by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

On August 5, a bus pulled up to a helipad at Parson, BC, southeast of Golden. A group of about 30 individuals, all wearing masks, were decked out in ski gear, complete with helmets, gloves and boots – under the blazing sun, in 27°C weather.

Crazy? Not really. The group was made up of employees of Canadian Mountain Holidays, the heli-ski tour operator. And this was a dry run to see how safely the company could operate in the COVID-19 world.

“2021 looks very different for sure. CMH is very much a social program, and we’re going to have to change the way we interact with one another,” says Suzanne Belke, CMH’s director of hospitality, in a video promoting the company’s operations this winter. “So the physical distancing is the biggest change in the program.”

The company says the exercise helped refine every aspect of its operation. Each ‘guest’ underwent a thorough questionnaire about their health. They wore masks in the bus, the flight up the mountain, and in the lodge; they sanitized their hands, ensured equipment handling didn’t spread the virus, and remained separated from each other by the now-familiar two-metre rule.

As far as CMH is concerned, the two-day simulation of travelling from bus to mountain, handling ski gear, and lodge living was a success, and a green light for the months to come.

“At present we are planning for a ‘normal’ season, interviewing and preparing accordingly,” says Salina Reimer, a spokesperson for CMH.

For Nakusp and area, that’s good news. The CMH-owned lodge there is a major year-round employer.

Several winter tourism operators in the West Kootenay contacted by the Valley Voice say they’ve prepared for, and are cautiously optimistic, that they can have a successful 2020-21 season.

Booking bingo

But not everyone is forecasting a solid season for their business. Some winter tour operators say they were hit hard by the pandemic.

“We’re looking at an 80% decrease in business,” said Kaslo-based Stellar Heliskiing owner Jason Remple. “Only Canadian guests will be able to reach us.”

Stellar usually employs two helicopters and 35 staff in the winter. That’s not going to happen this year.

“We book small groups of four and will have annual visits up to 1,400 guests,” says Remple. “Things are scaled way back.”

It’s the nature of the business – catering to mostly American skiers – that has proven to be the industry’s Achilles’ heel.

Just south of Nakusp, Valkyr Adventures operates three lodges in the Valkyr mountain range.

“CMH Heli-Skiing ran a dry run of a typical winter ski run up a mountain near Golden this summer. Staff brought everything they would need if they were clients, and took every precaution based on BC provincial health protocols.

We were fully booked at the three lodges for 2021,” says Shelley Glasheen, co-owner and Valkyr’s office manager. “Probably close to half our groups were from the US.”

When the national shutdown was taking effect, Valkyr suspended operations.

continued on page 2
With winter looming, West Kootenay ski tour operators say they’ve adapted

continued from page 1

operators – have been left in limbo with the border closure to non-essential travel. “And their replacement trips aren’t likely going to happen this year, either,” Glaseheen says. “It’s really tough on them.”

Like CMH, Glaseheen says Valkyr and other companies got their protocols in order, and sent out information packages to people who had booked trips. “Just to see who was staying, who was not coming,” she says, noting they changed their deposit and refund timeline to give wary customers some confidence. “We had an adjusted cancellation policy, staggered dates.” Guests were offered either to keep their booking, to transfer their deposit to another season, or have a refund. Giving clients the chance to assess their own risk tolerance has allowed them to rebook their lodges, she says.

“We do have holes, but we have refilled,” she says.

While all the lodges have gone through similar exercises to CMH, Glaseheen notes that meeting public health measures can be a challenge at high-elevation ski-touring lodges. To meet new COVID-compliant regulations, Valkyr has spent tens of thousands of dollars this summer to add running water and a bathroom to one of their more basic lodges.

“It just provides the ability for people to have a higher degree of hygiene,” she says. “And we really appreciate the grants that have been made available by the federal government that enable us to do these things, they are super-helpful. We have a plan that we can still operate and conform to the provincial health guidelines, and to our association protocols. We’re doing the best we can.”

A different approach

The Ice Creek Lodge, a backcountry ski and snowboard operation in Valhalla Park, has decided to tackle the border issue in a different way. They had fully booked this coming winter back in December of 2019 – but 95% of their groups were from the US. They could see the writing on the wall, and with delays developing a vaccine, ongoing travel restrictions, and rising infection rates, they decided several months ago to change their strategy by going back to their roots. “We will be running ‘hyper-local’ groups, team, family and community. We will be here and ready,” says Valkyr’s Glaseheen. “Everybody is just trying to adjust, but everyone is kind of struggling… to make a go of it.”

Even Stellar Heliskiing, facing such a dramatic decrease in their business this year, says it will weather the storm. “This helps to ensure the financial well-being of our business, and more importantly the health and safety of our groups, team, family and community. These actions align our business with government recommendations as well as our risk-management process and resiliency plan.”

The lodge caters to about 150 people a year, and employs 10-15 people in a normal year. This year is not normal, of course, and Hulbert says they won’t be able to provide any steady employment to staff this winter.

Despite the challenges facing their industry, operators say they’re feeling good about the upcoming season in the West Kootenay.

“We are optimistic,” says Hulbert. “This isn’t the year to try and pull a summer season off. It is the time to step back, regroup, and plan for the future. “We are going to come out of the 2021 winter season on top.”

“We have our resiliency plan in place and we are on track to a great future.”

“Yes, we’ll figure it out,” adds Valkyr’s Glaseheen. “Everybody is just trying to adjust, but everyone is kind of struggling… to make a go of it.”

GROWING GROWING, GONE

Once old growth trees are gone, they will never come back.

Take a stand for B.C.’s old growth forests

Y2Y.NET/OLDGROWTH

This is a call to action for protecting old growth forests and the wild species that depend on them.

Y2Y is working with cities, conservation groups, and landowners to accelerate land use planning that makes old growth forests part of our cities.

The Abba Indigenous Lands Initiative is on the front lines of this effort and is joining forces with Y2Y to return 100,000 acres of publicly owned old growth forest to its native People.

A celebration of her life will be held with her family at a later date.

Patricia (Nee Goodwin) May 30, 1931 - September 25, 2020

It is with sorrow that we share the news that Pat has passed away. Born and raised in Calgary, she married Stanley and moved with him to Edmonton. When their children reached school age she went back to work and taking night classes, earned her Certified General Accountant degree. When her older brothers, she was a firm believer that women are as capable as men, even in the oil patch. She happily joined Stan in his hobbies of camping, fishing, hiking and cross-country skiing. She loved flowers, especially wildflowers. Pat enjoyed hosting family dinners, a skill much appreciated when she and Stan retired to property on Shuswap Lake and had company all summer. She loved toadstools and truffles.

In her 40s, Pat was auditing small oil companies. Raised with two brothers, she was a firm believer that women are as capable as men, even in the oil patch. She happily joined Stan in his hobbies of camping, fishing, hiking and cross-country skiing. She loved flowers, especially wildflowers. Pat enjoyed hosting family dinners, a skill much appreciated when she and Stan retired to property on Shuswap Lake and had company all summer. She loved toadstools and truffles.

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Kaslo Search and Rescue welcomes search dog to the team

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo Search and Rescue (KSAR) now has a validated search dog – one of only 20 in the whole province.

KSAR member Andy Scott and his dog Bute were officially validated by the RCMP on September 25 at a BC Search Dog Association camp in Merritt, after two and a half years of training.

“It takes a village to train a dog,” Scott says. “Thank you to all those who helped us along the way – lots of neighbours, my employer for his support every time my pager goes off, my wife for keeping dinner warm, and Kaslo SAR – they helped out financially whenever possible.”

Scott says it cost about $10,000 to train Bute, and there is no public funding program to help.

As a former Royal Marines Commando with the British Army, he was motivated to spend the money and time training with Bute because he’s seen firsthand how trained dogs can save lives by sniffing out explosives.

A dog’s sense of smell is thought to be 40 times better than a human’s, so dogs can sniff out missing people, even if they are buried under an avalanche, he said.

“They’re especially good at finding missing persons,” says Scott. “When people get confused and lost, they tend to just keep going, so the search area keeps expanding. They get farther away from where you want them, which is just to stand still. A dog can cover an entire kilometre grid quite comfortably in a day.”

Bute should be feeling very proud of himself to have reached search dog status. Scott says 70% of the dogs that start the training don’t finish, for various reasons. Before Bute, Scott tried the program with another dog that didn’t finish, for medical reasons.

“After four years of ups and downs and sideways swipes, it’s been a journey, but we’ve finally arrived,” Scott said.

Andy Scott with his newly validated search dog, Bute – the newest addition to the Kaslo Search and Rescue team.
Response to Kathy Hartman's challenge

I recently read Kathy Hartman's letter in the September 10 edition of the Valley Voice. It is nice to see open-minded people considering different viewpoints on serious issues that are deeply affecting the vast majority of people's lives in major ways. Some of us have done a lot of research and are of the view that the lockdown measures are the real cause of most of the problems that people are now facing. Since it is actually impossible to answer your questions in 100 words or less, I have decided to write a more detailed reply with simple answers to your questions.

Mr. Freeman's last letter was in the September 10 edition of the Valley Voice. I have not been able to answer his questions or to provide a link to an extremely well-researched documentary called, "Who killed the Canadian Dream?" as of yet.

I hope you are able to enjoy Mr. Corbett's thorough research.

Dream Weaver
Nelson

Frustration in Kootenay-Columbia

As a constituent in the federal riding of Kootenay-Columbia, I wanted to find out how the values and issues of my newly elected representative and his Party aligned with my own.

The obvious solution for that would be to write my representative and ask. It actually started before the federal election, when I asked questions on the then candidate’s Facebook page. None of those questions were answered and I was eventually blocked.

At the federal election, when that candidate was officially my representative, I thought he would now be obligated to answer questions from a constituent. My first letter was in January 2020. After nine letters with no response, in July I sent a letter to his Cranbrook office, with a list of my unanswered letters and why that was so.

In August, I received an email from his assistant indicating that my representative’s team was looking in to one of my earlier questions regarding carbon pricing. Shortly after, I received a phone call from my representative; but there was no meaningful content or questions answered.

Over the course of my next 11 letters and emails, some to his assistant, I started to offer information that might be useful in the two different roles he has with his Party. Another phone call indicated he would be in Nelson and would like to meet with me — great! The meeting never happened.

Now, quite frustrated, in mid-September and again at the end of September, I sent an email to his assistant asking for the courtesy of a written reply with simple answers to my simple questions. Now, in the first week of October and I’m still waiting to hear from my representative.

Ron Robinson
Nelson

Restore Kaslo’s watershed

At the September 15 Village of Kaslo council meeting, two reports were received from the engineers concerning the watershed and water infrastructure. The June 18 report outlined damage to the dam and waterline from a debris flood on May 31 while the September 11 report described the repairs done to the dam and waterline by the Village employees. This is the second time the Village has had to repair the infrastructure since an unattended forest fire burnt 20% of the watershed in 2007. This fire caused the ground to become hydrophobic so that when an external rainfall occurs, a debris flood flows downstream causing millions of dollars in damage.

At that meeting the engineers also provided an estimate stating that restoring Kaslo’s watershed would cost $544,000 and that includes road-building, logging the debris and tree planting. Another estimate was provided stating that it would cost $1 million to install a six-inch water line from the two-million-gallon reservoir to the hangar area at the east end of the airport. This waterline would allow some development at the airport but would mainly enable helicopters to bucket water to any wildfires that would threaten the town. The Village has no funding for this but the price tag is equivalent to four houses in town.

With today’s technology and heavy equipment, restoring the watershed is possible and now is the time for the council to put the funding in the 2021 budget.

Afriend recently summed it up to me when he said: “A lack of planning should not be our next emergency.”

Patrick Mackle
Kaslo

Acceptance and respect

Acceptance and respect – as an intelligent species, these are key to our overall well-being. They should be given to all by all, no matter what our beliefs, race or sexual orientation. A lot of parents try to teach this to their children through example (the best way). It’s a challenge to some because we all have our beliefs, some very strong some not, and we feel that we have to pass these on to our children.

What we need to realize is we are all in this together. The sooner we learn to accept each other for who and what we are and respect our differences, the better our world will be.
Letters

October 8, 2020

Letters

Oh, Owe Canada!
The New Dem Party has made a lot of bad decisions, the worst being the Site C dam. Hydro heads should roll over the pathetic management of this project, with billions spent and now they have a major problem with the dam. Who is going to pay? Will Wall pay the final cost of Site C? $12 billion? $20 billion? What kind of electric rate will this fiasco bring?

Government heads rarely roll, sadly. They don’t have to be responsible because they are arrogantly in power.

The last election in BC saw only 61% voter participation. Are we even in a democracy? I would venture to say we live in a firm plutocracy where the rich call the shots and we get the dog and posy show every few years for the illusion of voter empowerment.

The private sector has to be lean, mean and decisive – hardly the qualities of modern government. From a quote from David Rosenberg: “Over the past two decades, the correlation between the ratio of Canadian federal government spending to GDP and the pace of economic activity has been -26%. That’s right, more government spending actually does more to hurt than to help the economy. Because governments are telling you that more government involvement in the economy means more growth.”

Therefore, foreign investors pulled $7 billion out of Canadian government bonds. They are heading for the exit! No foreigners are going to bail us out because our fiscal house is burning to the ground.

These are not really benefits but liabilities for future Canadians. Our debt reached a record $1 trillion with Trudeau’s “ovel ready” to dig us more into debt! When a country prints money with total abandon and starts adding zeroes to the front, you start looking at an awful lot like Venezuela. Northern pesos anyone?

Nick Chatton
Crescent Valley

Impressionist

I would like to commend the Valley Voice for the excellent coverage of the nine Swallow species that inhabit the Okanagan and Kootenays. It was a delight to read and learn the details of their natural history and the measures being taken to preserve their habitat.

Karen Gordon
Nakusp

Slocan gazette netting

Given that the population of swallows of all types has declined between 75% and 90% over the last 40 years, I was deeply disturbed by the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society’s decision to install netting in the gazette at the Slocan beach to prevent barn swallows nesting there, and similarly disturbed that the council of Slocan, at September’s council meeting, voted to assist with that project. Apparently, the bird droppings can no longer be tolerated. Richard Cannings, biologist and local bird expert, stated that netting would be an effective way to exclude the birds from their nesting place, although it was not mentioned if he’d been exposed to droppings justified preventing the nesting of a species in decline.

It was also stated at the council meeting that the birds can still nest under the outer perimeter of the mound cache, which is quite near the ground, subject to disturbance from passing humans, and within reach of people who are inside the gazebo, and is a place they have never chosen, having always nested in the highest point of the roof, inside the gazebo.

There must be some solutions that will not disturb the birds, most of which return to the same locations every year. The council’s decision is not wise and will not work. The nets would exclude all the birds, and they do not like that in a depression. Thirty million Americans are out of work and many will not get their jobs back. Many small businesses will not reopen. Things are not much different in Canada. The US Federal Reserve has knowledge of how to bail out Wall Street. It does not know how to bail out Main Street.

Trillions upon trillions were spent to bail out the banks in the 2008 financial crisis. Then these banks foreclosed on the homes of millions of Americans.

“Never let a good crisis go to waste.”

Nadine Klin’s book The Shock Doctrine describes how shocks and disasters are used to implement programs and policies that would otherwise be unpopular. Sometimes a crisis is made to order. Each January, the rich and powerful gather in Davos, Switzerland for the World Economic Forum. This year there is talk of the Great Reset to solve the world’s problems. This will involve many things except to shame the rich into doing it. A wooden stake needs to be driven into the heart of the vampire of Wall Street. The vampire’s heart is the US Federal Reserve, which bailed out the banks against the Federal Reserve to finance it, Wall Street will shrivel up and die and guilt saddles the livelihood of Main Street.

Ed Zuk
Nakusp

Who is benefiting from COVID-19?

It looks like John Horgan is the latest person trying to benefit from COVID-19. They have a saying, “Never let a good crisis go to waste.”

COVID-19 was a godsend to Wall Street. A financial crisis had been brewing since September 17, 2019. Banks have to balance their books at the end of each day. To do so, they borrow money overnight on the money markets. Just like in the financial crisis of September 2008, no one would lend them the money, without money, they would face bankruptcy. The US Federal Reserve stepped in, making $100 trillion available to the banks overnight. This was the perfect cover for a bailout. The Federal Reserve, which is a bankers’ association, sat down with the US Treasury Department to work out a bailout. It cost $4 trillion and Wall Street got most of the benefits. Six months later, the US stock market is making record highs and the economy is growing like that in a depression. Thirty million Americans are out of work and many will not get their jobs back. Many small businesses will not reopen. Things are not much different in Canada. The US Federal Reserve knows how to bail out Wall Street. It does not know how to bail out Main Street. Trillions upon trillions were spent to bail out the banks in the 2008 financial crisis. Then these banks foreclosed on the homes of millions of Americans.

Patricia McGeer
Slocan

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Ed Zuk
Nakusp
The Valley Voice   October 8, 2020

To a great newspaper
I don’t know where to start, but first I want to thank you for running such an important paper, for people to express grave concerns and for not editing the st*ts out of it! Especially two of them – Bruce Freeman and Ellen Chambers. Neutral and fair. On page 34 of the Valley Voice: "Are government COVID-19 measures necessary and effective?" Fabulous! As Mr. Freeman said: Finally, people are talking! I feel like making thousands of copies of the two and distributing them myself.

The question is: how many people are reading this and are actually waking up? How many people are still dismissing it? I see it all the time! Sheep, sheep, sheepie! Like the three monkeys… Doctor is God! Ah, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Theresa Tam must be feeling orgasmic just to say: Sir! Roll over! Fetch! Play dead! And the whole population is dosing masks again and freaking out! Mind control? She threatens us with yet another lockdown. Second wave, my st*ts, it’s already here! I am ashamed, embarrassed and pissed off at my fellow human beings, to let this pandemic evolve, in hamboozle us into believing what BS they feed us. If we would all stand up as one, we might stand a chance… but from what I am seeing all around me, I do not doubt it. The time is now. I for one never get vaccinated! Gisela Stein Nelson

Mandatory Vaccinations
A Green Party rep called about the upcoming leader election. Although being a long-time supporter/ contributor, I recently felt compelled to hold off support due to no response to my questions about their position on mandatory vaccination. This hit to my questions about their position to hold off support due to no response being a long-time supporter/ upcoming leader election. Although I doubt it. The time is now. I for one what I’m seeing all around me, I us into believing what BS they feed fellow human beings, to let this population is donning masks again Theresa Tam must be feeling like the three monkeys… Doctor is God! A Green Party rep called about the upcoming leader election.

Lorne Nicholson goes green
I am writing this letter as an appeal to Dave Barrett-era New Democrats to stand up and be counted in this election. I worked on Lorne Nicholson’s 1975 NDP campaign on Nelson's Hilltop, and now he is running again, in a one-on-one fight with the Sorechts in Nelson-Creston. We were very clear on what we were fighting for: the fourth public university in BC and a better socioeconomic future for everyone. Lorne won that fight, but the NDP lost government until 1991, Lorne remaining the NDP MLA until 1986. A few weeks ago, Lorne approached my good friend Michael Jessen and asked who the Green candidate was, as he wanted to endorse them. Turns out Lorne, at 84, is not keen on the NDP’s pipelines – just like me – whether it is being done by the federal Liberals or the BC NDP. In July, energy industry researcher Heather Kao publicly entitled ‘BC’s Carbon Comunard,’ in which she showed, at Table 9, page 30 and Figure 22, page 51, that burning BC LNG will create 15% more carbon emissions than burning Chinese coal in their most efficient power plants.

Further, it will not be until 2120 that BC LNG will have an emissions advantage of around 9.8%. Trouble is, last week the Chinese Premier announced, after some tense negotiations with the European Union, that China is now committed to being carbon neutral by 2050. So any positive advantage of BC LNG will get washed out the flailing horse that got us this far. Easier to turn a blind eye to the push for vaccines and vaccine scheduling increases (btw: no one tests! exams cumulative effects of this toxic load).

The media has turned up the heat on fear. Where was the media attention when 1.5 million people died of tuberculosis in 2018 (ref. daily postnp.org)? At some level, my last bastion of hope even in this not-perfect system, we have choice. This party rep said to me that she would back anything short of someone holding a gun to another person’s head. My take away… I do not deny your choice to take flu shots, vaccines, and medications. How can you deny me the freedom of choice to not? T. Orlando Winlaw

Mock on
If one is to be publicly categorized and scrutinized, then accuracy in the labelling process is paramount. The precise term to describe someone of my ilk is “conspiracy analyst.” Just to be clear, the concept “conspiracy” is defined in law and is punishable in law making conspiracies (even suspected conspiracies) worthy of serious consideration. As such, in the manner in which I find meaning in my interrogations and independent analysis of direct experiences, common sense and extensive research prior to intimating conspiracies.

The suffering of my elderly aunt due to the COVID-19 lockdown is undeniable and heart-wrenching. When my elderly aunt, a pragmati/ salt-of-the-earth-type, started to hallucinate during long-distance phone calls, it became abundantly clear to me isolation and the lack of contact with family caused her mental breakdown. She was obviously depressed and losing her will to live. Through this direct experience, I am left to wonder about the mental gymnastics being used in this ‘new normal’ to conflate blatant elder abuse as a reasonable approach for protecting the elderly from COVID-19. Mock on.

Most important is the topic of common sense, at the onset of the declared ‘pandemic’ I noticed strange inconsistencies in how governments were measuring the impact of our pandemic. There are some things I noticed which demonstrate the handling of this ‘pandemic’ is devoid of common sense. While liquor stores remained open, elective surgeries and specialized, diagnostic procedures were cancelled (bearing in mind, electioneering and specialized, diagnostic procedures are important medical tools not frivolous in nature). While Walmarts, Costco and other box stores with throngs of customers remained open, small businesses selling the same items suffered the brunt of foreclosures and the ensuing employee layoffs. If COVID-19 vaccines being developed are safe and effective, why are pharmaceutical companies demanding governments grant them patent rights perpetually due to vaccine injuries? It defies logic that long-established safety steps using animal trials prior to experimentation on humans were removed in order to fast-track the development of COVID-19 vaccines. Also, why have the WHO and Dr. Fauci flip-flopped so many times on the advice they communicate to the public during a pandemic and all throughout this ‘pandemic’?

When it comes to my conspiracy research, I go straight to the horse’s mouth. I look to original government documents and actual studies found on Google Scholar. I highly recommend people read reports posted on the United Nations World Food Programme site. David Beasley, head of the World Food Program, has gone on record to say the world could face “multiple famines of biblical proportions in a few short months” and he speculates how the coronavirus could push an additional 130 million people “to the brink of starvation” by the end of the year. I also recommend people use the search engine on Google Scholar to explore topics such as: ‘COVID-19 lockdown and universal health care supply disruptions’ or ‘COVID-19 and suicide’ or ‘Collateral deaths and effects due to COVID-19 lockdown.’

Delivering lies during a rushed election process, I wonder about the mental gymnastics being used in this ‘new normal’ to conflate blatant elder abuse as a reasonable approach for protecting the elderly from COVID-19. Mock on. Just in case you didn’t hear about the 4 million ‘conspiracy analysts’ who gathered in Berlin at the beginning of September to protest COVID-19 lockdown measures or the one million Germans who later converged in Berlin to hear Robert F. Kennedy Jr. give his powerful and illuminating speech, it is worth circumventing the MSM to find out about the global movement exposing COVID-19 as a conspiracy. The German people know all too well how Goebbels, the mastermind of propaganda, manipulated their parents generations during the Nazi era, engaged in a totalitarian regime with horrific consequences for themselves and the entire world. So: M o c k o n, m o c k o n, V o l t a i r e, R o u s s e a u; Mock on, mock on; ‘is all in vain!' You throw the sand against the wind, and The wind blows it back in your face. William Blake

Ellen Chambers Winlaw
New Denver council, September 22: Village expresses interest in proposed dog control service

by Kathy Hartman

SD 8 Kootenay Lake launches mobile app

submitted

An important new communication tool is now being offered for staff, parents and students in the Kootenay Lake School District to stay well informed and better connected. The mobile app, Schoolkit Hub, is now available for download free on both iPhone and Android.

The new mobile app provides audiences with the latest announcements, news, events and contact information about the district, its schools and some departments. “This tool is another opportunity we can offer parents and students to remain right up to date on school and district information, especially during these times,” said Superintendent Dr. Christine Perkins.

Once downloaded on a phone or tablet, a user can choose which school(s) or district department they wish to receive information from. Notifications are then sent whenever new items are published, as well as immediate alerts for emergency broadcasts or unscheduled closures.

In addition to the app, school information will continue to be distributed through websites, social media, email and phone calls when appropriate.

Visit https://www.sd8.bc.ca/app for download links.

Human Resources Generalist

Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS) and Halcyon Assisted Living Society (HALS) are seeking to hire an HR Generalist. This is a full-time position and will be located at the Nakusp ASLCS office.

The HR Generalist will be responsible for maintaining Human Resource job responsibilities that encompass all program areas within the mandate of ASLCS and HALS. Some travel will be required.

The successful candidate will report directly to the Executive Director.

Preference will be given to those candidates who have related education, training and experience working in the area of HR within a not-for-profit human service environment. A combination of education and experience will be considered.

Please submit your Resume and Cover Letter to Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services, Box 100, Nakusp BC V0G 1R0 (attention Executive Director) or email to: tim.payne@aslcs.com

This ad will remain open until a suitable candidate is selected. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

COMMUNITY

by Kathy Hartman

• Public consultation for the Centennial Park master plan process should begin soon. Three facilitators have been hired. Residents are encouraged to bring ideas to the village in advance by emailing the Village office or speaking with a councillor.

• The Village of New Denver will express interest in participating in a proposed dog control service in Area H. The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDKC) is doing an analysis of a Slocan Valley dog control service, and asked New Denver, Silverton and Slocan if they’d like to join in. The Villages of Silverton and Slocan have already expressed their interest in participating. This does not commit the Villages to signing up for the service; they will make their final decisions once the analysis is done.

New Denver’s Animal Control bylaw regulates dogs within the municipal boundaries, but there is no dedicated enforcement staff for dog control. CAO Catherine Allaway says in her report: “There is an increased need for bylaw enforcement locally to address growing non-compliance with a variety of municipal regulations. Partnering with the RDKC and neighbouring municipalities may prove a cost-effective manner of addressing these issues.”

• Councillor Gerald Wagner informed council that the North Slocan Trails Society (NSTS) is currently in negotiations with BC Parks to maintain trails in Valhalla Provincial Park from Wee Sandy to Nemo. Specifically, NSTS hopes to maintain the popular Sharp Creek Trail and explore the possibility of a connecting trail to Wee Sandy, creating a three-day hike with a cabin halfway. Mayor Leonard Casley was pleased with the idea of keeping the trail maintenance local. Wagner also reported on the work done on the Galena Trail by New Denver resident Rob Farrell and the RDKC. There is now a new 34-foot bridge over the slough on the Galena, so the trail is now open between Three Forks and the Alamo concentrator.

Mayor Leonard Casley feels paramedics of BC, CUPE 873 and the Ambulance Paramedics of BC (APBC) describing all the ambulance services available to communities was accepted by council. Casley expressed dismay that the letter from the union was not asking for a return to the four-hour shift policy. “I’ve been hearing rumbles that our paramedics need to go somewhere else to make enough to survive.” Up until June 1 of this year, paramedics stationed in 39 rural communities were guaranteed four hours of pay per on-call shift at a regular pay rate, regardless of whether any calls come in. For the rest of the shift, they were paid $2 per hour if no calls came in. Under the current system, a paramedic is paid $24 an hour, making only $24 in a 12-hour shift if there are no callouts. Councillors were encouraged to write the Health Minister to advocate for enhanced paramedic services in the community.

APBC also offered to discuss issues at the virtual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) conference held at the end of September. No action was agreed on by council.

• Councillor Colin Moss reported on an executive committee meeting of the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District, with the Ministry of Health’s head of physician services in attendance. Moss was able to offer his thanks for the ministry’s solution to New Denver’s physician shortage, and to ask where they are finding the health professionals for the new primary care network model. He was informed that the new hires will come from Alberta and the International Medical Graduate program. Moss was also able to point the ministry in the direction of the report on rural health needs conducted by the UBC Centre for Rural Health Research.

• Fees for commercial use of the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre will be officially adopted at the October 1 council meeting. These new fees were triggered by a rise in special access requests that require significant amounts of staff time. The fees in the bylaw are in line with those charged by the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre, which has a collection with similar content.

Managing Attractants

Managing your attractants and limit denning areas are key to keeping bears, rats and other wildlife in check this autumn. A reminder for residents to:

• Keep garbage secure until morning of collection.
• Pick and remove fallen fruit and nuts from your property. Nuts are also a major attractant to bears this time of the year.
• Feed pets indoors, or if fed outdoors, bring in any food that is not immediately eaten by your pets. Rats will quickly target any type of pet food left out.
• Take birdfeeders down at night and feed only during winter months. Clean up ALL spilled seed under the bird feeder.
• Manage your compost properly and turn regularly. Ideally you will use a rat-proof composser, but if not possible, turn your compost on a regular basis.

If you have questions about how to best manage your attractants, please reach out to the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator, Coral Skaien, at newdenver@wildsafebc.com or at 778-867-3852.

NIMC CALENDARS

The Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre is now closed for the season. Council thanks our seasonal staff for their hard work this season. NIMC 2021 calendars are still available to purchase at the Village Office. Calendars showcase beautifully-detailed photographs of selected archives and are $20 each. Proceeds will go towards the NIMC operations and future projects. Thank you for your support.

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

OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS

All residents and visitors are reminded that outdoor burning is regulated within the Village of New Denver and permits are required for all outdoor fires except cooking fires. Buming permits for small fires (less than 3 feet high and 5 feet wide) to burn yard and garden debris are available at no cost from the Village office from September 30 until November 15th.

OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS

If wind and weather permit, keep any fires the size of a pot burning close to the ground and affecting your neighbours, please wait for a better day to burn.

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New year sees big boost in enrolment at SD 10

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

September means back to school, of course, and the Arrow Lakes School District 10 is seeing a big boost in enrolment. Enrolment is up in three schools – Burton Elementary School (+10), Lucerne Elementary (+8) and Nakusp Secondary (+13). It’s the biggest boost in the number of students in SD 10’s DL program since the program was launched.

“We are happy to be able to welcome new DL students to our Arrow Lakes DL School and are working through the challenges of unexpected additional staffing needs,” says Taylor.

In order to meet the extra demand, the Distributed Learning Program has hired two part-time teachers for a 6.1 increase overall in staffing. Amanda Lytle will be supporting secondary learners in partnership with Selkirk College, while Candice Mangione supporting K-9 home-based learners, says Taylor. The two will be working with the Distributed Learning community teacher, Scott Kipkie. The program is based out of New Denvers Lucerne Elementary Secondary School.

The district also added additional hours for the school registration to support the increase. New Denvers new daycare should be open in the next few weeks. Superintendent Terry Taylor notes the district’s efforts to fight the coronavirus. The district has received $10,000 to support healthy child care.

“Some delays in receiving supplies and equipment due to the pandemic slowed the process of opening in the summer,” she told the board at their last meeting. The daycare is being run by a new DL staff educator, and is looking at an October 19 opening once the furnishings and equipment can be moved in. The daycare will be able to provide space for infants and toddlers, 3- to 5-year-olds and after-school childcare.

A review of the school district’s transportation system is calling for standardized sizes for school buses. The consultant’s report says buying only 72-passenger buses would save money for the district, as they are 35% more cost-effective. He also recommends moving to buying bus routing software to find the most efficient and effective bus routes, a strong advantage of the daytime traffic in the parts in the bus yard, and revisions to the maintenance program. He also suggests tweaking the bell schedule at Nakusp Elementary and Secondary to allow Fauquier and Edgewood kids on buses a half an hour to catch the 4 pm ferry. Fewer kids need to stay the night in Cardinal, and there are fewer buses returning.

“This will make our valley resilient and strong is our mix of people and sense of community. We can do this!”

With extra expenses due to COVID-19, the Ministry of Education has since decided to allow them to go ahead. But there’s a big call for additional cleaning and sanitary protocols must be observed, and no additional cleaning costs shall be borne by the district. That’s why the kibosh to any groups hoping to use schools for now, Taylor says.

Under BCCDC guidelines, schools are required to clean thoroughly once per day and disinfect high touch surfaces (light switches, doorknobs, desks, faucets, etc.) twice in 24 hours.

“We hope to be able to welcome our community back into our schools if possible, and thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we work through our schedules, enhanced cleaning and prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff,” says Taylor. Meanwhile, support of the districts efforts to fight the virus is starting to come in from a number of sources. Superintendent Taylor noted the school district has received several pots of funds to cope with extra expenses due to the coronavirus. The district received $46,588 for ‘Safe Return to School Funding’ from the BC government, as well as $2,000 for masks, $10,300 for improved hand hygiene, and $6,000 for extra school supplies.

The federal government has also ponied up big time, and the district will receive $12 million for “unexpected additional staffing.” The remaining $10.4 million goes to Ottawa to support learning resources, health and safety, outdoor classrooms, extra transportation costs and child care.

The first half of the money will go for the new part-time teachers mentioned above for Distributed Learning, as well as mental health supports for staff, more custodian time, cleaning supplies and more.

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“Another item to add to the list of things COVID-19 has messed up: using school facilities for after-hour community activities. While programs were shut down immediately after the initial lockdown in March, the Ministry of Education has since decided to allow them to go ahead. But there’s a big call for additional cleaning and sanitary protocols must be observed, and no additional cleaning costs shall be borne by the district. That’s why the kibosh to any groups hoping to use schools for now, Taylor says.

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The district also received $10,000 to support healthy child care meals programs from the Vancouver Foundation’s COVID grant program.

Additionally, a new music teacher who is already quite familiar with how the area works, Leah Holden, a graduate of Nakusp Secondary, has completed her music education degree and has returned to work with the next generation of young musicians. Taylor says Holden will teach ukulele, recorder, rhythm instruments and voice.

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School District 8 Kootenay Lake is receiving $2.2 million in new ‘Safe Return to School’ grants from the provincial and federal governments.

In a September 22 board meeting, Chief Financial Officer Michael McLellan presented three options on how to spend the money. The board opted for spending almost $200,000 over and above the $2.2 million.

McLellan explained that the $2.2 million amount was already easily covered by the district’s capital operations budget. Almost half — about $1 million — of the grant funding will be spent on HVAC and ventilation improvements in the schools (including $393,400 for an advance systems upgrade for WE Graham), as well as portable air scrubber units and heat recovery ventilators. The district was planning on these improvements over the next few years anyways, McLellan said, so it makes sense to supplement the grant funds with a contribution from the district’s capital operations fund.

“This [grant money] will significantly bring forward the work to upgrade those systems sooner,” said McLellan.

The only catch to the grant funding is that about $890,000 of the federal portion of the funds won’t be confirmed until spring. McLellan said in the event that the $890,000 doesn’t come through, the capital operations budget can cover the entire cost of the HVAC and ventilative upgrades.

The grant funding allows the district to make some substantial IT upgrades, including the purchase of Cloudbooks, classroom cameras and MS Surface Pros. It also covers the board’s $150,000 contribution to the new municipal building at Winlaw School.

Other items covered by this grant funding include personal protective equipment, custodial supplies, bus upgrades, training for staff, additional on-call staffing due to COVID, clinic supports for Kaslo and Salmo, and learning resources for homebound students.
Valley View Golf Course

The Valley View Golf Club Board of Directors and golf course staff would like to extend many thanks to the club members, day golfers, restaurant customers, sponsors, local service providers, CBT, Service Canada and other members of the community who supported Valley View Golf Course in 2020. At the beginning of the golf season the board and staff were concerned that the course would have a difficult year due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the restrictions that were in place in order to protect. The course worked hard to provide a safe experience for golfers and diners, and we were rewarded with tremendous community support. Valley View intends to stay open as long as possible for golfing and dining through October and looks forward to your continued patronage. Visit our website at golleva.view.ca and our Facebook page for information and updates. Valley View Golf Course is an important community asset for the Slocan Valley and thanks to the business the course received in 2020 we can look forward to the 2021 golf season.

Obituary for Frank Eugene Dill
February 25, 1927
September 26, 2020

It is with great sadness that the family of Frank Eugene Dill announces his passing on September 26, 2020.

Frank left us peacefully surrounded by his family at his home in Winlaw, BC.

Frank was born in Heidelberg, Germany on February 25, 1927. After finishing school, he was recruited to serve in the German Army until 1945.

After the War he decided to immigrate to Canada near the end of 1951 and settled down for the rest of his life in Kaslo where he has lived with his family for the past 45 years.

He was loved by all people he came in contact with over his lifetime and he will always be remembered by everyone who got to know him.

Frank was predeceased by his wife Frieda and his Son Frank Dill Jr.

Frank will forever be missed by his Daughter Ricki Morin (Jules), Granddaughter Julie Morin (Dwayne), Great Grandson Logan Sol, Great-Granddaughter Madison Sol, Grandson Randy Morin, Great Granddaughters Briella & Annalise Morin, Sister-in-Law Baerbel Landes, Daughter-in-Law Susanne Dill and all of his family in Germany and Friends in Canada.

Many thanks to all of the wonderful people involved in helping Frank with his journey: The Mountain Lake Seniors Community and their staff, Interior Health and Dr. Janz.

You will live forever in our hearts until we meet again.

Valhalla Foundation for Ecology plans to maintain the current gated vehicular access road (for emergency vehicles and handicapped access) and develop a pleasant walking loop trail around a series of wetland ponds and through the forest.

The sanctuary is open to the public for the quiet and respectful enjoyment of nature. Next year we plan to create several more wetland ponds where school groups can get “up close and personal” with pond life, and we hope to develop a new scenic viewpoint for visitors to enjoy this very special place,” said Valhalla Foundation director Lorna Visser, who oversees the Snk’mp Marsh project.

“Funding permitting, we also plan to build a wheelchair-accessible interpretive trail, and we are working with the local Sinixt on a project to introduce the public to the deep history of this area: a Sinixt village named Snk’mp.”

A final note: the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology is seeking more course woody debris for year’s restoration work. If any Slocan Valley residents anticipate having a lot of stumps or waste wood (not burned or treated), please contact the foundation through the website: www.valhallafoundationforecology.org. The VFE will pay the cost of trucking the stumps/wood to the sanctuary.

Live music returns to the Langham

The Langham is thrilled to re-open the theatre and bring live music back to Kaslo with acclaimed singer/songwriter John McLachlan, who has been performing on the BC folk circuit since 1979.

John will present Call it Home, a one-man musical performance and multimedia show that reignites glowing memories of summer vacations, explores the pains of growing up, and sheds light on the realities of adulthood. John’s songs evoke rich landscapes, a strong connection to place and the passage of time in the tradition of songwriters such as Gordon Lightfoot and Stan Rogers.

“This is truly a ‘feel good’ show...”

submitted

John McLachlan re-opens the Langham on October 15.

Make a plan to see it!” (Neville Hope, Fanny Bay Hall Association, Fanny Bay, BC)

Thursday October 15, 7 p.m., 30 seats only - Advance Tickets $20 @ Sunnyside (250) 353-9667 or Willow (250) 353-2257 in Kaslo. Doors at 6:30 pm.
WildSafeBC would like to remind curb the evening before collection. It consists of placing a yellow sticker request. We also conducted garbage areas with high rates of reported and farmers’ markets. Door hangers display booths at recycling depots presentations at Lucerne Elementary 1,450 people through a variety of increase education opportunities in our communities, and aims to celebrates the diversity of wildlife ' month, when WildSafeBC keep wildlife wild and communities managing attractants and helping to keep wildlife and communities safe. September was BC Goes Wild’ month, when WildSafeBC celebrates 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. This year, New Denver, Silverton, Nakusp and Area K, and Kaslo and Area D, were able to reach over 1,450 people through a variety of events.

In the New Denver, Silverton, Nakusp and Area K region, Cora reached over 450 people through activities such as WildSafe Ranger presentations at Lucerne Elementary School, two bear spray workshops, an electric fencing workshop, and display booths at recycling depots and farmers’ markets. Door hangers were left at nearly 150 homes in areas with high rates of reported human-wildlife conflict to provide useful information to residents regarding attractant management. In collaboration with Harvest Share, loaner fences were put up around fruit trees in residents’ yards upon request. We also conducted garbage tagging, an educational activity that consists of placing a yellow sticker on bins that have been left on the curb the evening before collection. WildSafeBC would like to remind residents that there are bylaws in New Denver and Nakusp that state that garbage cannot be put out until morning of collection. WildSafeBC does not enforce these bylaws, but does garbage tagging as an education tool. Thanks to intensive education efforts over the years, most residents are diligent about keeping their garbage secure until the day of collection. Fortunately, few garbage bins were tagged in New Denver and Nakusp.

In Kaslo and Area D, Brian reached over 1,000 people through a variety of events. Display booths were hosted at the Larderle Valley Sunday Market and at Legacy Park in Kaslo. He also attended the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation and Trails Society (KORTS) annual general meeting, and hosted a Wildlife Awareness and Safety presentation. Throughout September, he performed garbage tagging and delivered door hangers as reminders in areas of reported human-wildlife conflict. There was also a month-long scavenger hunt hosted on the WildSafeBC Kaslo Facebook Page.

The BC Goes Wild Photo Contest returned again this year and closed on September 30. Thank you to everyone who submitted a photo. There is a $100 cash prize and a WildSafeBC hat to be won. Follow the WildSafeBC main Facebook Page for announcements about winners, and stay tuned for the contest again next year. Our WildSafe Rangers colouring contest continues until November 30, with a $50 cash prize, WildSafeBC hat, and a full set of WildSafeBC animal pins. Check out our website at www.wildsafebc.com for more information or to print out the sheets, or check out your local WildSafeBC Facebook pages for updates.

The WildSafeBC community coordinators will be working in the community until the end of November, so be sure to contact your local coordinator if you have any questions for scheduling of presentations or workshops related to WildSafe Rangers in preschools and grade schools, Wilderness Safety and Awareness for all ages, bear spray workshops for ages 16+, and more! Cora is the coordinator for New Denver – Nakusp and can be reached at 778-987-3652 or newdenver@wildsafebc.com, and Brian is the coordinator for Kaslo and can be reached at 905-977-8288 or kaslo@wildsafebc.com.

Remember that bears currently require about 20,000 calories per day as they prepare for winter and hibernation. They are active in our communities at this time, seeking food rewards associated with humans. Please help keep wildlife wild and communities safe by: keeping your garbage secured until collection day; picking your fruit if you have fruit trees or have the fruit harvested by a local fruit gleaners program; considering installing electric fencing with livestock, bee hives and fruit trees; managing your compost; and keeping your freezers, coolers and barbecues clean and secured.

BC Goes Wild month – September, 2020

Thank you to everyone who has been doing an excellent job with managing attractants and helping to keep wildlife wild and communities safe. September was BC Goes Wild’ month, when WildSafeBC celebrates 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. This year, New Denver, Silverton, Nakusp and Area K, and Kaslo and Area D, were able to reach over 1,450 people through a variety of events.

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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 neighbourhood and you can sign up for email alerts for new sightings.

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. Proponents 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/kootenay-lake-local-conservation-fund/. Review the Terms of Reference, paying particular attention to Section 8 – Fund Design and then apply using the application form provided. The closing date for project submissions is 4:30 pm PDT October 30, 2020.

Project proposals must be delivered by email to info@kootenayconservation.ca.

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

JOB POSTING

HOT SPRINGS CASHIER/ATTENDANT

Casual

The Village of Nakusp is currently seeking a Hot Springs Cashier/Attendant on a casual basis for days, evenings, and weekend shifts. Duties include superior customer service, electronic admissions and reservations, maintaining facility hygiene and cleanliness standards, monitoring aquatic activities, operating the concession and janitor/labour work.

Minimum requirements are a High School Diploma, a Class 5 Drivers license, and a dependable vehicle.

Please forward your resume to the Village of Nakusp – Box 280, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0. E-mail nbailard@nakusp.com. Further information is available through the Village Office.

The Village thanks all who apply; however only those chosen for interviews will be contacted.

Thomas R. Humphries Law Office has merged with Thompson, LeRose & Brown Barristers & Solicitors

Our office has moved to 437 Front Street, Kaslo (the Kootenay Savings Credit Union building).

Our new office is currently under renovation but Tom and Sam are working regular hours and can be reached at:

Ph: 250-353-2292 Email: Samantha@tlb.bc.ca
Fax: 250-353-7430 Email: Tom@tlb.bc.ca

Office hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:30 p.m.
two meetings of the board. “In the event of the very worst-case scenario, if the [consultants] have somehow over-estimated the needs for the child care, what are the financial consequences? Layoffs are suggested? Who would be responsible for paying the bills?”

Dixon questioned the “dire need” for daycare spaces in Nakusp. She said she had not heard from the public that daycare is a problem – but rather that jobs and activities for kids are the issues.

“With a 15-year commitment, no real business plan, and no track record, no non-profit would or should undertake this,” she said she heard from a local financial advisor.

“We can’t count on 96 children until the parents sign on the dotted line.”

However, she was alone in her objections.

“At first I was hesitant, nervous and scared, but over time, I know things are going to be complicated, but to not do something based on fear is counter-intuitive,” said Trustee Daniya Simon, who said she was changing her vote to be in favour of the project. “But if we come together as a district and support each other, we will succeed.”

“I believe if there’s a will, there’s a way, and we can make it work.”

Also joining the “yes” side was new trustee, Steve Gascon.

“I understand there’s a risk. But with everything we do, there’s a risk,” he said. “And there’s a risk in doing nothing as well… It’s a huge grant, a huge project, and there’s lots of unknowns. But it’s the same with everything else we do.”

“There are all kinds of creative avenues to mitigate risk,” he added.

There’s all sorts of creative things we can do to work with some of the challenges this presents. We’re not going to have this centre built next week, so we have time to tackle those operational concerns, to work them out… so when we get there, we are ready to go.

“This is great for the town, the village, and it’s going to be great for the people… And if it fails, at least we tried to do something good for the village.”

With a 4-1 vote in favour, the project was approved.

The board also passed a motion to ensure administration of the Nakusp Child Care Centre will not impact K-12 operating funds.

…”[In] no case will operational funds for the Nakusp Child Care Centre be subsidized by K-12 operating funding budgets,” the board decided unanimously.

With the green light given on the project, the board will accept about $3 million from the Province, and $150,000 from the Columbia Basin Trust, to build a 96-seat daycare for both pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, and after-school care. The project will see two aging portables demolished on the site, and a new addition built to house the children in a semi-separate space.

School District 10 Superintendent Terry Taylor said initial meetings with the architect will take place in the coming weeks. From there, a timeline will be developed for the design and construction phases. She said they have to keep in mind the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the time it takes to complete such projects.

The first children likely won’t begin attending the daycare until late 2021 or sometime in 2022.

RDCK plans for recreation development at Campbell Field submitted

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) wants to hear from you about an exciting initiative to envision recreation facilities at Campbell Field. Located at the Playmor Junction, adjacent to Mount Sentinel Secondary School and the Slocan Valley Rail Trail, Campbell Field was gifted to the RDCK in 2016 by the South Slocan Sports Association.

The South Slocan Sports Association owned Campbell Field from the 1930s when it was acquired from West Kootenay Power, before generously donating the land to the RDCK. It has always provided area residents with a site for sports and cultural activities. Thanks to a covenant on the title of the property, it will always be used for those purposes.

RDCK Area H Director Walter Popoff immediately saw the potential of Campbell Field as an ideal location for recreation development and is excited for the possibilities. “Campbell Field is a central location for many people in the RDCK. The ability to satisfy the recreation needs of area residents is a great opportunity that we need to explore.”

Through the late summer and into fall, the RDCK will examine the potential for Campbell Field to provide indoor and/or outdoor recreation facilities and amenities. An important component will be partnering with the public in a survey to help identify possible development ideas. A selection of households in Castlegar, Nelson, and Areas E, F, H (South), I, and J (Bomby North) will receive a postcard in the mail in early October with a unique access code and instructions on how to participate in the survey. Community groups will also be contacted by email to share their thoughts.

“Campbell Field is situated between two of our Valley schools – Brent Kennedy Elementary and Mount Sentinel Secondary,” said Sharon Nazaroff, School District 10 trustee. “Students from the entire valley and especially those within walking distance will have convenient access to any future recreation development of the site. Valley students, this is your opportunity to add your voice as the community considers how best to develop Campbell Field.”

“This is a great gift that we have been given,” said Popoff. “We need to thoughtfully consider the potential recreation opportunities for Campbell Field and when given the opportunity, I encourage people to share their thoughts and ideas.”

To stay up to date on the Campbell Field study, visit www. rdkc.ca/CampbellField
Nelson-Creston candidates speak out on local issues

Terry Tiessen, Libertarian Party
What is your background, and why do you think your party can best represent the constituants of the Nelson-Creston riding?

My whole life and background is in the non-profit sector, working in the early days of Greenpeace, WCCW, and Gitxan Land Claims, to Shocan Reading Centre and most recently the Humane Society, has led me to this point of great change for all of us. It was in 2017 that I decided if I wanted to persevere and leave a world for my children, that has insurmountable individual, property and privacy rights, I would have to join and run for the BC Libertarian Party. Our party brings lower taxes, more options and real freedoms to the Nelson-Creston district.

What are the most important issues facing Kootenay West, and how would your party address those issues?

We believe that the most important issues facing us are getting us all back to normal, reducing greatly the cost of living in BC and to have a strong, permanent economic recovery. We plan on doing this by 1) cutting regressive taxes like the carbon tax and the fruit tax and ending the ‘sin’ taxes on alcohol and tobacco and marijuana; and 2) liberating huge swathes of the economy by ending all monopolies and repealing anti-competition laws and regulations. This will stabilize and invigorate the industries of insurance, transportation, health care, liquor and marijuana, energy, education and agriculture, to name a few.

Nicole Charlwood, Green Party
What is your background, and why do you think your party can best represent the constituents of Nelson-Creston riding?

For almost 20 years, I have been proud to call the Kootenays my home. I live in our riding on a small piece of land with my family, just west of Nelson. I have led numerous projects in our region over the years. Drawing on my formal training and experience in economics, finance, international trade, and political organizing, I currently serve on the RDCK Watershed Advisory Committee Area E, am the Treasurer for Nelson Waldorf Community School Association, have been a Review Committee Member for Columbia Basin Trust Community Grants and served as Acting Executive Director for West Kootenay EcoSociety.

The BC Greens have a comprehensive plan and approach for rejuvenating British Columbia’s economy. We need to transition to a new greener economy that not only meets people’s need for jobs, food and homes, but is done sustainably. Keeping in mind protection of our wonderful environment and last but certainly not least, making life secure, safe and healthy for us and our families.

What are the most important issues facing Nelson-Creston, and how would you address those issues?

I see several problems converging on us. The pandemic, and its impact on our economy, the fatal toxic drug supply, the housing and affordability crisis, the threat of wildlife, and extreme climate change events. We are at a critical point and need to advance innovative policies to deal directly with these issues.

We can strengthen our communities with community-based childcare, housing and retrofits, sustainable forestry and agriculture, renewable energy, improve our hospitals and health system, especially for seniors, and initiate a basic guaranteed annual income for the most vulnerable right now. Redirect our resources, like the billion-dollar gift to LNG and billions more for the Site C dam. Put that money into projects and jobs right in our communities to make us resilient and sustainable.

Brittany Anderson, NDP
What is your background, and why do you think your party can best represent the constituents of Nelson-Creston?

I am a strong advocate for the Kootenays. I’ve been working for our region, I have served on Nelson’s City Council since 2018 and sit on the RDCK board.

I grew up here, starting my education at Nelson’s Rosemont Elementary School and later achieving a Masters in Environmental Science and Policy.

My path into politics includes community education at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve, working in the RDCK’s environmental services department, and co-founding a company that facilitates environmental certification for the emerging cannabis industry.

Colleagues commend me for my effective leadership on climate action and increasing services for vulnerable populations. Through the pandemic, I worked to support small businesses and I saw what a difference an NDP government can make in people’s lives.

The NDP is in it for you. Elect me to join John Horgan’s team and keep BC moving forward.

The Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley cultivates the elements of a healthy community — food security, self-reliance, healthy people, a healthy environment, and a thriving local economy — through education, relationship building, and community service. We actively support initiatives that are inclusive of all and that foster a vibrant community.

Saddly, we won’t be hosting the Harvest Dinner this year. Keep eating local and hopefully we’ll see you next year!

The Composting Project is a huge success. Please drop your compost to make it work even better.

The Food Programs at LESS are back up and running.

The Culinary Tool Library continues (in the white trailer in the alley up from the Liquor Store) into October.

Tues. 4-6pm, Fri. 11am-1pm

Questions? Email culinartoolbraryhcs@gmail.com
Text: 250-505-6472 (include name & C thief Library)

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Colleagues commend me for my effective leadership on climate action and increasing services for vulnerable populations. Through the pandemic, I worked hard to support small businesses and I saw what a difference an NDP government can make in people’s lives.

The BC NDP is in it for you. Together we will build a better future for British Columbians - taking bold action on climate change, continuing to invest in services we need and building a strong economic recovery for all.

What are the most important issues facing Nelson-Creston, and how would your party address those issues?

One of the most important issues facing Nelson-Creston is climate change. The NDP has an aggressive climate action plan and looks at all other policy decisions through a built-in climate action lens.

Families and small businesses right here in our communities are struggling to make ends meet. Our platform focuses on making life more affordable for everyone – and here in Nelson-Creston there is still work to be done.

A progressive NDP government will continue to revitalize healthcare, take life-saving action to prevent overdoses, support small businesses and tackle the housing crisis.

Our region has the opportunity to be a leader in the emerging cannabis economy and I will advocate to ensure local businesses are not left behind.

We need a government that works for you. Elect me to join John Horgan’s team and keep BC moving forward.
Corbin Kelley, Liberal Party

What is your background, and why do you think your party can best represent the constituents of the Kootenay West riding?

I am 19 years old. I am currently studying political science and economics at Thompson Rivers University. Having lived in the BC Interior my whole life, I know the challenges that face rural BC, and the frustration that arises when our needs are ignored by the government in Victoria. We need a government that is going to work for every British Columbian.

What are the most important issues facing Kootenay West, and how would you address those issues?

I think a major issue facing the people of Kootenay West right now is access to services. Access to quality health and seniors’ care is more important now than ever. To respond to those needs, the BC Liberals have promised the Seniors’ Home Care Tax Credit, which can give seniors up to $7,000 a year for home care services and allow seniors to remain independent for longer.

Another thing I hear is facing many communities is increasing pressures on small businesses, and how they have been left behind by the government — especially during COVID-19. The BC Liberals have pledged to end the Small Business Tax Credit, which will not only help small businesses recover but will also put that money right back into the pockets of every British Columbian.

Ed Varney, Independent

What is your background, and why do you think you can best represent the constituents of the Kootenay West riding?

I was born in Nelson and raised in the Little Slocan Valley. I have completed five years’ post-secondary education, finishing at Ryerson with the Gold Medal in Technology in Mechanical Engineering, followed by trade certification in Millwright, Heavy Duty Mechanic and Welding. I have been exposed to many industries and have been employed at many jobs from teaching school to falling timber. This broad spectrum of experience helps to better represent all citizens in Kootenay West.

What are the most important issues facing Kootenay West, and how would you address those issues?

Accountability is the greatest challenge we face. When you go to Freedom of Information and your request is refused, is this missappropriation of public money? When you go to government for explanation and your answer comes back handwritten on loose-leaf paper (not typed on government letterhead), who are these people working for? Are they working for personal and/or private interests? The response came from a person who oversees millions of dollars. We have a means of removing elected people from government. Now we need a mechanism to remove hired employees from government, just politicians but all people whose pay cheque comes from our pockets. Elected or employed, these people must be held accountable to the people of BC.

We need demand a full public inquiry into the Telkwa Creek fire.

Fletcher Quince, Independent

What is your background, and why do you think you can best represent the constituents of the Kootenay West riding?

Born in Victoria, I grew up in a home full of policy, not politics, and appreciate the difference. Prior to settling in the West Kootenay in 2009, I worked as a wildland firefighter, incident commander, and ultimately research scientist with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. During this time, I graduated with honours from the University of Alberta with an undergraduate degree in Cognitive Neuroscience, and a Masters Degree in Forest Fire Management Systems from the University of Toronto.

Since moving to the region, I have served Kootenay West residents in a variety of roles, including as the vice-president of the Greater Trail Skills Centre, as a member of the Columbia Basin Trust’s Our Trust, Our Future Residents Working Group, as chair of the City of Rossland’s Fire and Emergency Services Review Task Force, and as an executive member of the Lower Columbia Community Development Team Society.

As an Independent, I am uniquely able to provide conscious and available representation on matters of importance to Kootenay West residents without concern for political-party culture.

What are the most important issues facing Kootenay West, and how would you address those issues?

The evolving and complex world Kootenay West residents live in is shaped by the constant interplay between provincial policy decisions that impact residents’ quality of life, and the management of external pressures to develop our tangible (timber, water, graphite) and intangible (science, security, recreation) resources.

As such, the most important issues remain those relating to community engagement, and the genuine consideration of this input in making decisions of public importance.

Whether it is the proposed Zincton Mountain Resort, tourism at public beaches, protection of the foreshore, resource extraction or substance abuse, only through the institutionalization of policies that enable residents to guide development in line with local values will it be possible to ensure the protection, and enhancement, of our beautiful place we call home.

Glen Byle, Conservative Party

What is your background, and why do you think your party can best represent the constituents of the Kootenay West riding?

My background is in medical equipment repair, union steward work, and cycling advocacy. I moved to the Kootenays 14 years ago when I was hired full time at the hospital in Trail. I am married with three young kids and I love living in the Kootenays. We have been a one-car family for almost four years and I do most of my trips around town by bicycle.

Our party believes that the best way to improve life in the Kootenays is to reduce the tax load on individuals and small businesses, to reduce the amount of political power held by higher levels of government, and instead empower the local governments, and to empower businesses that are finding innovative ways to improve our quality of life.

We don’t need to solve our problems with more taxes and bigger government. We can solve our problems better by empowering local small businesses to find solutions to those problems.

What are the most important issues facing Kootenay West, and why do you think your party can best represent the constituents of the Kootenay West riding?
Kootenay West candidates speak out on local issues

and how would your party address those issues?

I believe the most important issues for Kootenay West are climate change, our mental and physical health, and the success of our local small businesses.

I believe that we are at a pivotal moment where electric bikes and low-power vehicles can transform how we travel. If we are in a climate emergency and need to take a serious look at how we go about our day-to-day lives. Does it make sense for a person to drive a 3,000-pound vehicle that burns fossil fuel when the same trip can be done with a 50-pound electric bicycle? If we start prioritizing active transportation infrastructure instead of prioritizing vehicle infrastructure like we currently do, we can make huge progress in reducing our environmental impact while at the same time improving our mental and physical health.

We need to reduce the restrictions on electric bikes and low-power vehicles so that our local businesses can be at the forefront of this booming industry.

Andrew Duncan, Green Party
What is your background, and why do you think your party can best represent the constituents of the Kootenay West riding?

I grew up here, graduating from Kelowna's Rutland Secondary School and Selkirk College. With my husband, Ed Conroy, we raised our family on our farm in Pass Creek, where I still live. Our four kids and their families, including our nine grandchildren, also live in the community. I'm very connected to the region, having represented Kootenay West for 15 years, and my husband 10 years before that.

Before being elected, I was one of BC's first female power engineers, an early childhood educator, executive director of a Regional non-profit agency, a college instructor, and a small businessperson. Since 2017, I have been the Minister of Children and Family Development, and Minister Responsible of the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and Minister Responsible for Kootenay West candidates speak out on local issues.

Katrine Conroy, NDP

What is your background, and why do you think your party is best to represent the constituents of the Kootenay West riding?

I believe the most important issues facing Kootenay West, and how would your party address those issues?

The NDP in 2019 gave the LNG industry $0.5 billion, an 80% increase from the provincial Liberal Party, of British Columbian taxpayer’s money in credits and subsidies. This is the equivalent of giving everyone in the province $1,300. Per capita, this is the equivalent of gifting the Kootenay West riding with $13 million per year – money that could be spent on the Green Renewable Fruitvale REN-Energy project for Natural Gas. Or $13 million could have been given to Nakusp to aid in saving the Central Selkirk Caribou Herd (Canadians have already lost the Jasper Maligne Caribou herd) and protecting their range. I am simply tired of governments throwing good money after bad.

Companies like Teck, Celgar and others need to be competitive. Transitioning into cleaner, more energy-efficient technologies so that these industries can continue to employ many in the region is important, for our health, our economy and our environment. Let’s do better being Green.
Considering Community Service? Consider Nakusp Rotary
Call Sara for Details: 250-354-2833

Volunteer Firefighters save lives and property

We wish to thank the members of our local volunteer fire departments!

Bon Marché
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416 Broadway • Nakusp
250-265-3644

Volunteer Firefighters save lives!
Crescent Bay Construction Ltd.
Nakusp, BC • Ph. 250-265-3747 • Fx. 250-265-3431 • Email cresbay@telus.net

Thank you to our local volunteer fire departments for keeping our communities safe from harm

The Village of New Denver thanks the fire department members for their continued service!

On behalf of the citizens of Area “H”, thank you for your time, energy and commitment for a safer community.

Walter Popoff
Director, Area “H”

New Denver Fire Department - Casey Law, Roy Duncan, Ric Bardatz (Captain), Leonard Casley (Training Officer), Richard Harwood, Isaac Carter, Brent Olsen, Calvin Rodriques, Devan Duerichen, Nigel Thomas (Deputy Fire Chief), Derek Hicks (Fire Chief), Mercedes Hicks (Captain), Sara Thomas, Gabriel Nemiroff (Junior Member). Missing: Avie Boulet, Jordan Desalvo, Jamie Grierson (Captain), Doug Fischer (Captain), Rayan Duerichen, Marie Yurczyk, Tyler Paynton, Matthew Driedger.

Winlaw Fire Department - Cory Bloomfield (Training Officer), Evan Walker, Kevin Paterson, Alain Mac, Josh Zuckewich, John Roberts, Tony Kolenskoff (Lieutenant), Jerry Harrison, Stevie Whitney (Chief), Peter Collins, Jason McLean, Sean Landers (Captain), Richard Francouer, Carol Fehr. Missing: Joe Parker, Mike Lyons, Matt Doutoff. Recent retiree: Wolfgang Tann (20 years), Fred Doutoff (18 years), Tracy Soukernoff (5 years), Malika Alkadi (1 years).


New Denver Fire Department - Casey Law, Roy Duncan, Ric Bardatz (Captain), Leonard Casley (Training Officer), Richard Harwood, Isaac Carter, Brent Olsen, Calvin Rodriques, Devan Duerichen, Nigel Thomas (Deputy Fire Chief), Derek Hicks (Fire Chief), Mercedes Hicks (Captain), Sara Thomas, Gabriel Nemiroff (Junior Member). Missing: Avie Boulet, Jordan Desalvo, Jamie Grierson (Captain), Doug Fischer (Captain), Rayan Duerichen, Marie Yurczyk, Tyler Paynton, Matthew Driedger.

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A heartfelt thank you to Kaslo firefighters and volunteers for their hard work and commitment to keep us safe

Hats off to all our dedicated volunteers!

Selkirk Realty
306 Broadway • Nakusp • 250-265-3635

A heartfelt thank you to Kaslo firefighters and volunteers for their hard work and commitment to keep us safe

Sunnyside Naturals
Natural Health – Organic Snacks
Jaco & Snack Bar

Proud to support all our hard working and dedicated firefighters!

Bill’s Heavy Duty Enterprises
169 Hughes Road, Castlegar 250-365-7713 www.billsheavyduty.ca
Eric's Meat Market
Doug & Denise & staff want to thank the local volunteer fire departments for keeping our communities safe!
425 Front Street • Kaslo

Congratulations and thank you to all the volunteer firefighters. Keep up the good work!

We Salute all our volunteer firefighters and what they do for our community!

Marvin's S.M.A.L.L. Motor Repair
98-1st St. Nakusp 265-4911

We embrace the brave men and women of our local fire departments from JB's Pub &
Alcobbys
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#1 in the world as rated by EPA - Factory Authorized Dealer in the West Kootenays
WETT Certified Master Technician
Wood/Electric/Oil Combination Furnaces
Our Catalytic Stoves are #1 in the world
Duct Cleaning BEST METHOD Available
Doug Burton
Slocan City  •  250-355-0088

Thank You to all our local volunteer firefighters from Box Lake Lumber
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allsepticvac@gmail.com

We salute our local heroes. Thanks for everything you do.
The Village of Kaslo

Many thanks to our local volunteer firefighters!

Cornucopia
"The Natural Choice"
More than just a health food store
Thank you to the volunteer firefighters of Kaslo & District for your continued dedication and effort!
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Kootenay Furnace
Thanks to the brave volunteers of our local fire departments!
WETT Certified Master Technician
Wood/Electric/Oil Combination Furnaces
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Duct Cleaning BEST METHOD Available
Doug Burton
Slocan City  •  250-355-0088

Thank You to the brave men & women of our local fire departments from JB’s Pub &
Alcobbys
412 Highway 3 - Woodbury Creek, BC 250-353-7717 www.woodburyresort.ca

On behalf of everyone in the RDCK, a big THANK YOU to all our volunteer firefighters who help keep our communities safe.

Balfour Harrop  •  Beasley  •  Biewett  •  Canyon Lister
Crescent Valley  •  Kaslo  •  North Shore  •  Ootscheninga  •  Pass Creek
Passmore  •  Riondel Robson  •  Slocan  •  Tarrys  •  Winlaw  •  Yahk  •  Ymir

H ave you ever wanted to be a firefighter?
WE’RE RECRUITING!
For more information, contact your local fire department or visit: rdck.ca/join-us
Thank you for your dedication to our communities!

RHC Insurance Brokers
250-358-2617 • New Denver

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the volunteer firefighters in our communities!

New Market Foods
New Denver, BC
250-358-2270

Thanks to our volunteer firefighters for their amazing dedication!

Our Volunteer Firefighters deserve our heartfelt thanks for all they do for us. Keep up the great job!

SILVERTON BUILDING SUPPLIES
216 Lake Avenue, Silverton
250-358-2293

SLOCAN VALLEY Home Hardware thanks our local volunteer firefighters for their dedication and commitment.

We appreciate all you do to keep our communities safe!

Smokey Creek Salvage
359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539
3453 Yewmart Rd, South Slocan

Thank you all firefighters for the great job that you do.

Craig Courchesne
John Guild
Lee Orr

Craig Kiyono
Keith Greenhalf
Mark Arnold

Jesse Edwards
Ken Barisoff
Taylor Cook

Kaslo Mohawk would like to thank you for your commitment to our community.

405 - 4th Street Kaslo

Nakusp Glass
Our volunteer fire fighters are the best!
201 Broadway • Nakusp, BC
250-265-3252

Captain Richard Cann

Mountain Valley Station
We wish to salute the bravery and hard work of our local volunteer Fire Departments
704 Arlington Road • Slocan City
355-2245

You’re the pride of the community!

Thank you to the volunteer fire people in Edgewood, Fauquier, Burton, Arrow Park & Nakusp

– Paul Peterson

Fauquier Fire Department - Owen, Satwant, Mays, Donovan, Cathy, Mathew, Sylvia, Hernan (with Buckwheat), Carman.

Individual Pictures of the Nakusp Fire Department appear below:

Fire Chief Terry Warren

Many thanks to the courageous volunteers of the Kaslo Fire Department

411 Front St • Kaslo
250-353-2331
Planning underway for October start to Nakusp FireSmarting

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Residents of Nakusp will be hearing the sounds of chainsaws and heavy equipment working in and around the village later this fall.

An official with the Nakusp and Area Community Forest says work on its wildfire risk reduction program is set to begin at the end of October.

“The goal is to manage fuel on and around Nakusp, and I’m hoping to develop the property in a manner that adds to the community,” says James Kay, chairman of Nakusp and Area Community Forest.

The deal should be finalized by the end of October. The list price for the three acres was $399,900.

Kay purchased the property despite the complexities of decades-old zoning and property development rule changes that have flummoxed other potential buyers. A brief report from the Village council describes just one of the many issues surrounding the property.

“This property is quite complicated,” says the report. “It consists of two parcels, one parcel is zoned R2 and the other parcel is zoned M1, and the existing building straddles over both parcels.”

Not only that, the main building encroaches on its property line, another issue that has to be dealt with before any changes to it can be made.

“A fixer-upper, a very beneficial description,” Kay told the Valley Voice. “I’ve had a chance to tour the buildings and we’ve had inspections on all the buildings. The newer shop, built in the late ’80s is in good repair. The older buildings need roof work. One of the residential buildings is dilapidated — it needs either a complete overhaul or a tear-down. The existing house, it’s in good repair… so it has at least one building in good shape.”

But Kay, who is an engineer and has worked with the Village on local use issues, says he’s confident he can get around the zoning and other headaches.

“The value in this property is really hindered because there are so many questions,” he says. “Because they’re in two different zones… a few people who reached out to me said they would have bought the property but they just couldn’t see how to fix this stuff.”

Kay figures it will take at least six months to begin to tease apart the various subdivision and legal restrictions that surround the property, and then redevelopment can begin.

“We can then look at what the rest of the site could or should be,” he says. “I’ve had the opportunity to work with the staff and council with the Investment Ready Nakusp Initiative for the last year. And I know Nakusp needs housing badly, affordable housing in a good location across from a school, so I’m absolutely thinking housing is part of the future of this site.”

Kay says he wants to work with the current tenants (one of whom is sculptor Kate Tupper) and the property’s neighbours to ensure the best use of the land for the community. He has no plans to force the tenants to leave, and says he’s reached out to them and invited them to stay as long as they like. He says the work being done there is valuable to the community.

However, he says more conversation has to take place about the future of the area.

“I can’t yet tell if this is a good spot for industrial development,” he says. “When I look at the houses immediately south on 3A Avenue or 4th, I can’t see industrial as a desired use, but that’s a conversation I have to have with neighbours and council, if they feel that’s a use that needs to be protected.”

“I’m hoping to develop the property in a manner that adds to the community,” he says. “So keeping that amount of industrial in the medium-term makes a lot of sense, and I hope to hear that reflected back from residents. I hope adding five to six residential lots would be a net benefit to the community, but I want to hear back on that.”

Like any new landowner, he’s excited by the possibilities.

“My hope is that building gets a breath of new investment, a second life as a maker space, or artisan craft shops. I think it has potential and I would like to see these buildings supported for years to come.”

Right now it’s a matter of cleaning up the administrative mess. Kay has a surveyor and geotechnical engineer going over the property now, and he just got council approval to make the main building’s poorly planned location legal.

It’s not simple, but done right we’ll get through the approvals and have a property that will add to the community,” he says. “We are genuinely asking for input from residents. We want to do this right. We want to be careful with what we do.”

Wednesday – Saturday
10 am – 6 pm
313 Hwy 23, Nakusp
250-265-7268
School District 8, September 22: COVID Plan update

by Jan McMurray
• Superintendent Christine Perkins reported on the Stage 2 Pandemic Response Plan, which is posted on the SD 8 website. In the event of a COVID-19 case in one of the district’s schools, Interior Health will take over, and will keep in close communication with the superintendent. The person will be required to self-isolate for 14 days before returning to school. Any communication about the case, e.g. for contact tracing purposes, will come from Interior Health. Interior Health will contact only those who need to be notified. The BC Centre for Disease Control is posting locations of cases on its website.

“The will happen eventually,” Perkins said. “It will be important to stay calm and carry on. You will be notified if there is anything you need to do.”

The daily health check to determine whether or not to attend school has been shortened. Some of the symptoms, such as a runny nose and a sore throat, have been removed from the list “because we’re going into flu season,” Perkins said. “The new checklist is shorter and more targeted as we learn more about the virus.”

Perkins added that the gargle test is now available to school-aged children at testing sites.
• The international program has been hugely impacted by the pandemic. There are 11 international students in the district this year compared to 62.9 FTE last year.

Ten of the students are attending LV Rogers, with one at Prince Charles in Creston.

Jann Schmidt, District Principal of International Education reported that all 11 students quarantined for 14 days and are now in school. “Not one case of COVID has been brought in from our international students at this point in time,” she said.

• Director of Human Resources Chandra Singh reported on hiring over the summer: 132 teachers on call, 12 casual education assistants, 12 casual custodians (with three in queue) and two casual bus drivers (with three in queue).

News from Slocan Valley schools
• Brent Kennedy Elementary School has a new multi-age program this year for grades 1-3. The program is play-based, project-based and student led, with weekly outdoor education, and with a focus on sound foundations of literacy and numeracy. An outdoor classroom has been set up in the forest, thanks to Kalesnikoff Lumber, and the school hopes to set up two more outdoor classrooms in the coming months.

The school has new flooring in two classrooms, and a bottle fill station. The water treatment plant was installed and scheduled to be up and running at the end of September.
• Mt. Sentinel Secondary had its gym floor refinished this summer, with the new Wildcat paw print logo at centre court. A mechanical upgrade is in development.

• WE Graham School has had 25% of its corridor flooring replaced and its gym floors refurbished. The school has four classes: Primary Outdoor Program (K-2), Wilderness Intermediate Leadership Development (grades 3-5), Outdoor Education Leadership Program (grades 6-8) and Valhalla Wilderness Program (grades 9-10).

• Winlaw Elementary has a new playground, a new roof, a new gym floor, new exterior doors, a bottle fill station, and new flooring in the office and in one classroom.
• Every classroom in the district has access to upgraded, high speed internet.

The kids are really into it, they’ve been really supportive, they like the idea of greening up the place they hang out at lunchtime,” she says. “This is their school, their community, and they’re going to grow up with these trees.”

The new green space will also be a learning feature for the school, and the community. Some of these plants have medicinal properties, and students can learn about respecting nature and using nature sustainably, says Wright.

WE Graham students turn waste space into green space

by John Baivan, Local Journalism Initiative reporter
Students at Slocan’s WE Graham school are sending a gift into the future.

It’s the gift of healthy, living green space for the children that follow them in the years to come.

“We’re creating shade, basically, for our playground and our blacktop,” says Tanya Wright, an education assistant at the school. “Then these trees, when they grow up, will create a sort of wind barrier, block the wind from the lake, which is cold in the winter and very dry in the summer.”

Wright, who also runs the school’s Green Team, raised $3,500 to buy trees to surround the paved courtyard on the school grounds. Funding came from a Tree Canada grant and a donation from Telus.

“We’re trying to keep it as native as we can, so our kids will have a shady place to play, and our community will have a garden here,” she says.

What is now a barren space covered in burnt-out grass will slowly grow into a green oasis for everyone’s enjoyment, says Wright.

“We’re creating a permaculture design, so we have large trees like the maples and the oaks, and then the alders, bush cranberry, choke cherry, and mountain ash,” she says. “The bigger trees create the higher layer and shade, and the understory brings the moisture.”

Wright says about 40 trees will be planted this fall, with more being planned for next year.

The students will eventually cover the ground with bark mulch and shrubbery plants to improve water retention in the soil. Wright says they also hope to improve the habitat for bees by planting a bee garden, and including several species of flowering shrub and tree.

Each class at the school has had a hand in planting, says Wright, with the older students using picks and shovels to dig the holes. She says it’s important for the students to be doing work like this.

The Trust pauses communications during election period

by Jan McMurray
As a provincial Crown corporation, Columbia Basin Trust has been directed to pause public communications during the current election period.

As a result, the Trust was unable to post its renewed strategic plan as originally scheduled. The plan will be released to Basin residents once the election period is over.

The Trust continues to deliver services and programs, and to accept feedback from Basin residents during the election campaign period, but will not be doing any proactive public communications – including website or social media updates.

CEO Johnny Strilaeff said the Valley Voice that as a Crown corporation, the Trust has always been required to pause public communications and respect the ‘caretaker role’ of government during election periods. However, this is the first time that the organization has announced the pause to the public.

“This year, we felt we needed to communicate with residents about our silence as we had committed to release our new strategic plan in September – and due to the election being called, we were no longer able to do that. We’ve also posted a notice on our website and social media channels for the first time,” Strilaeff said.

He explained that the Election Act sets limits on government ministries, boards, Crown corporations and other agencies regarding publications after the issuance of the writ for a general election, to preserve public confidence in the impartiality of government. In accordance with the Act, the communications restrictions apply to the Trust.

Strilaeff said the Trust was created by the Columbia Basin Trust Act as a Crown corporation in 1995. The organization has described itself as a ‘regional corporation’ because it serves only a part of the Province, specifically the Columbia Basin.

What makes the Trust unique is that we have dual accountabilities: to the Province AND to the residents of this region,” Strilaeff said.

He explained that the Understanding clarifies the relationship between the Trust and the Province. According to the MOU, the Trust consults with residents to set goals and priorities, and makes decisions related to investments and spending activities without direction from the Province.
If you had ‘moth invasion’ on your 2020 disaster bingo card, congratulations!

Residents of the New Denver area have been putting up with swarms of tiny, cream-coloured moths for weeks now.

“Typically, right now we are seeing western hemlock looper (Lamblina fiscellaria lugubrosa) or phantom hemlock looper (Neptia phantasmatica), which are both native defoliators,” says Darcie Quammie, senior biologist with Integrated Ecological Research in Nelson.

The bugs are after one of the area’s signature trees.

“The moths prefer western hemlock trees but sometimes outbreaks are seen on other hosts, including Douglas Fir,” says Quammie.

And it’s not just Slocan Lake that is seeing the large numbers.

“There have been a number of reports of moths from citizen-scientists and professionals, in particular, from the Kootenays, Kamloops and the Thompson-Okanagan area, the Lower Mainland and Sunshine coast,” she says.

The swarm of moths have been getting into every nook and cranny of people’s homes, outside buildings, and even swarms have been seen on a small fish farm in Rosebery Bay on Slocan Lake in August prompted a feeding frenzy for fish, one local resident reported.

While it’s not seen very often, mass invasions aren’t unnatural, says Quammie.

“Outbreaks occur approximately every 10 years and last about three years,” she says. “Recent droughts and a lack of soil moisture in the last few years may make forest stands more susceptible to the larvae.”

Outbreaks of these moths are naturally cyclic in British Columbia and not harmful to humans, says Quammie. She notes forest practices which promote stand health and maintain wildlife features that encourage the predators of moths – including bats, insects, birds and parasites – improve a stand’s resilience to the caterpillar attack.

There’s not much you can do about the moths but live with it while it lasts, she says.

“Generally, outbreaks are cyclic,” she says. “They spike quickly and crash just as fast in an explosive manner.”

It still beats murder hornets.
Focus group sets sights on Kaslo’s economic future
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Kaslo in 15 years will be a community that is more self-sufficient in its food and energy supply, Burton said. The Valley Voice, October 8, 2020

The early evening meeting was broken up into several workshops, from describing the current state of Kaslo and the North Kootenay Lake area’s economy, to analyzing the forces acting on the region both locally and globally. The last step asked the 20 or so participants to come up with various scenarios for the future. The discussion was general and wide-ranging, with the consultants using the participants’ ideas to draw up more specific plans.

Among the area’s strong points: a small but vibrant agricultural sector; a small but successful craft manufacturing base; house construction, forestry and tourism. The beauty of the area and its attraction for people wanting to get away from larger centres was also considered a major driver of the economy.

“They’ve come to this area for a reason,” said Mayor Suzan Hewat. “And they invent ways to help themselves stay here, because they love it. The natural beauty.

“There are some who come and want to change it to what they left, but they quickly leave because they realize that’s not going to fly.

“We have to encourage people to do things that locals will buy into, so we can keep that ‘shop local’ mentality,” she said.

But there are drags to the economy as well – from resource extraction without local ‘value-added’ industries, to an insecure power supply, to out-migration from the city putting upward pressure on housing prices, pushing young families out of the market.

But the group balked at implementing sweeping change or dramatic projects to enhance Kaslo’s economic future. Several people spoke of the need to make change, but in small, incremental steps.

“It’s a process of evolution to go,” said Bob Gazzard. “In a ten-year scenario, small steps are going to be fairly significant, but not so huge it changes the demographics and the ‘small-town-we-love-it’ here’ atmosphere.”

“I see a big changing of the guard now,” added Jeff Davie. “I can give you examples of several businesses who have younger people now getting involved. That’s very encouraging, and as we make more changes, all those things will make it more appealing to bring youth back to our marketers. I love where we are going, I think this community is incredible.”

“Small increments,” agreed Diana Duc’s of Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism. “Even with tourism you don’t want some big tourism product dropping in, and just shifting the kind of people who want to live there from the reason the current people do live there.

“You hear people say, ‘we want an airport.’ Well, you may want to be careful what you wish for. We benefit out from our lack of accessibility and that will create slow, small change.”

Kaslo trail vandalism finally put to an end
by Jan McMurray

An informal group of Buchanan Access Trail volunteers in Kaslo is relieved that a trail vandal has been identified and has vowed never to vandalize the trail again.

“We put a lot of effort into catching him,” said Glenn McRae, one of the volunteers. “It was frustrating figuring things out, knowing he was just going to go and wreck it again.”

The vandalism was first noted last year in July, when McRae and others were organizing the iDidaRide event in Kaslo.

“We started putting pin flags up on the trail, and bit by bit, the pin flags would start disappearing,” says McRae. “So we were aware that someone was messing with things for the race.”

Despite checking the course the day before the race, course markings were tampered with – resulting in a number of bikers going down the mountain where they were supposed to be going up the mountain on the 40-kilometre iDidaRide bike race. Fortunately, McRae says, some local mountain bikers knew the markers were wrong, so the handful of racers who went the wrong way were lost only briefly.

However, the vandalism didn’t stop after the race, so McRae bought a camera and set it up on the trail last year. Finally, in early September this year, the culprit was captured on film.

McRae took the footage to the Kaslo RCMP, who spoke to the vandal. “It was a great relief that he admitted to doing all of it and promised to stop,” McRae said. “No charges were laid, but it’s been great to work with the RCMP on this.”

McRae says the vandal targeted trail features that benefit bikers, such as bermed corners. When McRae and some of the other trail volunteers approached the vandal peacefully to ask him why he did it, “his one-word answer was ‘dust,’” McRae said.

Along with fessing up to the vandalism, the man has made a $200 donation to the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation and Trials Society.

“That doesn’t cover a camera, never mind all the work and grief,” McRae says.

McRae did not want to have the vandal’s name published.

Training grant for Kaslo paramedic
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A paramedic in Kaslo will be getting further training thanks to help from the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

The worker will receive $3,700 to help fund their education, after a vote in favour of the grant passed the RDCK board of director’s meeting in September.

“It will help one of the emergency medical responders attend their paramedic training,” says Amy Chris, the regional vice-president for the Ambulance Paramedics of BC, who speaks on behalf of the Kaslo station.

“Training is quite expensive, with tuition, books, training uniform on top of that, plus time off work, as well as travel and accommodation while away at school.”

Chris says funding for paramedic course – which can cost $5,000 a year in tuition alone – has to be borne by the individual, and in this case the person couldn’t afford the tuition and other fees.

Other funding to support the individual came from the Kaslo Hospital Auxiliary and the Kaslo ambulance unit’s own fundraising efforts, she said.

Throughout the meeting, participants also cautioned about development at the cost of the environment.

“The asset we have is our nature, the environment,” said Cloe Bayeur-Holland. “We will go in the wrong direction if we start touching on that environment that creates the world we live in, that’s why we are here. So I think the wrong direction would be sacrificing the environment in which we reside.”

“If we give that up for the almighty dollar, or for blind promises of a better school or hospital, the payout in the end is not worth it,” said moderator Sarah Sinclair.

In the end, the participants outlined in broad strokes what they wanted for Kaslo in the year 2035. using Kaslo’s world class internet connectivity to enhance opportunities; support for and a variety of local businesses; a community that is self-reliant, with many volunteers that are active and engaged; improvements to the community’s energy production to make it more stable; improvements to food storage infrastructure, so agricultural produce can be exported to market; economic activity that both draws from and protects the environment; youth leaving for education, but coming back with critical skills the community needs; more businesses using the co-operative model; protection of historic resources in the community.

Factor 5 will work to develop the ideas presented at the meeting into a more specific economic development strategy and marketing plan, that will reflect where the community wants to go for the next 10-15 years. That will be presented to the community in the months to come.

In the meantime, Area D Director Aimee Watson summed up the feelings of the group in her closing remarks.

“We are living in a blessed place, with blessed people – I’m not religious, but I love you all,” she said, smiling. “It sounds really weird... but we’re in this together, and you give me hope we’ll get through – not just ‘get through’ but we’ll soar.”

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NOTICE OF AGM FOR KASLO TO SANCSON RAILS TO TRAILS SOCIETY: Thursday October 15, 7 pm, Kaslo Innovation Centre (AKA Kemball Building - 312 4th St). All are welcome, please RSVP: Contact Dustin East, 250-505-4131 ext. 201 or dustin.east@kaslohotel.com.

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BETTER TOMORROW

“better tomorrow,” says Genevieve. The novel provides insight into the tragedy lived by the Doukhobors in the 1950s in the Slocan Valley, and reminds us that traumatic experiences have long-term consequences.

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Historic logging photos donated to Slocan Valley Historical Society

Ralph Tomlin saw on a regular basis. “It’s been hard,” admits Tomlin, reflecting on the closure of the mill in 2011. He describes how he used to stand in his office and view the daily bustle of the facility – forklifts running around, lumber being stacked. It was a scene he’d grown used to during the 35 years he oversaw the operation. Back then, the mill was the economic heartbeat of the community.

The site lies quiet now, waiting for its next incarnation. Tomlin is pleased the Village has purchased the site. “It’s in the right hands,” he nods. As he hands over the photos, Tomlin is helping to ensure this legacy is preserved for future generations.

The sale of the former mill site in the Village of Slocan marks the end of an era in the community. To commemorate the region’s rich logging history, Springer Creek Forest Products recently donated 12 framed photographs to the Slocan Valley Historical Society. The photos were originally given to the mill by Slocan resident Gary Burns, and some of them date back to the time when his father operated Burns Lumber. Others depict scenes from around the Slocan Valley: Camp 5 up Koch Creek; Camp 6 at Airy Creek; a reverse Howe Truss bridge at Passmore.

The pictures used to adorn the walls of the now-vacant mill office, images former general manager Ralph Tomlin saw on a regular basis. “It’s been hard,” admits Tomlin, reflecting on the closure of the mill in 2011. He describes how he used to stand in his office and view the daily bustle of the facility – forklifts running around, lumber being stacked. It was a scene he’d grown used to during the 35 years he oversaw the operation. Back then, the mill was the economic heartbeat of the community.

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Since Kootenay Carshare Cooperative first began its operations in 2001, you’ve been wondering, maybe even dreaming, about when the Carshare would be reaching the Valley. The truth is, we’ve been dreaming about the same thing. Throughout our almost 20-year history we have been approached by many communities in the Kootenays showing an interest in having carsharing available for their residents. We have opened branches and we have closed branches, learning along the way what is required to have a financially sustainable carsharing service in our rural communities. Due to fixed costs constraint, our current model of carsharing just isn’t viable in all areas. We wanted to find a solution that could service every Kootenay community. Air Carshare is that service, it is essentially Air BnB for your vehicle!

For the last year, we have been piloting the Air Carshare program, which allows individual vehicle owners to list their car in our booking system. The vehicle owner is still responsible for the maintenance, repairs and gas or electricity costs while KCC provides the insurance and infrastructure to share their vehicle with our certified members. The results have been very positive with the vehicle owners, members and KCC all benefiting from the new model.

How much money will vehicle owners make? Variable costs such as gas, maintenance and repairs are allocated to the KM income which we give 100% to the vehicle owner. The fixed costs, including insurance, administration and vehicle replacement are allocated to the hourly income which we share, with KCC collecting 60% and the vehicle owner receiving 40%. In one of our busiest months a vehicle owner in Nelson received over $650 for the use of his 2007 Subaru Forester. As an environmental organization, KCC also wants to promote the purchase and use of electric vehicles and will provide a greater percentage of the hourly charge to EV owners who are willing to share their vehicle.

Interested in signing up your vehicle? Here’s what you need to do to join:

1. Fill out our online form with your vehicle information – available now at www.carsharecoop.ca. 2. Contact your insurance agent to list your vehicle with our program – there is a cost from ICBC of about $40/year to do this. 3. Provide us with photos of your vehicle that we will put on our website. 4. Provide us with photos of you so people know the person behind the vehicle. 5. Provide us with a safety inspection of your vehicle performed by a certified mechanic in the last three months.

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We are grateful to have received grant funds to launch Air Carshare throughout the Slocan Valley, West Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary areas. Our two new hires, a program manager and a coordinator, are working diligently on bringing the necessary pieces together to offer our entire region this opportunity.

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- Join the carshare and drive an electric vehicle.
- No signup fees this week ($25 value) making a Casual membership free until you drive!
- Find out about our Air Carshare program and rent your car to your community.

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**HAPPY CO-OP WEEK**

Thank you to our 14,000+ members for 45 years of support, community ownership & cooperative passion!
The West Kootenay Boundary Community Investment Co-op is a new for-profit co-operative association and one of many BC Community Investment Co-ops that are redirecting capital into local economies. The West Kootenay Boundary Community Investment Co-op is member-owned, locally governed, and controlled by a volunteer board of directors. The newly formed co-op finances businesses located in the West Kootenay Boundary with the purpose of promoting economic, social, environmental and community impacts. The co-op believes in doing good while making a profit, and will eventually see a return on its membership investment, which will directly come back to our communities. As a community investment organization, the West Kootenay Boundary Community Investment Co-op inspires investors and local ventures to make a positive impact in their community. Where do your RRSP dollars go? Why not invest locally instead? Diverting a small but substantial percentage of capital that individuals routinely invest elsewhere, like their RRSPs, into investment co-ops creates significant local investment power. You too can become a co-op member and see firsthand how your investment can make a significant impact right where you live, work and play. Your investment dollars will help many sectors of your community, including economic development projects, locally owned small businesses, technology, affordable housing, sustainable agriculture and food production, or renewable energy.

Keeping your investment circulating locally generates significant impact in your community. Isn’t this something you would want to be a part of? Businesses within our region can apply for financing that works for their unique needs. The investment co-op leverages our members’ investments with traditional financial institutions to provide the capital your business needs to grow. Approved applicants also receive business development guidance, collaborative financing and ongoing support to help their business succeed. If you feel that your business or organization promotes positive economic, social, environmental and community impacts and is looking for funding, we encourage you to apply!

All applications will be reviewed by the investment co-op and funding is generally structured as a loan and must be repaid. Rates and amortization periods vary from case to case. For more information about the exciting new West Kootenay Boundary Community Investment Co-op or to apply for funding or to become a member and invest, visit wkbinvestmentcoop.com or email the co-op directly at info@wkbinvestmentcoop.com.

Until next time, live local, invest local.
Meadow Creek museum adds steam donkey to its collection

by Jan McMurray
The latest addition to the collection at the museum in Meadow Creek is a 1907 steam donkey, manufactured in Vancouver by Vancouver Engineering Works.

At the Lardeau Valley Historical Society AGM on September 27, attendees were able to admire the engine on the museum grounds after a slide presentation about the machine by Art Carson. The steam donkey belonged to Art’s grandfather, Frank, when he lived in Meadow Creek in the 1920s.

“I’m not sure where my grandfather got it, but I have documents like steam boiler inspections for it starting in 1926,” said Art Carson.

Frank lived in Meadow Creek from 1923 until he retired. The steam donkey was on Frank’s property, which Art’s father inherited. It ended up at the museum in Wetaskiwin, Alberta as a result of some “shenanigans,” Art said. The Lardeau Valley Historical Society was able to get it back with Art’s help.

“I provided all the documents of ownership of the donkey that I had,” Art said, “and the museum ended up feeling bad about their past in the 1960s and decided to de-accession the donkey engine and donate it back to Meadow Creek.”

The old engine is fairly significantly disassembled, and sitting on the grounds of the museum. A concrete pad has been poured for it behind the museum, thanks to a grant from the Columbia Basin Trust’s Community Development Program. Local resident George Brinkman has offered to move the 22,000-pound engine onto the pad, and assemble it.

Art says steam donkeys are typically used for moving heavy things around. He has pictures of his grandfather using it to dig ditches, and documents indicating that the federal government wanted to use it in 1928-29 in Gerrard. Art speculates that they wanted to remove driftwood caught behind the log booms stretched across Trout Lake.

Some years ago, Art donated to LVHS the cabin that is sitting on the grounds of the museum. His father had purchased the cabin, an outbuilding at the hatchery in Gerrard. The museum itself is also a building from the hatchery site.

Art grew up in Meadow Creek, completing grade 10 at Jewett School before his family moved to Sooke. Jewett School went up to grade 10 in those days. He now lives in Valemount.