and innovative. This plan is evergreen and can and will change,” the report says.

**Immense weather pattern sets credit for our timeless summer**

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The weeks-long heat wave that’s hit the West Kootenay – and much of western North America – is the result of a unique alignment of planetary weather patterns.

And while it’s caused some headaches for forest fire fighters, it’s meant picture-perfect summer conditions for hikers, campers, and people floating down the Slocan River right into September.

“It’s caused by something called Rossby waves,” says Southeast Fire Centre Weather Forecaster Jesse Ellis. “The physics behind them is really interesting.”

The waves – also called planetary waves – are a normal feature of the atmosphere. But a combination of the size of the waves, the number of them currently circling the planet, their frequency and just dumb luck has planked one large standing wave right over the west coast of the continent. It’s stalled a high-pressure ridge over our area, and “they are on the order of thousands of kilometres north to south, and thousands of kilometres wide,” says Ellis. “This one extends from the east-central Pacific to the Rockies.”

In August, that meant hot, dry weather for the Kootenays. A little around the block for some; a little more extreme to break any records, says Ellis. It’s also meant very dry weather – the Southeast Fire Centre’s August summary pegs the monthly total at less than half – 46% – of normal.

“The flow was dry enough that we didn’t pick up any rain, but it wasn’t dry enough that we didn’t see cloud every three to four days,” he says. “There were several waves of Pacific moisture that came through, but none of them managed to break through our area more than a few raindrops.”

For the fire centre, that’s meant the forests are getting progressively drier and more likely to flare up into fires, given the right circumstances. “Much of the southern half of the Southeast Fire Centre is seeing above-average BUI, or Build-Up Index, which indicates that there’s more fuel that’s available to burn,” he says.

In the meantime, enjoy the continuing endless summer while it lasts. It’s unlikely we’ll see anything for a front to move through the region over this coming weekend, bringing cooler temperatures, cloud and rain. At press time, it’s a little hard to say the Rosby wave will re-establish itself after that.
Green burial ground proposed for north Slocan Valley

Is there life after death? Well, no one really knows for sure. Can you contribute to life after death? Now this is a whole different question, and green burial provides everyone to be part of creating a green burial ground to serve the north Slocan Lake area. Any contribution, whether of time, money or land, would be gratefully received and would help make this dream come true.

What is a green burial? The Denman Island Memorial Society (http://dmsbc.ca) is very experienced with it, and the following features are usually considered essential to a natural burial. Embalming is not used. The body is wrapped in biodegradable materials. The coffin or burial container is biodegradable. Concrete vaults are not used to enclose the grave. Tombstones are not used to mark the grave. Landscaping is minimal. No chemical fertilizers or biocides are used.

Here in New Denver, the Green Burial Committee has begun the work of the book that it is “full of surprise after surprise in terms of language and perception... The poems are well turned, with memorable lines that articulate the shadow side of the human predicament.” A video interview with Joyce by the renowned Canadian poet Tom Wayman was screened along with a recorded live performance of the book at the Saskatchewan Street Week and Expo online film festival, which ran August 23-29. Joyce is also a historian who has written two books and more than 250 articles on the history of the West Kootenay region of BC. His nonfiction book on the British Home Children is very experienced with the culture and the collective consciousness to seek meaning in the midst of chaos. This is his “memoir,” told in a series of linked narrative poems. Gary Geddes, an older statesman of Canadian poetry, wrote of the book that it is “fine of art accomplishment in terms of language and perception... The poems are well turned, with memorable lines that articulate the shadow side of the human predicament.”

Valhalla Community Choir postponed until COVID risk lessens

This past summer, the Valhalla Community Choir under the direction of Francie Oldham regrets that it will not be resuming practices in September due to concerns about the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

“We will be monitoring the situation with the hope of resuming choir practices once provincial health authorities deem it safe,” Francie said. “We hope we can resume choir practices in January but we will have to see what the situation is in late December before we can make a decision. During a pandemic – he feeds off both the culture and the collective consciousness to seek meaning in the midst of chaos. This is his ‘memoir,’ told in a series of linked narrative poems. Gary Geddes, an older statesman of Canadian poetry, wrote of the book that it is “fine of art accomplishment in terms of language and perception... The poems are well turned, with memorable lines that articulate the shadow side of the human predicament.” A video interview with Joyce by the renowned Canadian poet Tom Wayman was screened along with a recorded live performance of the book at the Saskatchewan Street Week and Expo online film festival, which ran August 23-29.

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The report found that one in five RDCK households are living in homes costing them nearly a third of their income. The situation is particularly acute in the region’s smaller centres, it says. “Single people and low-income households cannot reasonably afford market prices” in Kaslo, Slocan Valley, Nakusp, and other areas, the report’s authors found. “Single households, who are often younger and hold lower wage jobs or are older and live off investments or savings, do not earn enough to comfortably rent or purchase a traditional dwelling… emphasizing the importance of non-market support.”

“In But it’s a pan-distict problem.” — 2016, Statistics Canada

New shipment of fence posts and fencer

Home Hardware
Animal feed for chickens, horses, pigs, sheep, dogs, cats & more

We are limiting people to 4 customers in the store at any one time. Social distancing of 6 feet is required. Please no sickness allowed in the store.

Car & truck batteries

Fir pellets by the pallet or in 1 tonne bulk bags (must be able to move to your residence, no delivery of bulk pellets)

We are limiting people to 4 customers in the store at any one time. Social distancing of 6 feet is required. Please no sickness allowed in the store.

PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES

We are limiting people to 4 customers in the store at any one time. Social distancing of 6 feet is required. Please no sickness allowed in the store.

Support needed
The study found that many residents need additional supports in order to afford increased housing costs.

One-third (33%) of renters who completed a housing needs assessment survey indicated they are struggling to afford housing services in the last two years. These supports included the foodbank, the Salvation Army, BC Housing RENT and SUBS, programs, shelter bed, and various others. “The experience of accessing these supports can sometimes be stressful and hard for some for subsidies or supports can be long and paperwork can sometimes be confusing,” the study found. “There is also a lot of concern that people who have traditionally been able to afford housing are increasingly being pushed out.”

The report says that loneliness in housing situations, such as waiting on service lists, can make it difficult for people to stay in rental housing situations that are less than ideal and may lack necessary supports. “Forty-three percent (43%) of renters respondents to the housing needs survey indicated that they were currently looking for rental housing,” the study says. Almost half (49%) were considering leaving their community because of their rental situation.

It also found a lack of supports, or non-market housing facilities and programs. Only Nelson provides emergency or homeless shelters affiliated with BC Housing. Electoral Area K represents mostly benefit from rental assistance. Rents and owners are both challenged by the current housing market.

There are many people in the RDCK who, five years ago, may have been able to afford market housing who are now unable to because of the accelerated cost,” says the report. “Key informants routinely pointed out that accessing housing is more difficult for everyone, not just marginalized populations. More and more, only those making more than the median income are insulated from housing instability.”

But the study also found strong community support for addressing the housing situation. “There is a deep and genuine concern for the well-being of others and the future of housing availability in the Regional District of Central Kootenay,” it says. “Many older residents were concerned that their children and young families would not be able to afford the housing market as they did."

Communities are being asked to consider for the future of housing availability will only get worse as more people move to the Regional District to retire.”

The RDCK board will review the full report in a few weeks.
Nakusp recruitment underway to avoid doctor shortage

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Nakusp’s physician recruitment committee is working overtime to avoid what they describe as a potentially serious doctor shortage.

But they’re confident they can avoid the situation – at least in the short term.

Of the three physicians, the town will be short of medical services, and burnout of the remaining docs is a very concerning issue,” says Daniel Abraham, who’s on the three-person local recruitment committee. “On the bright side, we have been in contact with some very promising physicians who are interested in our area, and we are hopeful that we can sell all of the amazing things that Nakusp has to offer to them!”

The Arrow Lakes rural community has an ongoing problem with doctor recruitment and retention. Abraham says this latest chapter for Nakusp began when two doctors left at the beginning of the year. One retired, and one moved to Fernie for personal reasons.

That left the town with only four doctors. Then Dr. Chelsea Anchikoski went on maternity leave. The biggest issue with a shortage like this is the emergency department at the hospital risks being closed at times,” says Abraham, but he describes that as a “worst case scenario.”

“We are actively and for the most part successfully obtaining locum coverage for the vacant practices, but that is not an ideal or sustainable solution.”

To maintain full service for Nakusp, they need to attract permanent recruits, he says. “It’s not something that the town hasn’t faced before. When my wife and I moved here and she started practicing six years ago, there were times when she was one of two or one of three [doctors],” he says. “That’s difficult because you don’t work in the clinic when on call, so the demand- and wait-times naturally increase, and the potential for the ER to close temporarily increases as well.”

Not having enough doctors also creates an unattainable shift schedule and workload, he says. Younger doctors are seeking more of a work-life balance, he says. On one hand that gives Nakusp an advantage with its active outdoor community. But the workload remains a difficult issue.

“Younger GPs looking for a healthy mix don’t really want to come to a town where their call load would be one of three or four doctors – that’s not work-life balance,” says Abraham. “It’s much easier to recruit when it would be one of five or higher.”

In the meantime, the village committee is continuing to work with Interior Health to find new recruits. And Abraham says they’re feeling confident they have “some very promising leads.”

“We look forward to providing some welcome news to the community in the near future,” he says.

Caribou society awaits word on maternity pen project

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative

The head of the Arrow Lakes Caribou Society says they need to hear soon if they’re going to start the birthing season.

“It’s a particular concern for people who live in the area above the sub-population. They’d be taken to the birth site near Moberly Lake, and in Alberta – apparently the method is sound. But the society awaits the go-ahead from the Province. But they need to know soon if they’re going to start the birthing season.

“We’re at a watershed moment,” he says. “We could probably scratch our way through and get the pen built regardless,” he says. “But there are two or three large grants we want to apply for. We have a good project and a good rationale for wanting to do it, but we want to be able to respond positively when asked if it’s supported by government.”

Watw says the study was supposed to report in by June, but has been delayed. So he’s waiting, with one eye on the calendar, for the results that will give the society the go-ahead.

ER recruitment sees increase in vandalism and carelessness this year

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The people in charge of maintaining the recreation site at Bancrook Point, south of Silverton on Slocan Lake, say that the increase in vandalism, littering, unattended campfires and damage to live trees threatens the free and open use of the popular recreation site.

The problems likely stem from heavier use this summer from people staying to the province because of COVID-19-related travel restrictions.

Bancrook Point sees increase in vandalism and carelessness this year

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The people in charge of maintaining the recreation site at Bancrook Point, south of Silverton on Slocan Lake, say that the increase in vandalism, littering, unattended campfires and damage to live trees threatens the free and open use of the popular recreation site.

The problems likely stem from heavier use this summer from people staying to the province because of COVID-19-related travel restrictions.

“The more we look at it and focus on whether it would be of use to small caribou populations that have been declining,” he says. “The project came out of a well-thought-out study it, seems to be a tool that’s been used to try to boost small caribou populations in Alberta and near Moberly Lake, and in Alberta – apparently the method is sound. But the society awaits the go-ahead from the Province. But they need to know soon if they’re going to start the birthing season.

“We’re at a watershed moment,” he says. “We could probably scratch our way through and get the pen built regardless,” he says. “But there are two or three large grants we want to apply for. We have a good project and a good rationale for wanting to do it, but we want to be able to respond positively when asked if it’s supported by government.”

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“arid we keep the dam going and the fish in, we can do all the funding.

Caribou society awaits word on maternity pen project

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative

The head of the Arrow Lakes Caribou Society says they need to hear soon if they’re going to start the birthing season.

Hugh Watt says the project has been on pause for a few months as the society awaits the go-ahead from the Province. But they need to know soon if they’re going to start the project in time for next spring’s birthing season.

“We’re at a watershed moment,” he says. “We’ve had to raise out and raise money through grants for operations, we need government support. We have to be able to point to that and say, yes, the government supports this.

The project would see about nine females taken from the near-extinct Nakusp herd of the Central Selkirk sub-population. They’d be taken to an enclosure on a bench above the Nakusp hot springs, and kept safe there to give birth and raise their young.

However, the Province is saying Stephan Martineau, manager of the Slocan Inland Forestry Cooperative (SFICo).

“There’s been a major increase in use this summer, and I think it’s due to the increase in vandalism, littering, unattended campfires and damage to live trees. We need to take some action on the use of the recreation site.

It’s concerning enough that a lot of residents have reached out and asked if there was something that could be done. So we are considering our options, says Martineau.

The site is officially managed by Revelstoke Wildlife Society (RWSBC) and BC (RSTBC), but SFICo has been taking care of it in partnership with them for the past 12 years. Martineau says it’s a good thing that damage is being done – SFICo has spent about $150,000 on improvements to the site in that time.

“We’ve done work on wildfire mitigation, we’ve got bridges over waterways, put in outhouses, created campsites with steel fire rings, a parking lot, signage and information kiosks,” he says. “We’ve done a lot of work over the years, as has Rec Sites and Trails BC, and we maintain it together and we care about it.”

He says SFICo saw similar problems in 2012, and a sign posted at the time asking for improved behavior regarding the problems – until this year. He said nothing will change at the site this season, but if they have problems at the beginning of summer 2021, SFICo and RSTBC may take steps to protect the site.

In an online posting, SFICo said if problems persist, it may be necessary to consider making Bancrook Point a user-pay recreation site to support a full-time attendant during summer months.

Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund Request for Proposals
The Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) and Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) are seeking proposals for projects that will benefit conservation in the rural areas around Kootenay Lake, specifically electoral areas A, D, and E within the RDCK.

The purpose of the Fund is to provide local financial support for important projects that will contribute to the conservation of our valuable natural areas. Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF) funding is available for conservation projects that result in the reduction to a known threat to biodiversity. The themes for the Fund are water conservation, wildlife and habitat conservation, and aquatic systems conservation.

Projects that are technically sound and effective, and provide value for money through partnerships with other funders will be given priority. Proposals must be a registered not-for-profit organization, First Nations band or local government. Unqualified groups or organizations may partner with a qualified organization. A Technical Review Committee will review project proposals and make recommendations to the RDCK for final funding approval.

To apply for funding, go to https://kootenayconservation.ca/apply-for-funding and report acts of vandalism.

Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund

1290 Hwy #6
Crescent Valley
250-359-7323

– Open daily –
(Open Christmas & New Year’s day)
by John Boisson, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A Kaslo man says he was taken aback when he was recognized for his contributions to search and rescue operations in the area.

Dr. Don Hunt was selected as one of six recipients of the 2020 Public Safety Lifeline volunteer awards last month.

“I was just amazed and shocked,” says Hunt. “It was very nice to be recognized.”

The awards, which are granted annually, recognize people who have made “exceptional contributions to emergency and disaster response” in the province. Hunt was recognized for his road rescue work.

Hunt joined Kaslo Search and Rescue six years ago, after retiring from a long career as a dentist in the village. In that time, he not only worked on the road rescue team, but served as treasurer and manager of the Kaslo SAR.

“It’s hard on you,” he said of the sometimes-grim incidents he attended. “But it helps to have the team, to talk about it afterwards.”

At 74, he recently retired from search and rescue work. But he says the time he spent with the group was deeply rewarding.

“I learned an awful lot. The camaraderie is wonderful – there’s some really nice people who are just interested in helping,” he says. “I miss the people, but I don’t miss being on call 24/7.”

The head of Kaslo SAR, Stefan Lettrari, said the lifetime award is well deserved. “Don’s one of these guys who has a great heart. He is always willing to help and make a difference,” he says. “We have a bunch of new recruits on the team, and he’s a great role model for the next generation of rescuers.

“His leadership skills, his wonderful knowledge of our backcountry – if he didn’t know where a certain location was, you were in trouble. He has awesome knowledge of the area you could plug into, which is invaluable.”

Hunt is the second Kaslo resident to be recognized for their service to SAR in as many years. Paddy Flanagan was given a Lifetim Achievement Award under the same program in 2019.

Hunt was one of six award recipients from the more than 10,000 volunteers in the province who dedicate their time to helping others in crisis. Hunt was recognized for his work on road rescue; others were nominated for their air and ground search and rescue work, helping set up communication networks, and general support and co-ordination efforts for victims of natural disasters.

“This is challenging and difficult work, both physically and emotionally,” said BC Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth in a pre-recorded address announcing Hunt’s award. “Still, when the call came in, he was there, always available, always ready, to lend a hand to people in terrible situations.

“Don’s sincere dedication and commitment to helping the community of Kaslo and surrounding area is evident in everything he has done and continues to do.”

Hunt’s plaque will be on its way to his home soon. Most of the usual pomp and ceremony that surrounds the issuing of the awards this year has been cancelled due to the pandemic.

In the meantime, the double-retiree isn’t slowing down. He’s spending his days enjoying the great outdoors – hiking, climbing, ATVing, and skiing.

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Trustee candidates debate school board’s future makeup

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Four candidates for the position of trustee of School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) made their pitch to voters in a unique all-candidate’s debate last week.

Three of the candidates took part in the virtual debate, held at the school board offices on August 31. The fourth, Judy Struck, was unable to attend, but submitted written responses to the prepared questions.

About 30 people joined in the Zoom meeting to hear the candidates’ positions on issues from leadership and governance to the proposed daycare for Nakusp Elementary School.

For the most part it was a sedate affair, with little engagement between the candidates or differences of opinion. The public had little to ask the candidates either, and the whole event ended about 45 minutes earlier than scheduled.

The candidates were most passionate about saying why they wanted to be a trustee.

Management skills

Aisian McLaren-Caux pointed to his experience on numerous boards in the community as a feature of his candidacy.

“In a time with great transition, with all the things going on in the world, the board needs leadership to navigate the uncertain times, and I believe I can offer that,” he said.

He added that experience had taught him the diplomacy involved in thoughtfully making decisions.

“It makes for good theatre and politics to charge in with a flaming standard, but it doesn’t get things done,” he said. “Building consensus through collaboration and engagement with stakeholders, seeing all sides of an issue, and respecting varying perspectives and building those solutions that best fit the challenges we face – that’s the best way to accomplish positive change.”

Community knowledge

Carlee Hughes said her understanding of the community gives her insight into decision making.

“Understanding where we are now and where we want to go will be my greatest asset,” she said.

“I am a good communicator and I feel I have a deep understanding of the culture of our community and of School District 10. I see value in collaboration and open mindedness.”

With a new strategic planning process beginning soon, she said her roots in Nakusp would inform that process.

“This community connection I have allows me to incorporate the culture and desires of the community into the strategic planning process.”

Experience

Judy Struck also mentioned her concrete experience on the board as a major attribute for voters.

“There are always changes in government and legislation, but the role of the board does not change,” she said. “I feel my current strength is my past experience on the school board. It is the board’s job to develop policies to achieve success. My experience with doing this is how I can help the board govern.”

She said this was especially true with COVID-19 impacting all aspects of district operations.

“In my past term, the board completed an overhaul of the policy manual,” she added. “With the changes caused by COVID-19, the ministry will be making the school boards develop new policies for governing. I am ready to put in the work to achieve results.”

The fresh voice

Steve Gascon described himself as the ‘outsider’ candidate in the field.

“My position outside the current political structure is advantageous,” he said.

“I can bring a fresh set of eyes and a fresh perspective to the challenges and opportunities we are going to face as a board. The current board has great institutional memory, and great experience, on it and I think someone who can look at things from a different point of view and isn’t afraid to hold those accountable will be very valuable.”

“I’m a different voice, a strong advocate for students needs, an ally for teachers and staff, and we need others to engage in political process.”

Daycare concerns

All three candidates at the virtual meeting said they supported the idea of the new daycare at Nakusp Elementary School. But they all also cautioned they wanted more information – about how it would run, who would run it, and questions about its financing and possible impact on district operations.

“It’s a necessary addition to the community,” said Carlee Hughes, in comments that echoed the other candidates. “However, it was my understanding it was going to be managed by a non-profit first, and now it will be taken over by the school board. I need to have more financial info to make a decision that wouldn’t put our children at risk, if enrollment was low and there was a financial burden that would inadvertently impact programming available to children.”

The complete video of the debate can be viewed on the SD 10 website.

Voters in Nakusp and area go to the polls in the byelection on Saturday, September 12 to choose the new trustee for Nakusp, the central attendance zone of the district.

PEARSON, Roderick Murray

PEARSON, Roderick Murray (Mar) passed away on August 19, 2020 in the age of 63 years while fly fishing at one of his favourite places, Fry Creek near Kootenay Lake. He was born on September 17, 1956 in Flin Flon, Manitoba.

He was pre-deceased by his parents Elsie in 2008 and Frank in 2018. He is survived by his two siblings Jim and Nona and their families: Jim (Donna De Fraine) Pearson with son Ryan, and daughters MaryEllen (Andrew) Machuk with Mitchell and twins Heidi and Dominic, Melissa Pearson (Jon Ng) with Violet and Nathan, and Paula (Joe) Watkins with twins Philip and Pearson, and Nona (Doug) Flemming with Carly and Julie.

He graduated from Grade 12 at Hapnot Collegiate before moving to Toronto with his parents in 1974 and starting to look for his purpose in life. He spent time in Ottawa, Cominco in Trail, T&H Sawmill and the golf course in Kaslo, University of Victoria and a golf course in Victoria, and Pitt River near Vancouver. He was not a big city person and he finally found his sweet spot outdoors with a 31 year career as the Custodian for the Meadow Creek spawning channel north of Kootenay Lake.

Internationally, with his fluent Spanish he spent months of some winters playing baseball and teaching English in Costa Rica and Panama. He also worked construction in the Kaslo area for a number of winters.

Mur was devoted to sports as an athlete and coach for most of his life. He played on some Flin Flon league champion hockey teams when he was quite young and he wished he had been named Brooks after his baseball idol, Brooks Robinson of the Baltimore Orioles. He was an extreme participant in baseball and hockey in Kaslo and also really enjoyed fly fishing.

During the trip to Panama, he knocked on Chico Salmon’s door to talk about Chico’s career as an Oriole during their World Series years.

His family knew he had many friends in Kaslo but the expressions of appreciation for his character and his participation in the Kaslo community have been overwhelming.

Naming the Murray Pearson Ball Park is an honour to his memory and an honour for his family. He did his part for the environment by not owning a car for probably 40 years and although he had a casual awareness of technology, he never owned a phone or computer. He was always available for his friends and we would especially like to thank Loma, Maggie, John, Karma and Glen for all their help at this time.

Friends and relatives are invited to a Celebration of Life to be held for Murray in Kaslo on Saturday, September 26, 2020. Because of COVID-19 restrictions limiting groups to 50 people, the actual ceremony is planned to be held at the Murray Pearson Ball Park, and it will be live-streamed to the internet and to other venues in Kaslo.

Arrangements are still being made so please watch for details.

If friends so desire, memorial donations may be made to the Kaslo & District Area Association https://kasloarea.ca/ and the Kaslo & District Public Library https://kaslo.bc.libraries.coop/. Expressions of sympathy can be forwarded to the family at the Thompson Funeral Service website at https://www.thompsonfunfs.ca/obituary/roderick-pearsom/
Hospice Society of North Kootenay Lake chosen for the treasure fund

The Hospice Society of North Kootenay Lake is the recipient of this year’s $1,065 treasure fund. The treasure hunt kicked off on July 18, and Kaslo resident Heather Steinmann found the treasure box on August 5 near the Old Wagon Road west of Kaslo. Heather chose the hospice society as the recipient of the funds.

The Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake Society (CFNKLS), with the sponsorship of Pennywise, organizes the annual treasure hunt. A beautifully crafted wooden treasure box containing $250 is hidden somewhere in the North Kootenay Lake area. Clues appear one by one on a treasure hunt website until someone finally works out the location of the box and claims it along with its treasure. Additionally, while the hunt is ongoing, a treasure fund, to which anyone can donate, is accumulating. The finder of the treasure may choose a local charity to receive the treasure fund.

The hospice society will use the money to fund workshops and make available information about green burial. In previous years, the treasure fund has benefited the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation and Trails Society, and the Kootenay Lake Historical Society. The 2021 treasure box has already been made. The local community is set to benefit again next summer.

A cheque for $1,065, the proceeds of the treasure fund, is presented to the Hospice Society of North Kootenay Lake (HSNKL). L to R: Honora Cooper, president, CFNKLS; Barney Gilmore, secretary, CFNKLS; Bev Peacock, Executive Director, HSNKL; Heather Steinmann; Phyllis White, president, HSNKL.
Pride 2020 graces the streets of Kaslo

The family of Edward Perepolkin wish to announce his passing on August 28, 2020 at the Arrow Lakes Hospital, in Nakusp. Ed’s health had deteriorated over the last few years and he took great comfort in knowing that he was surrounded by loving family throughout that time and to the very end.

Edward was born in New Denver on May 4, 1942 and made his home in Hills for many years. In 2009, he built his retirement home on the shores of Summit Lake, where he continued to reside until one week before his passing.

Edward owned and operated his own logging truck company for many decades. He was also one of the original co-founders/owners of Three Islands Resort campground, at Summit Lake.

Although Ed never married or had children of his own, he was a wonderful and generous uncle to 18 nieces and nephews and 30 great nieces and nephews. He is survived by his sister Vera Aura of Revelstoke, brother Joe Perepolkin of Vernon, brother Alex Perepolkin of Hills and sister Linda Dennis, of Nakusp. He was predeceased by his parents Ely and Anne Perepolkin, sister Frances Kostiuk and brother Ely Perepolkin Jr.

As per Ed’s wishes, there will only be a private family gathering to commemorate his passing, with burial taking place at the Hills Community Cemetery.

Rest in peace, Ed…until we meet again.

Valley Funeral Home in care of arrangements.

Pride, which is typically recognized across the globe during the month of June, finally graced the streets of Kaslo after a minor delay due to the onset of COVID. It’s a time when LGBTQ2S+ band together with the freedom to openly express our affections and gender identity – a freedom that is often still being fought for today.

Pride celebrations are intended to be many things. They address systemic barriers, raise awareness and reduce prejudices that continue to harm the LGBTQ2S+ community. They also provide visibility and an opportunity to convey support for LGBTQ2S+ friends, community and culture.
WildSafeBC celebrates BC Goes Wild month

September is ‘BC Goes Wild’ month. WildSafeBC is celebrating the diversity of wildlife within our province, and aims to increase education opportunities in our communities to learn about how to reduce human-wildlife conflict.

In Kaslo and Area D, Brian kicked off BC Goes Wild month at Legacy Park in Kaslo on September 3 with a display, attended KORTS AGM on September 8, and will attend local farmers’ markets and host a month-long online contest on the WildSafeBC Kaslo Facebook page with WildSafeBC prizes to be won.

In New Denver–Nakusp, Cora will host booths at local farmers’ markets and recycling depots, participate in Harvest Fest on September 25 in New Denver, host a bear spray workshop in New Denver on September 25 from 6 to 7:30 pm, and host an electric fencing workshop in Burton on September 29 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm (contact Cora for registration and information at newdenver@wildsafebc.com).

The BC Goes Wild photo contest is also back! There is a $100 cash prize and WildSafeBC hat to be won. Photos can be taken in British Columbia between January 1 and September 30, 2020, and should follow the WildSafeBC Code of Conduct for photographing wildlife. Submissions are due by September 30, 2020. More details at https://wildsafebc.com/get-involved/2020-photo-contest.

In our region, the species we experience the most human-wildlife conflict with is black bears. As we approach fall, the bears have become especially active in preparation for winter denning. During this transition of the seasons, bears eat as much as possible to increase their body weight by approximately 30%. This phase for bears is called hyperphagia, and it is an important time for bears in which they require about 20,000 calories per day. Since bears are also opportunistic feeders, they will eat almost anything they can get their paws on – garbage, fruit trees, livestock, compost, freezers and coolers. As a result, it becomes particularly important to manage our attractants while bears seek food rewards within our communities. For example, keep your garbage secured until collection day; pick your fruit if you have fruit trees or have the fruit harvested by a local fruit gleaning program; consider installing electric fencing if you have livestock, bee hives or fruit trees; manage your compost; keep your freezers and coolers clean and secured.

For more information on electric fencing options, contact your local WildSafeBC coordinator (Cora for New Denver–Nakusp at 778-987-3652 or newdenver@wildsafebc.com; Brian for Kaslo at 905-977-8288 or kaslo@wildsafebc.com). For assistance with picking fruit, contact Harvest Share at 250-354-8120 if you are in the New Denver and Silverton region, the Root and Branch Society at 250-265-3548 or roontabranchevent@gmail.com if you are in the Nakusp region, or the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Food Hub at 250-353-7120 or kfs@rldcss.org if you are in the Kaslo region.

Please report wildlife conflicts to the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277. Residents can also discover recent reports of bears, cougars, coyotes, wolves or other wildlife in conflict online at WildSafeBC’s Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP), available at www.wildsafebc.com/warp. This program allows you to see what wildlife has been reported in your neighborhood and you can sign up for e-mail alerts for new sightings.

WildSafeBC Kaslo and Area D, and New Denver, Silverton, Nakusp and Area K, are grateful for the generous support the programs receive from their funders, including the Village of Kaslo, the Village of Nakusp, Village of Nakusp, the Regional District of Central Kootenay, the Columbia Basin Trust, the British Columbia Conservation Foundation and the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Slocan and District Technical Rescue Society needs your support

submitted

Thank you & an update: SNK’MIP Marsh Sanctuary

Summer 2020 restoration: the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology, in concert with wetland restoration expert Rob Annischild, has developed a conceptual plan for the Sanctuary. To this end, the southern portion of the Sanctuary has now been rehabilitated. The area will be planted with tree seedlings and a special wetland grass seed mix and by next spring will be nicely greened up. The interlaced gravel roads in that area have been removed and decomposted to restore natural wetland topography; ponds and pools have been created for amphibians. The gravel pit has been filled in and restored to riparian habitat.

The road that previously skirted the east perimeter of the marsh has been restored to wetland. Walkers are asked to use the rail-trail (directly above the marsh) to move between one end of the Sanctuary and the other.

Moving ahead, the north end of the Sanctuary will be the focal area for public visitation. We plan to maintain the current gated vehicular access road (for emergency vehicles and for handicapped access) and to develop a pleasant walking loop trail along wetlands and through the forest. Next year we plan to create several more large wetland ponds where school groups can get “up close and personal” with pond life, and develop some scenic viewpoints for visitors to enjoy this very special place.

Our thanks to: Rob Annischild, wetland restoration biologist, engineer and project design in association with Tom Biebighauser; Stuart and Mike Nelson, Silverton Transport Limited; Lea Smith, Smith Drain operator and GIS mapper; Miranda Cross, wetland restoration expert; Marjory Fudura, for educating us and for permission to work on our land, which is within unceded Salish territory; All the quieters the nuisance calls came from, to help with pond domination; Chief Tla’amin Nation, for being our ally in Central Kootenay; Montana Power, for planting the trees; and a host of others.

Thank you to Braun Biebighauser, Sandra Waddell, the Village of Kaslo’s Heritage Credit Union account # 31627, the Kaslo and Area D, and New Denver, Silverton, Nakusp and Area K, Nakusp region, or the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Food Hub at 250-353-7120 or kfs@rldcss.org if you are in the Kaslo region.

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New men’s outreach project to prevent violence

submitted

A new men’s outreach project has been announced by Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS). “We know that everyone is going through a very complex time due to the stresses of COVID-19; isolation, economic slow-downs and anxiety over what the future holds,” said Cameron Gordon, men’s outreach coordinator at the men’s outreach program at Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services, “and this is causing more and more domestic violence cases, abuses and violent encounters.”

The new ASLCS project is called ‘Turn the PAGE’ (Promoting Awareness and Global Education). Results of federal consultations indicate a 20-30% increase in violence in certain areas due to COVID-19 (CBC 27 April) and ASLCS anticipates this trend to continue in our area. “This project will provide the means to meet the demands of this trend with innovative approaches which will appeal to a broad range of diverse clients and their families,” says Gordon.

The project will include the development of online interactive workshops facilitated by professionals, focusing on communication, parenting, anger management, and other topics that help men in relationships. As well, the program will involve creating educational materials and developing platforms to educate and raise awareness.

“The objective of the program is three-fold,” says Gordon. “It will strengthen ASLCS’s current men’s program with the development of a virtual educational platform. It will educate the general public about preventing violence against women and girls, as well as all people of all genders, races and sexual orientations. Finally, it will provide additional access to a registered therapist for counselling services.”

Gordon says resources for men are historically very limited. “Turn the PAGE will provide increased access to services and resources, foster inclusion and increase quality of life,” he says. “The project addresses the source of most violence directly. The ripple effect of men’s healthy relationships will be felt by the entire region and throughout our community.”

The project has been made possible by a grant through the Government of Canada’s Emergency Community Support Fund with the support of the Nakusp and Area Community Foundation.

Founded in 2017, the men’s outreach program at ASLCS has helped over 41 men in the region to date. ASLCS is a non-profit charity, providing community based social service solutions for over 44 years. The organization delivers over 20 diverse programs and services such as transit, employment services, men’s, women’s, and children’s counseling, home support, social enterprise, food bank and more.

A new men’s program has been announced by Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services, funded by a federal program with the support of the Nakusp and Area Community Foundation (NACF). Pictured here are Cameron Gordon, men’s outreach coordinator, and Karen Hamling, treasurer of NACF.

Investment Ready Nakusp seeking development sites

submitted

Your Investment Ready Nakusp (IRN) Leadership Team wants to hear from you!

IRN launched last summer and identified ten development sites within the village. The team provided an assessment of the land use designation in the Official Community Plan, zoning within the Zoning Bylaw, servicing, development permit, and other pertinent details, along with an opinion on development potential.

During the course of this initiative, one site sold, one site is under contract, and two properties are available to help.” says Kay. “Village staff are always available to discuss opportunities and address questions. In addition to application support, IRN is working to highlight the people and processes available to help.”

IRN is a partnership between ARN and Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services, funded by a federal program with the support of the Nakusp and Area Community Foundation (NACF). Pictured here are Cameron Gordon, men’s outreach coordinator, and Karen Hamling, treasurer of NACF.

Contact Investment Ready Nakusp Today.

James, 250-265-2807, James@InvestmentReadyNakusp.ca, www.InvestmentReadyNakusp.ca

Consider Development?

Residential, Commercial, Industrial?

In the Village of Nakusp?

www.InvestmentReadyNakusp.ca

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CERTIFIED PASSIVE HOUSE

DESIGN AND BUILD

CERTIFIED PASSIVE HOUSE

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250-265-1807

CONVENTIONAL CONSTRUCTION

LOG AND TIMBER FRAME

CERTIFIED PASSIVE HOUSE

DESIGN AND BUILD
submitted

Work will begin later this year on a new electric-ready ferry for Kootenay Lake, providing passengers with a larger, cleaner and more accessible vessel.

The $62.9-million-dollar contract to build the new Kootenay Lake ferry has been awarded to Western Pacific Marine Ltd. of Vancouver, following a procurement process that shortlisted three BC firms as finalists. The other two finalists were Nakusp’s Watershed Steel and North Vancouver’s Allied Shipbuilders Ltd.

“This is an exciting milestone for a project that will significantly benefit the entire region,” said Michelle Mungall, MLA for Nelson-Creston, BC’s Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. “The new, cleaner ferry will move more people more efficiently, improving local connections and local economies.”

The new ferry will be ready for service in early 2023, and will more than double the capacity of the MV Balfour, which will be retired from service. The new ship will be able to accommodate up to 55 vehicles and, used in tandem with the larger MV Osprey 2000, will reduce sailing waits during the busy summer months.

The new vessel will be a hybrid diesel-electric with all the systems, equipment and components required for electric propulsion. The vessel will be fully converted to electric propulsion by 2030, once shore power is installed and reliability of the technology advances for use on a daily basis.

As part of CleanBC, the Province is working to transition the entire inland ferry fleet to electric propulsion by 2040. The Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvement project includes improvements to the two terminals. The parking and passenger areas, as well as the entrance to the terminals from the hurricane, will be improved to address capacity and safety issues. There will also be improvements to terminal amenities, including upgrades to washroom facilities, new sheltered waiting areas, EV charging stations, and green space improvements. Preliminary land preparation, including tree removal and utilities work at the terminal entrance and the highway, is scheduled to occur this fall and winter. The main contract is scheduled for tender in early 2021.

Minor work has been completed in the West Arm as part of the project. The MV Osprey completed its first low-water season post-dredge with no adverse operational impacts.

The Province consulted with ferry users, area residents and businesses about proposed improvements to the service, safety and infrastructure of the Kootenay Lake ferry in 2016 and in 2018. Key changes were made to the final project plan because of the input received.

The Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvement project is funded in part by the Government of Canada through the New Building Canada Fund’s Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component-National and Regional Projects.

For more information, visit www.gov.bc.ca/kootenaylakeferryproject.
Nelson youth celebrate a year of school strikes – with more to come
submitted
Since August 2019, Ginger Osecki and Calypso Blackman have been striking outside Nelson City Hall every Friday, shifting to digital strikes from March to July. This is the 22nd week of consecutive school strikes for the climate in Nelson. They have been joined on various days by other strikers, youth and adults alike. The September 20 Global Strike, which in Nelson attracted 1,500-2,000 people, was, to the best of our knowledge, Nelson’s biggest ever general strike. Nelson’s Fridays for Future group, one of the most active in Canada, has several asks of the government. They ask that municipal, provincial, and federal governments declare a climate emergency, aim to transition for net-zero emissions by 2025, and create citizens’ assemblies to oversee this transition. In collaboration with Stop Eecocide Canada, the group is also asking the federal government to support making eecocide (mass destruction of the environment) a crime at the International Criminal Court, alongside genocide, war crimes, crimes of aggression, and crimes against humanity.

While none of these actions have so far been taken, the youth organizers of Fridays for Future are confident that their actions are creating change; even while they call on governments to do more. Youth striker Mason Voykin said, “Even though governments municipally, provincially, and federally have so far failed to take action on our requests, we have contributed significantly to the general conversation around climate change, locally and on a wider scale.”

Calypso-Blackman agreed, saying, “The amount of support our actions over the past year have received shows that there is widespread public support for meaningful climate action. We are confident that governments will see this, and take the necessary action to protect our planet.”

Although this week marks a year of student strikes in Nelson and more than two years globally, FFF member Ginger Osecki says that the movement is still going strong, putting pressure on governments worldwide to address the climate emergency. Fridays for Future Nelson will be holding a physically distanced strike on September 25, to encourage governments to do just that.

FFF member Oscar Hunter said, “In recent months, climate change seems to be viewed as a less pressing issue. We know that emissions are still rising, and we need to take action urgently. To that end, we will be holding a COVID-safe event in September, in coordination with the global day of action. We hope to have enough people at the park to line the orange bridge from end to end, six feet apart.”

The event will take place at Lakeside Park on September 25 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm.

Seniors housing project in Nakusp to be finished early 2021
by Jan McMurray
Construction of the phase five Arrowtarian Rotary Villa seniors’ housing project in Nakusp is well underway, and will provide nine more apartments for seniors by February 2021.

“They are going to be gorgeous units!” says Bill Tobey, a director on the Arrowtarian Senior Citizens Society board. He reports that the nine apartments have been spoken for, and there is a waiting list for all five of the society’s housing projects. Once phase five is finished, the society will have a total of 52 housing units for seniors in Nakusp. All units in the three-storey phase five building are one-bedroom apartments, with three units on each floor. The building has an elevator, and a parking garage for scooters. Units are 500 square feet, with balconies on the upper floors. The majority of the funding for the project comes from BC Housing, with $115,000 from the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation…?

However, Tobey says there’s still a gap between the funding available and an affordable mortgage. The society accepts donations from individuals and businesses. “We have the $1,000 Club, where people who donate $1,000 or more get their names on a plaque on the building. Some folks donate a monthly amount until they reach $1,000,” Tobey said, adding, “Any donation over $20 gets a tax receipt.”

Donations can be mailed to the society (Box 688, Nakusp V0G 1R0) or e-transferred to arrowtarian@nakusp.net. For more information, call the office at 250-265-7182.

Diemm plays Silverton’s Slocan Lake Arts Centre September 18 and 19
submitted
Slocan Lake Arts Council is very excited to announce a live performance by harpist, Diemm, at the Slocan Lake Arts Centre (Gallery) on two consecutive nights, Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19 at 7:30 pm.

Diemm (sounds like DM) is a singer-songwriter, harper, and poet. She lives a simple life in the mountains near Kaslo.

She plays original chamber folk music on folk harp, with “crystalline vocals, lyrics like arrows,” according to her website. Her writing has been compared to Rumi, Pablo Neruda and Leonard Cohen. “Poetry that tugs you into the liminal place between conscious and subconscious mind,” it says on her website. She doesn’t write poetry, it writes her.

Again quoting from her website: “Diemm plays for that one note, that one resonant chord that opens a cascade of ‘yes’ inside you.”

In 2018, she released and toured her Ten Thousand Miracles album, which will be available at the shows.

The COVID-19 safety guidelines will be followed. There will be 30 seats per show. Social distancing is required and there will not be an intermission. Advance tickets only, $15 at Silverton Building Supplies. A limited number of reserved tickets are available for folks who live out of town. Please contact Sue at 250-777-1704 to reserve your seat on Friday or Saturday evening at 7:30.
Bending the curve of biodiversity loss

Plant and animal species across the world are steadily disappearing due to human activity. A major new study led by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) suggests that without ambitious, integrated action combining conservation and restoration efforts with a transformation of the food system, turning the tide of biodiversity loss by 2050 or earlier will not be possible.

Biodiversity – the variety and abundance of species, along with the extent and quality of the ecosystems they call home – has been declining at an alarming rate for many years. It is clear that we cannot allow the current trends to continue. If it does, there will simply not be enough nature left to support future generations. While ambitious targets have been proposed, practical issues such as feeding the Earth’s growing human population would make reaching such targets a challenge.

The study has been published in *Nature* and forms part of the latest World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Living Planet Report. It sets out to explore targets as ambitious as a reversal in global biodiversity trends.

“We wanted to assess in a robust manner whether it might be feasible to bend the curve of declining terrestrial biodiversity due to current and future land use, while avoiding jeopardizing our chances to achieve other sustainable development goals (SDGs),” explains study lead author and IIASA researcher David Leclère. “If this were indeed possible, we also wanted to explore how to get there and more specifically, what type of actions would be required, and how combining various types of actions might reduce trade-offs among objectives and instead exploit synergies.”

The study provides key information on pathways that could materialize the 2050 vision of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity – “Living in harmony with nature.” For global trends of terrestrial biodiversity to stop declining and start recovering by 2050 or earlier, the researchers say that action is needed in two key areas. First, bold conservation and restoration efforts, together with increased management effectiveness, will have to rapidly be stepped up. The study assumes that protected areas quickly reach 40% of global terrestrial areas. This should happen in tandem with large efforts to restore degraded land (reaching about 8% of terrestrial areas by 2050 in the study scenarios) and land use planning efforts that balance production and conservation objectives on all managed land.

Without such efforts, declines in biodiversity will continue to slow down rather than halted, and any potential recovery would remain slow.

Second, there has to be a transformation of the food system. As bold conservation and restoration efforts alone will likely be insufficient, additional measures are needed to address global pressures on the food system. Efforts to bend the curve of global terrestrial biodiversity include avoiding degraded food waste, diets that have a lower environmental impact, and further sustainable intensification and trade.

Integrated action would however need to be taken in both areas simultaneously to bend the biodiversity loss curve upward by 2050 or earlier. “In a scenario with increased conservation and restoration efforts alone, almost half of biodiversity losses estimated in the counterfactual business-as-usual scenario could not be avoided, a biodiversity may only be slowed down models, and when it did occur, it was only often in the second half of the 21st century. In addition, we found that bold conservation efforts alone might increase the price of food products, thereby potentially hampering future progress on eliminating hunger,” says Michael Obersteiner, an IIASA researcher and Director of the Environmental Change Institute at Oxford University.

Conversely, scenarios that combined increased conservation and restoration efforts with efforts to transform the food system showed that opportunities for ambitious conservation and restoration efforts were larger, and potential adverse food security impacts defused, thereby securing a bending of global trends in global terrestrial biodiversity as affected by land use change by 2050. Finally, such transformative change in food and land use systems would also deliver significant co-benefits such as a large contribution to ambitious climate mitigation targets, reduced pressure on water resources, reduced excesses of reactive nitrogen in the environment, and health benefits.

According to the authors, a true reversal of biodiversity declines will however likely necessitate an even broader set of actions, addressing biodiversity loss jointly with climate change.

“If unmitigated, emerging threats to biodiversity such as climate change and biological invasions may become as important as land-use change – the largest biodiversity threat to date – in the future. A true bending of the biodiversity loss curve will need to tackle complex climate change mitigation that exploits synergies with biodiversity, rather than further eroding biodiversity,” says Andy Purvis, professor at the Imperial College London, and researcher at the National History Museum in the UK. With the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 coming to an end with mixed outcomes, the study’s findings are directly relevant to ongoing negotiations at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

“This study shows the world may still be able to stabilize and reverse the loss of nature. But to have any chance of doing that as early as 2030, we will need to make transformational changes in the way we produce and consume food as well as halted more ambitious conservation efforts,” says Mike Barrett, executive director of science and conservation at WWF-UK. “In the words of the study, “If we don’t do this, and continue with business as usual, we will end up with a planet that cannot support current biodiversity. Never has a ‘New Deal for Nature and People’ that halts and starts to reverse biodiversity loss, been needed more.”

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) is an international scientific institute that conducts research into the critical issues of global environmental, economic, technological, and social change that we face in the 21st century.

BC Launches survey to assess the impact of long-term care visitor restrictions

BC’s Seniors Advocate Isabel Mackenzie is today launching a province-wide survey that will allow residents of long-term care and assisted living and their family members to tell the story of their experience during this pandemic.

“If the many hardships that COVID-19 has brought, one of the most heartbreaking has been the need to limit those who can visit residents of long-term care and assisted living,” said Mackenzie, “Restricting visitors to long-term care and assisted living facilities has been an enormous sacrifice for our seniors and their families, but it has been necessary for us to protect those who are most vulnerable to this virus. The impact however is having a profound effect on many people and it is time for these people to have their voices heard and their stories told.”

The survey, staying Apart to Save The Valley Voice September 10, 2020

The Hungry Barber

BC’s Launch survey to assess the impact of long-term care visitor restrictions

BC’s Seniors Advocate Isabel Mackenzie is today launching a province-wide survey that will allow residents of long-term care and assisted living and their family members to tell the story of their experience during this pandemic. If the many hardships that COVID-19 has brought, one of the most heartbreaking has been the need to limit those who can visit residents of long-term care and assisted living,” said Mackenzie, “Restricting visitors to long-term care and assisted living facilities has been an enormous sacrifice for our seniors and their families, but it has been necessary for us to protect those who are most vulnerable to this virus. The impact however is having a profound effect on many people and it is time for these people to have their voices heard and their stories told.”

The survey, staying Apart to Save

State of the Basin has new home online

A new website makes access to State of the Basin research easier than ever.

Organizations across the Columbia Basin-Boundary region use State of the Basin research to better understand their communities and make evidence-based decisions related to economic, social, environmental, and cultural priorities. The new website organizes information into the hands of decision-makers more rapidly and in an easy-to-use format. Visit stateofthebasin.ca for up-to-date information on climate change that affect conditions in all parts of the Basin.

For instance, did you know that living wages in the region vary between $14 and $20 per hour depending on the community? That there were 139 species of invasive plants reported in 2019? That voter turnout in the 2019 federal election exceeded the turnout in Canada and in BC overall? That the region’s population is expected to increase by 3% from 2020 to 2040, substantially less than the 22% projected for BC as a whole?

This information, and much more, is now available on stateofthebasin.ca. Don’t forget to check back often for up-to-date information on regional priorities, such as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

State of the Basin research is conducted by the Columbia Basin College Applied Systems Analysis Centre as well as Selkirk College and is funded by Columbia Basin Trust. The objectives of the State of the Basin initiative are to inform decision-makers, such as environmental managers and policy developers, to facilitate understanding of complex issues over time, signal where trends are similar or different, and motivate discussion on adaptation strategies, strategic evidence-based decisions, and collective action.
submitted

The notion of a library as a warehouse for books is a cliché long due for retirement along with the shushing librarian—and yet as a narrative, it owes a lot to history. The Nelson Public Library examines its own evolution in this, its centenary year, in partnership with Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History.

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

**AT A GLANCE**

- **Hot Springs**
  - **Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort & Spa**
  - **Kaslo Hot Springs**

**SHOPS**

- **Jenifer Chocolate Shops**
  - **Burlington City Cider**
  - **Kaslo Kayaking & Adventure Centre**
  - **Shon’s Bike-Shi Ski-Shop**

**FESTIVALS**

- **Nelson International Jazz & Blues Festival**
  - **Nelson International Women’s Choir Festival**
  - **Okanagan Valley Wine & Arts Festival**

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

**West Coast ROUTE**

- **Centennial Campground** - **New Denver**
  - **Kaslo Municipal Campground** - **Kaslo**
  - **McDonald Creek Provincial Park** - **Balfour**
  - **Rosebery Provincial Park** - **Ainsworth**
  - **Summit Lake Provincial Park** - **Summit Lake**

**CAMPGROUNDS**

- **VISITORS OF NOTE**

**MUSEUMS**

- **Nelson International Memorial Centre**
  - **Nelson Public Library**
  - **Touchstones Nelson**

**GALLERIES**

- **Summit Lake Provincial Park**

unified opportunities for fishing, boating and swimming in this clear cool mountain lake. Explore to Summit Lake hill grade, 3.5 campers by reservation or first-come, first-served. First served 250-265-4705. Extra Vehicle $12/night.

22, where a century of reading, public programming, galloping technology, and an expanding societal role is chronicled through timeline, text, historic images, illustrations, and audiovisual components. A companion book complements the Gallery B exhibition.

There will be an opening reception on Friday, September 11 from 6 to 9 pm. In order to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines, pre-registered participants will have 30 minutes to peruse the gallery with guest curator Anne DeGrace and Librarian Tracey Therrien, and collect a copy of the companion book. There will be a maximum of 10 people in Gallery A, 5 people in Gallery B and 10 people in the lobby area.

For gatekeeper to door opener: one library at 100 years

From gatekeeper to door opener: one library at 100 years in this, its centenary year, in partnership with Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History. **Turning Pages: Celebrating 100 Years of the Nelson Public Library** runs at Touchstones September 12 to November 22, where a century of reading, public programming, galloping technology, and an expanding societal role is chronicled through timeline, text, historic images, illustrations, and audiovisual components. A companion book complements the gallery B exhibition.
Positive COVID-19 test result in Kaslo
by Jan McMurray

A Kaslo resident has tested positive for COVID-19. A post on the Kaslo Building Supplies Facebook page on September 3 announces that a staff member has tested positive, and that the business will stay open with its same COVID Safety Plan in place – a decision made after consultation with both Interior Health (IH) and WorkSafeBC.

Although IH does not speak to specific cases because of the importance of respecting people’s privacy, the Valley Voice contacted Interior Health for general information that may be of interest to Kaslo and area residents.

“We understand the anxiety the COVID-19 pandemic can cause in communities,” said an Interior Health spokesperson in an interview. “Our public health contact tracing teams work diligently to ensure that anyone at risk of an exposure is contacted as soon as possible. If public health deems that there is a risk to the public, a public notification will be provided and the location will be listed on our website.”

No public notification has been issued for Kaslo. As of Labour Day, all public notifications on the IH website are pertinent only to Kelowna.

The IH spokesperson explained that once a case has tested positive, public health conducts an investigation. They interview the person who tested positive to determine any close contacts. Public health gets in touch with any contacts who were exposed to the person during their infectious period, which is from two days before the person showed symptoms up to the time the person is advised of their positive test result and is isolated. Contacts must self-isolate for 14 days after last contact with the person who tested positive. Contacts who develop symptoms should get tested.

The IH spokesperson said people seeking a test should call their family physician or nurse practitioner, or the nearest testing and assessment site. They will assist the person seeking the test, and recommend a test if needed.

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Local conservation fund accepting 2021 proposals

The Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP), on behalf of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), is now accepting proposals for the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund. “The Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund is an excellent resource for organizations that need help funding local projects that help support fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and other conservation values in the region,” said Juliet Craig, KCP program manager.

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

In 2020, seven projects successfully received KLLCF funding: grizzly bear conservation through Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions, water monitoring of North Kootenay Lake by the Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives, western toad conservation in the Fish and Bear Lakes area by the Valhalla Wilderness Society, but conservation on private land through the Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, knotweed removal on private land through the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, beaver conservation through the BC Conservation Foundation, and conservation of native pollinators including at-risk bees and butterflies through the Kootenay Native Plant Society.

KCP works in partnership with the RDCK to administer the KLLCF, is encouraging conservation groups operating in the participating areas to submit their funding proposals for 2021 projects. Community groups and associations can partner with an eligible non-profit to qualify. The deadline for applications is 4:30 pm PT on October 30, 2020. If you have a project idea, it is highly recommended that you contact the KCP program manager prior to submitting an application to discuss your project idea.

Local conservation priorities were identified in a KLLCF Guidance Document that the RDCK commissioned in 2018. To learn more about the KLLCF, how to apply, and conservation priorities from the Guidance Document, please visit https://kootenayconservation.ca/kootenay-lake-local-conservation-fund. For phone or email inquiries, please contact KCP Program Manager Juliet Craig at 250-352-2260 or juliet@kootenayconservation.ca.
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Buddy’s Pizzeria**

Kamloops’ most winning, hand-stretched artisan pizza. 250-353-2280

**Passmore Hall Association**

Board of Directors has decided to rent the Passmore Hall out again, with COVID protocols in place. One Hall, on Passmore Old Road, near the Slocan River, is a beautiful hall with lots of windows, 3 outside doors in the main area, 3 bathrooms and a large, roomy kitchen with its own door to the outside. Lots of light and fresh air in the Hall. We have ample parking as well.

Please call Brenda Curry at 250-226-7661 to book the Hall. You will need to present your COVID plan when you book.

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

**WHAT AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY**

to live your dream and own your own business. Become the proud owner of the Valley Voice and a quaint building on the main street of New Denver. The newspaper business can provide a modest living for you and your family, and wonderful community connections. If you are so inclined, we would love to show you the ropes and stay as long as or little as you need us. We have absolutely loved our life as newspaper people. Currently, we are looking for a chat, or email valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca. Yours, Dan & Jan.

**WORK YOUR DREAM JOB**

and be your own boss with help from the Self Employment program at Community Futures! Through this program you will receive business plan instruction and ongoing business training and coaching while you start your business. And if you’re eligible you will usually also receive financial support for the first year. To learn more call 250-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakupa@futures.bc.ca.

**COMING EVENTS**

**THE FRIDAY MARKET**

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

**THE SLOCAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

2020 Annual General Meeting will be held on September 30 at 7pm via ZOOM RSVP to info@slochenlibrary.ca before September 27 to receive ZOOM invitation details.

**THE SLOCAN VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’s AGM** will be held Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 pm via Zoom, meeting ID 250 805 3596. For those without Zoom, arrangements can be made to attend in person in the Village of Slocan Council Chambers. To register, please email info@slocanvalleyhistory.ca. Want to be a director on our Board? Email us for more info.

**Estate Sale**

**RETAILER’S MIX**

SALING SEPTEMBER 12 & 13, noon-5 pm. Kenneth Smith’s possessions. Tools, boats, generators, tools, etc.

**FOR RENT**

**COZY LOG CABIN**


**ONE BDR COZY CABIN**

Red Mountain Rd, Slocan. Ideal for one person/couple. Wood stove/electric heat. NE/No Pets. References required. $580 (includes internet) + Util. Available NOW. Contact: Collene 206-633-4306 or cjdel61@yahoo.com

**FOR SALE**

**AFFORDABLE STEEL SHIPPING CONTAINERS**

20 ft. and 40 ft. sizes. Kootenay Containers Sales & Rentals, Castlegar. 250-365-3014.

**WATKINS PRODUCTS, HAND CRAFTED**


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now welcoming new and returning clients for therapeutic and relaxation treatments. Clean, quiet, professional office located in Winlaw. Mobile available. Jessica Coon RMT 250 226-6887. shadetreemassagetherapy@gmail.com.

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*ONLINE!* Free intros: Chair Yoga & Feldenkrais. Enjoy 1-hour classes anytime at home. Info/Registration: tysonbolton.ca.

**HELP WANTED**

**LEUSDEN HOMELY HOME SUPPORT WORKER**

Hours to be registered. Own transportation required. Call Russell @ 250-226-7243.

**SILVERTON BUILDING SUPPLIES**

is seeking a TEMPORARY FULL-TIME YARD WORKER/LOADER to start immediately. If you are self-motivated and physically fit, this could be the job for you. Construction experience and/or fork-lift experience would be strong assets. We offer a safe and inclusive workplace and a competitive wage, commensurate with experience. Saturday hours will be required. Bring your resume and meet the SBS crew, or send your resume in confidence to tim@silvertonbuilding.com.

**RECRUITMENT**

**HELP WANTED**

**HUNTING/SHARING HOME**

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription

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IN OBITUARY

DONNA SHAW
April 5, 1951-August 28, 2020

DONNA was a devoted mother and loving wife. She is survived by her husband Peter, her son Ryan, and her daughter Allie. Donna will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

The Valley Voice  September 10, 2020
Previously the owner of the Maiden General Store in Ainsworth, she started Drayson Shaw. Donna was the mother to Stephanie, Augustine, Paden and Crispin and the sister to Denise, Christine and Martin Hall. For those wishing, donations can be made in Donna’s memory to her favorite local animal rescue organization in Nelson, P.A.C.

Next Valley Voice Deadline:  September 18, 2020

Close up of a cake with the words "Happy Birthday" written on it.
Op Ed: Climate change missing in CBT draft strategic plan

by Greg Utzig

Like many people in the Columbia Basin, I recently received an invitation to comment on the Columbia Basin Trust’s Draft Strategic Plan 2020-2022. As a long-time resident and a scientist who’s worked on climate change-related projects in the Basin, some funded by CBT, I was stunned by what I read. And by what I didn’t read.

The words “climate change” do not even appear in the document. Clearly the pandemic is a major concern, but we also still face a climate crisis – a crisis that speaks to the core of CBT’s mission: “to support efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic, and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.” It’s a scientific fact that the well-being of future generations depends on us reducing GHG emissions as rapidly as possible. At the same time, we must adapt to the climate disruption we’ve already set in motion. As an example, as I write this hundreds of people throughout the East and West Kootenays are on evacuation alert due to active wildfires intensified by emerging climate change heatwaves.

As a conservation ecologist, I find it ironic that one of the priorities in the draft plan is Ecosystem Restoration. With advancing climate change, it is too late to think about ecosystem restoration. What we should be planning for is building ecosystem resilience for the massive disturbances that are ahead. We have already seen forest impacts from mountain pine beetle, Douglas-fir beetle, birch die-off and wildfires. These are only the beginning.

Many of the lower elevations of the Columbia Basin, for example, are projected to shift from forests to grasslands in the coming decades. Restoration to ecosystems of the past is no longer an option.

Increasing local food production and affordable housing are laudable priorities – but only if they emphasize increasing community resilience, reducing GHG emissions and adapting to future extremes in climate. For example, new housing must be planned to be net zero in emissions and located to decrease dependency on fossil fuel travel.

Another priority in the plan is Support for Business Renewal. Any assistance for economic development should be carefully vetted through a climate change lens. Will the assistance decrease GHG emissions? Will it result in increased resiliency to climate change impacts? Now is the time to start building the economy of the future. For example, the coal mines in the East Kootenays produce almost half of all the GHG emissions in the Basin (not including emissions from burning the coal elsewhere). If climate change is taken seriously, those jobs will disappear, and we should be planning for economic alternatives for that workforce.

Another issue ignored in the draft plan is water. Climate change projections indicate increased frequency and intensity of flooding and landslides due to rapid snowmelt and high-intensity rainstorms. As well, we’ll see hotter and drier summers and associated low water flows and water shortages in the late summer and fall. These events have already affected Basin residents, and will continue to do so. I call on the CBT to seriously consider the context in which we are presently living. The pandemic may impact many of us temporarily, but climate change will affect all of us for many generations. Anything short of addressing climate change, starting now, is merely moving the deck chairs for a better view of the destruction ahead.

CBT is asking for feedback until September 11. I encourage readers to go to www.outtrust.org and complete the short survey, keeping the climate crisis as our short- and long-term priority.

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End of stream
Kaslo Sourdough receives grant to add spaghetti to pasta products

Kaslo Sourdough’s dream of manufacturing a sourdough spaghetti is now within reach. The company has received a $46,625 grant from the Canada-British Columbia Agri-Innovation Program to accelerate growth in the agri-food industry, particularly in the value-added food processing sector.

“We have been working on perfecting and prototyping our sourdough spaghetti recipe for about seven years now,” says owner-operator Silvio Lettrari. “Making a top-notch spaghetti is the sign of an expert-level pasta maker. It’s much more difficult to produce than the short noodles we’ve been producing so far, our radiatori, or rotini. This grant will take us from early prototyping to commercializing our production.”

Over the coming summer months, even with the COVID-19 pandemic requiring physical distancing, mask-wearing indoors and other safety measures, Lettrari will be in the pasta production facility helping and overseeing a small crew install the new pasta production equipment shipped in from Italy. Heading into the fall of 2020, Lettrari hopes to be making the first commercial-scale test batches of spaghetti, trying out the new drying racks, and designing new production processes for his staff.

Kaslo Sourdough’s Production Manager Stefan Lettrari is also looking forward to the change. “I’ll be helping my dad sort out the new production procedures. This equipment will be different from the setup we currently have for our short noodle production, so we’ll be learning a lot again. We want to make sure our staff are safe as we figure out how to run the dough through the new machines and get the spaghetti – and later, other long noodles – figured out.”

There have long been inquiries about when a spaghetti might be available. Heidi Lettrari, the general manager, explains: “We’ve had requests for spaghetti basically since we first started producing our sourdough pastas. I have distinct memories of doing a demo in a grocery store, explaining our pasta and why it’s different, and the person trying a sample, saying, ‘This is great, but do you have a spaghetti?’” She laughs. “Well, soon we can say, ‘Yes, we do!’”

The project to commercialize a sourdough spaghetti will be underway over the next 18 months, and Kaslo Sourdough will be releasing updates along the way. For now, installing the new machinery, scaling production processes and developing a training plan are underway in a phased approach.

Kaslo Sourdough is a Kootenay-based, award-winning company known for its high quality products, innovation and contributions to the grocery food industry in Western Canada. The company has been producing sourdough pastas since February 2012, and sourdough breads since the early 1990s. In 2017, they won Product of the Year at the Vegan Expo with their hemp sourdough pasta.

Funding for this project has been provided by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.
Family love and fun competition mark last Studio Connexion show of season

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative

There’s nothing like a bit of family rivalry to put some spice in an activity. “There’s going to be a competition, obviously,” says Michael Duncan dryly. “She told me, ‘I sold out last year, Dad, you don’t have a chance.’ I’m very brow-beaten, you know.”

“You lay in bed some nights wondering, ‘Oh my God, I am not really an artist. What am I doing trying to fool everybody?’” says Charlene Duncan.

The two Duncans — Michael and Charlene — have their first show together at Studio Connexion Gallery in Nakusp on September 15.

The two artists, though related, are different. Each has a wealth of art on her belt, Charlene — who is semi-retired and works part-time in a local boutique — is looking forward to her next experience dealing with the public. “It’s going to be a different show, with COVID for sure,” she says. “It was quite a party atmosphere last year — I have family and friends who are very supportive. But I think it will still be fun.”

“And Anne [Beliveau] has worked so hard to get these shows together, and look how hard she works for her artists.”

The show runs from September 15 to October 10, with the opening on September 18. Because of the pandemic, social distancing rules and crowd limits will apply. The Studio Connexion Gallery is open 11-4 Tuesday-Saturday.

DRAYTON, Doris Amy Christine

Doris Amy Christine Drayton, at the age of 107, died at home in Kelowna, BC on July 26, 2020, with her daughter beside her, as was their wish. She leaves behind her daughter Penny Venables of Kelowna; grandchildren Lissa, Kevin (Rhonda), and Melanie (Keith); great-grandchild Raelleigh; and great-great-grandchildren Sierra, Savanna, and Shay. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews Carolyn, Peggy (Lenny), Linda, Jim (Margo), and Bill and their families; as well as her very special friends Helen and Linda whom she considered her “other” daughters. Those who went before Doris include her much loved husband, Bill; daughter Joanne; parents Swan and Amy Nelson; sisters Helen (Glen) and Margaret (Dave); great-children Shara and Sam; and her great love of literature, coupled with her passion for teaching, she was instrumental in the revitalization of the Kaslo Public Library in 1953 and remained on the Board and as a Librarian for decades. She and her husband were active in the life of the community with Doris being involved with hospital and church auxiliaries, PTA, social and cultural events, golf and curling, and she was always willing to host and organize with her nimble grace, and style. Her husband was Mayor for many years as well as the Provincial Magistrate, and since their home was a heritage Lodge, she often had the opportunity to extend her gracious hospitality to many guests including BC Premiers, and Lt. Governor and a member of the Group of Seven. She had an inexhaustible interest in life and was often noted to be one who until very late in life always “lived in the present.” She remained a consummate reader and Ultimately, when her sight diminished, a listener, through audio books and then the voices of friends and family who read to her. That she had taught Latin and loved the language and had been such a voracious reader made her a formidable Scrabble player, and she was a New York Times crossword expert — still offering obfuscate answers even in her last days. She was delighted with Google and was so pleased to be able to “talk” for poems and songs based on the lines she recalled.

Her interest in the lives of those she encountered resulted in her being willing to try anything, the more exciting the better — from motorcycles to dune buggies to helicopters — she would enjoy them all — with the highlight being zip-lining in Hawaii to celebrate her 100th birthday! Her faith, love of family and friends, and stoical Swedish heritage sustained her through the untimely deaths of her own mother, her daughter and 2 great-grandchildren at very young ages. She was blessed with being able to have a positive impact on most everyone she met throughout her life, and that her name means “gift” is very true, for she was that… always. The family wishes to acknowledge the compassionate care administered by Dr. D. Obedkoff who considered her a “national treasure”; and the wonderfully attentive and bestowing on her by the myriad of close friends of all ages who have always shown her loving care and attention.

A Private Family Graveside Service in Kaslo, BC will be held in early September. A Memorial Service at The Cathedral Church of St. Michael and All Angels in Kelowna will also be held at an undetermined date. Should family and friends so desire, memorial donations may be made to: The Cathedral Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Kelowna BC; The Kaslo and District Public Library, Kaslo, BC; or Covenant House, Vancouver, BC; admin@covenanthousebc.org. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.springfieldfuneralhome.com.

Great Selection of Fine Artworks

Aug. 25-Sept. 12 M.-C. Claveau

Charlene Duncan, a former art teacher, organizer and art enthusiast, was born and grew up in SK. At 18 she moved to Nakusp to be with his daughter’s talent. But when he was 12, however he obviously inscribed a great love of literature and education in her children. Doris’s desire to be a teacher was evident at a very young age as she excelled in her studies and at mentoring and story-telling to her sisters and her school friends. Her scholastic successes continued through her pursuit of her teaching career, and she would ultimately teach in one room schools in small towns in SK and spent 2 exciting years tutoring 4 children on a ranch in Southern AB, where she became an excellent horseback rider, a love and skill she passed on to children and grandchildren. She always found great beauty in the prairies, but it was the mountains of BC that became the vistas she would love for the rest of her life. When moving to Vancouver in the 40s she met and married her life partner, Bill, and they would be married for almost 50 years. Their first daughter, Joanne, was born in Vancouver and then Penny followed 2 years later after they had moved to the beautiful Kootenay town of Kaslo where she lived for the next 61 years in the shadow of M. Leki and the surrounding majestic mountains, until at 94, she moved to live with Penny in Kelowna.

Family was a central focus as she was blessed with 3 generations of grandchildren, and she always took great interest in encouraging them in their studies. Education continued to be a driving force as she remained a substitute teacher until mandatory retirement at 65, much to the dismay of students and colleagues alike. Through her great love of literature, she was always referring to it as “Playschool”. They are also so grateful for the friendship and her special friend Bob Harkness. That she had taught Latin and loved the language and had been such a voracious reader made her a formidable Scrabble player, and she was a New York Times crossword expert — still offering obfuscate answers even in her last days. She was delighted with Google and was so pleased to be able to “talk” for poems and songs based on the lines she recalled.

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With summer drawing to a close, it’s important to continue protecting your skin from the sun’s harmful rays. While UVB rays weaken in the fall, UVA rays are as strong in the fall and winter as they are in the glare of summer sun. Both can contribute to skin cancer. Remember, sun damage is cumulative, so please, consider sunscreen as a staple, not just a summer supplement! Stop by and visit our pharmacies for multiple options in sunscreen.

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New Denver – 309 6th Avenue • M-F 10:00-5:30

The annual Rosebery Regatta brought a small crowd to Rosebery Bay on Labour Day to enjoy the races.

The first heat turned out to be a long-distance race clear across the bay—except for Mikul’s frisbee boat, which took the shortcut the opposite way. However, it, too, took a long time to make it to shore because it got hung up on the old Rosebery shipwreck.

By the time the frisbee boat got free and reached shore, the rest of the boats were only halfway across the bay. Several had capsized, but were sailing just fine upside down…except Moe and Gitta’s. They finally had to give up on their ‘Crone Cons-Pirates’ boat and have it hauled out of the water. A poor performance was also shown by Jay’s capsized pop bottle boat, which didn’t make it to shore despite heroic attempts to nudge and cajole it by the motorized boat, under Leah’s control.

The second and final heat was much quicker, with Donna’s boat coming in first, earning her the title of Commodore. Prizes went to the Most Recycled (Wren), the Most Beautiful (Jasmine) and the Most Innovative (Donna and Gary).