Delivery of fibre-optic service for Slocan Valley pushed back three years
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

People looking forward to high-speed internet in the Slocan Valley and Nakusp are going to have to wait – the company running the project has pushed the completion date back three years.

The Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation now says it won’t complete installation of a fibre-optic line until March 2023 – about three years later than the plan when the project was announced.

“The key factor influencing timing is project permitting, but environmental and habitat considerations are also a factor, and some permits remain outstanding for portions of the planned build,” says the corporation on its website. “CBBC continues to actively work with permitting agencies.”

“Significant progress occurred over the summer in term of receiving permits for the rail trail and the lakes. Archaeological work has commenced on the rail trail and landing sites.”

When first announced in 2019, local politicians had said they wanted the project completed by March 2020. Even then the timeline was seen as “aggressive” for such a massive project, with more than 120 kilometres of high-speed fibre-optic cable being laid from Playmor junction to Nakusp. The cable would be buried underground along the Slocan Valley rail trail, laid along the bottom of Slocan Lake, run along utility poles and laid in Summit Lake to Nakusp, and then laid in the Arrow Reservoir to just north of Nakusp at Shoreholme. The project cost is estimated at $7.2 million.

What CBBC officials had hoped would take a summer to do – permitting – is now expected to take until May of 2021. Only after all the clearances are approved can work begin. Construction is expected to begin in summer 2021. Then they project nearly two years’ worth of work to do the installation.

The CBBC updated its website with the new timetable on the project in October, but even as early as the summer the then head of the project, Dave Lampron, had signalled that permitting was slowing things down.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to delays in processing the necessary permit applications and a number of permits remain outstanding,” he wrote in response to Valley Voice inquiries in July. “Construction start continues to depend on permit approval.”

Lampron has since left the CBBC for the private sector. A spokesman for the organization’s parent company, the Columbia Basin Trust, said interviews for a new Chief Operating Officer have been completed and a replacement is expected to be announced this month.

“Frustrating”

“I’m not surprised,” says Silverton Mayor Jason Clarke, who said he had seen briefing notes flagging the new three-year timetable. “But it is frustrating.”

He says the Slocan Valley has been chronically underserved by the big telecom companies.

“We’re starved for high speed, for connectivity, and I think everyone you talk to around here all understand it is a major economic driver,” he says. One project Silverton has pinned a measure of its economic development hopes on – a co-working space for telecommuters – depends on the impacts of COVID-19 residents rely on internet more than ever for distant learning, commerce and social connecting through video calls.

“I know all parties are taking connectivity seriously and making it a priority,” he adds. “Delays to this process are unfortunate.”

Despite the delay, Clarke says he has nothing but praise for the way the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation has managed the project on behalf of the communities.

“In my experience, the CBBC and Columbia Basin Broadband have been fantastic to work with,” he says. “I firmly believe they are doing their very best. These hurdles aren’t insurmountable, but they definitely have to be overcome.”

Meanwhile, the timetable for the CBBC’s sister project in the East Kootenay has also been pushed back for completion to May 2023. It will see fibre-optic cable installed mainly on utility poles between Jaffray and the US border, south of Cranbrook.

In the recently released CBT Strategic Plan 2020-22, one of the priorities is to “increase reliable, affordable, high-speed connectivity in the Basin with an emphasis on underserved rural areas.”
Pump track proposed for the Village of New Denver

by Kathy Hartman

Plans to build a pump track, or all-wheels skills park, in New Denver are gaining traction. A GoFundMe page for the project raised $6,000 in less than 24 hours, and had raised more than $9,000 as of October 31. The project has also garnered many offers of in-kind labour and materials from local businesses, and New Denver council has agreed to a letter of support in principle.

The project is being spearheaded by the mountain bike committee of the North Slocan Trails Society. Bryn Perry, committee member, told the Valley Voice in an interview that a pump track is a great way for kids to socialize. “I have three kids and they love skate parks. You get kids that don’t know each other riding together. It’s pretty cool to see.”

There is also the longer-term tourism opportunity “by creating a really great mountain biking vibe in this town,” Perry said.

A pump track is a permanent route of rollers, banked turns and features designed to be ridden by bikes, scooters, adaptive wheelchairs, roller blades and skateboards by people of all abilities and ages.

The track will cost about $200,000. With the overwhelming local support and some luck with their grant applications, the society will be able to raise the funds. However, the all-wheels skills park needs a suitable location. The committee has suggested an area on the dyke south of Carpenter Creek. Council advised the committee to get involved in the public consultation process for the Centennial Park Master Plan. Public consultation will begin this November.

“Not so much about finding a specific location,” said Perry. “It’s more about finding a spot that works for everyone. Most importantly, good accessibility for the kids. If we could use an area that doesn’t disturb green space, that would be most ideal.”

If successful, the NSTS hopes to break ground in the spring and have the track completed sometime in the fall of 2021.

There have been attempts at all-wheels skills parks in New Denver in the past. In 2014, a dirt track with jumps was built in Centennial Park. It was quite popular with residents and visitors, but was removed due to lack of maintenance. In 2018, a popular but temporary skate and all-wheels area was built in Lucerne school’s former tennis court.

Leonard Alan Lind

1932 - 2020

We sadly announce the passing of Leonard Alan Lind on October 4, 2020 after a brief illness.

Alan was born in Avola, British Columbia and grew up in the Slocan Valley, attending elementary and high school in Silverton and New Denver. After attending the University of British Columbia, Alan pursued his dream of a career in aviation. To earn his wings, Alan spent a year at CPB Trenton, and then had a further period of NATO pilot training in Clarenholm, Alberta. He also met Anne at Clarenholm, and the two were married in the early 60s. Alan was proud of his military career, which culminated in attaining the rank of Flying Officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). He served his country as both a pilot and instructor during his military career, which culminated in attaining the rank of Flying Officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). He served his country as both a pilot and instructor.

In the mid 60s, Alan and Anne moved to the United States where Alan accepted a position as pilot with United Airlines. Alan was a gifted pilot, and he had a very successful career with United until the late 90s, when he retired.

Alan was also a gifted athlete, excelling at hockey, baseball and golf, among other sports. Later in life he became an avid runner and tennis player. Throughout his life he was a true sportsman and an advocate for respect, fair play and consideration of others.

Alan continued with his flying passion in retirement, flying his own Piper Seneca aircraft whenever he could. He was a true “man in motion,” spending time travelling between his beloved Slocan Valley, his Federal Way home (located on a golf course), and his Honolulu condo where he was a fixture at the Kapalua Park tennis courts and local golf courses. He had many friends at all three locations and enjoyed spending time with all of them. Alan travelled extensively throughout his life and made friends wherever he went.

Alan was a reserved man with a sharp wit, generous spirit and a wonderful low-key sense of humour. There was a twinkle in his eye when this “Lone Wolf” smiled and laughed.

He was predeceased by his wife Anne, father Peter Lind, mother Lois Lind, sisters Rita Morrison and Patricia Findley, and brother Albert Lind. Alan is survived by his brother-in-law Barry Morrison and nieces and nephews located throughout the Province of British Columbia. Alan will be missed by his entire extended family and the many close friends he made on his travels around the world.

There will be a celebration of Alan’s life at a later date in New Denver.
November 5, 2020   The Valley Voice

**RDCK working to help couple that are losing home to a landslide**

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

A Passmore couple may be getting some help to demolish their home, after a series of landslides caused most of their property to erode into the Little Slocan River.

Scott Carlson and Christa Brakmann are facing the complete loss of their retirement property, as slow erosion by the Little Slocan River is wearing away the hillside.

Now the RDCK’s Emergency Operations Centre says it may be able to step in and help the couple.

While details of what the EOC can do were not settled by press time, an RDCK official told the Valley Voice “the RDCK is currently working with the Carlsons and the Province to remove the house and mitigate any potential damage to the environment.”

**Eroding castle**

The slide has been a slow-moving disaster that’s reaching its peak now. Perched on a point a kilometre or two up from the mouth of the Little Slocan River, Carlson and Brakmann’s 4,000-square-foot home offered spectacular views of the two valleys coming together.

“I was told at one time it was the most expensive piece of housing property in the Slocan,” says Carlson.

But the land the building was on contained a terrible flaw. It was essentially built on top of a natural sand pile – one susceptible to erosion. As a result, while the building is assessed at over half a million dollars, its market worth is far less.

There was no sign of a problem when the couple bought the place, back in 1997. A neighbour had had a small slump into the river, a few years earlier, but it had been shored up with timbers.

“No body thought that was a big deal at the time,” he says.

Then the ever-changing Little Slocan River turned and braided into a new configuration, and began eating away at his property.

“It’s the desire of every mountain river to flow to the sea,” says Carlson philosophically.

In 2014 the couple spent $150,000 to move the house to the back of the property, after an initial small slide clipped the edge of their land.

“A geo-tech looked at it and said the rest of this area would be safe if we did some remediation at the bottom,” recalls Carlson, but says the idea to add rip-rap rock to the riverbank “would have cost way more than the house and the property to do.”

The couple put some cabled logs at the bottom, as was done at the neighbour’s slide in 1997. They also did some remedial revegetation. But that all disappeared in the freshet of 2018, when the next major slide occurred.

“As material disappeared from the bottom, it’s replaced by material from higher up. It’s gravity at work,” says Carlson.

Carlson figures 30,000 dump truck loads of sand have been swept away at his property.

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**Long dormant, Krestova playing field prompts review by RDCK director**

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

There’s a big field beside the Krestova Community Hall, and the RDCK is going to explore what to do with it.

“This land was used as recreational land by the Krestova community for as long as I can remember,” says Walter Popoff, director for Area H.

“There was a softball diamond, with a backstop, that was used for softball and baseball games and tournaments between the Krestova community and surrounding area teams.”

The board approved a Slocan Valley South Recreation Commission request to have staff prepare a report “regarding future community use and land tenure options for Crown land located adjacent to [the] Community Facility.”

Popoff says the intent is to explore the potential of this property and see if it can be secured by RDCK for recreational use by the community. No word on when that report will be complete.

He says if the report shows promise, they’d use the same public input process as is now underway with Campbell Field, a property at Playmor junction that was gifted to the Regional District that is now under consideration for recreation development.

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Long-term care

There has been a lot of discussion lately on what we, as a society, should do to improve long-term care. Despite the hubbub, many care workers are still being abused by private long-term care operators, who use “temporary” workers to make their profits, allowing them to pay very low wages and provide few, if any benefits for months, if not years, on end. The lack of government for this part is sufficient to continue subsidizing private, profit-seeking companies, to care for our elderly and disabled people. I think the NDP still believed in, at least, a small amount of socialism. Apparently, socialism is no longer a part of the NDP doctrine. The federal government is not willing to consider stepping into a “provincial jurisdiction” to come up with a national solution. Considering that 5,324 people and counting have perished prematurely in Canada’s “long-term care homes” due to the pandemic, maybe it’s time to change that term to reflect the reality. Perhaps “short-term care homes” would be more appropriate.

Rod Reid
Glade

Slocan gazebo bird netting

The decision to shelve the inside of the Slocan gazebo with bird netting was made after we (Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society) received a number of complaints from community members who wanted to use the gazebo but couldn’t because of the mess and the sanitary implications created by barn swallows nesting in the rafters. Cleaning the floor and benches was considered but is not a viable option, as it would be a daily, almost hourly problem during bird season and we didn’t have the volunteers to be on hand full time.

We consulted with a BC bird expert who suggested the netting inside. The expert suggested that the extensive overhang of the gazebo roof should have no netting, and thus would provide plenty of opportunity for the birds to nest comfortably, be out of reach of people and, other than the two entrances, be free of people. Granted it isn’t as high as the interior of the structure but according to the Audubon Society, barn swallows like nesting six to ten feet off the ground.

Since receiving a letter of concern in September, the project was put on hold in order to consult further with a provincial wildlife biologist. The Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society meanwhile is looking at other housing options for the barn swallows – primarily one, suggested by a concerned person, which was constructed in Rondcan Provincial Park in Ontario. This type of swallow house, near the gazebo, would come at a cost which could be met through grants, more donations, more volunteers participating in the maintenance, and the support of Recreation Sites and Trails BC.

We appreciate the constructive input from our members, trail users and other concerned folks. On behalf of the board of directors of the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society, Kristin Ilger, vice-chair SVHTS Vallican

Diminishing universe

What universe do we live in? Is it really so difficult to accept there are those in positions of authority taking advantage of what this “pandemic” has to offer? Hundreds of licensed doctors and specialists are being censored. Physicians and the world over are speaking out and getting shut down. Censorship from Google, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Vimeo... the list continues. Worse yet, researchers and scientists are being discredited and empirical evidence and findings, deemed contrary to the narrative, removed. This is the universe we live in.

Many, who didn’t start the ball rolling, are benefiting. Politicians have more justification than ever to not act on the will of constituents. News sources are blantly one sided. They’re feeding it and feel justified doing so. Even in smaller communities, there is segregation and divide. Better to steamroll than to pull together as a community.

In our little universe, we went to a pub for dinner. Three screens (with music in the background). Strangely enough, two were broadcasting the news. Not being exposed to media draws you in. Without audio, it’s hard to follow: upcoming US election, a new vaccine and trials on people. Human testing? They’re wearing masks while being vaccinated. Something surreal about showing willing participants after getting their shot, speaking about something but, with no audio and masks... who can tell? They look like puppies at the vet.

Many countries and places in Canada are making masks mandatory. Some people feel, even with mandatory measures, we’re still free to make decisions. Really? Going against these regulations places you on the fringe, part of a subculture. Consequences? Pay a fine. What if you don’t? ‘How far down the anti-establishment hole do you go?’

This is the universe we live in.

It’s our response that dictates our freedoms. It’s our awareness to the truth that gives us courage to stand up. Dr. Ben Edwards depicts, with considerable empirical evidence ( Videos available online last I checked), we’re in a “cane-demic” not a pandemic. Many counter with the argument that getting COVID can leave you with long-term ailments. This is what the MEDIA presents. They skew reality by failing to report pre-existing conditions, as they failed to report comorbidities, and they continuously fail to report on building up immunities.

Some would rather just blame the diseases. It’s easier isn’t it? Easier to not see what is happening. The facts are, hospital admissions for COVID are down, ICU admissions are down. These are facts NOT inference.

We live in a “take the pill,” “take the shot,” “roll up your sleeve and don’t look” world. It doesn’t have to be that way.

I was pleased to hear a friend’s response to what is going on – choosing not to live in fear. Yes! We need to live our lives and take measures to be strong and healthy. Freedoms are at stake. We need to support small business and our communities or face a new reality where our choices will become fewer and our ‘universe’ will dwindled.

T. Orlando
Winlaw
RDCK spends on upgrades to firehalls in area

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The air in some fire halls in the area has been less than ideal due to the lack of proper ventilation and the need for upgrades. The RDCK has spent millions on upgrades to firehalls in the area, which has been a priority for the region's leaders. The upgrades include improved ventilation systems, upgraded electrical systems, and new firefighting equipment. The improvements have been made to ensure the safety of firefighters and the community. The RDCK has also been working with local communities to prioritize fire safety and prevent future incidents.

Support for community forests seen as key to wildfire prevention efforts

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Community forest organizations are playing a crucial role in preventing wildfires. As climate change makes larger wildfires more common, community forests are taking the lead in managing the issue. Community forest organizations are working with local communities and areas, in a unique position to build consensus and support for community actions. The focus is on preventing wildfires by managing the landscape-level measures that have to be taken are beyond their capacity.

Conroy steamrolls to fifth win in Kootenay West

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Sarah Conroy was re-elected as the MLA for Kootenay West. She received 3,338 votes (24.74%), making her the leading candidate in the riding. Conroy is the incumbent MLA and has been in office since 2017.

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Mail-in ballots may determine Nelson-Creston seat

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

In the Nelson-Creston riding, the results of mail-in ballots are still pending. The riding is being won by John Boivin, with 934 votes. The pre-pandemic predictions suggest that mail-in ballots could play a significant role in determining the outcome of the election. However, the final results are still uncertain, and it is possible that mail-in ballots will tip the balance in favor of a different candidate.

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Local Remembrance Day ceremonies will go ahead at the cenotaphs this year submitted

Remembrance Day ceremonies are being held in Nakusp, New Denver, Slocan and Kaslo this year, with some differences due to the pandemic. Ceremonies will be outdoors only, and social distancing is a must.

In Nakusp, there will be no parade, but there will be a short service at the cenotaph at 11 am. Most wreaths will be placed prior to the parade, but there will be a short ceremony at the cenotaph at 11 am.

Ceremonies will be outdoors only, and social distancing is a must.

In New Denver and Slocan, the march to the cenotaph and laying of wreaths will happen as usual. In Slocan, all are welcome to place candles on veterans’ graves at the Slocan Cemetery at 4 pm.

MP Richard Cannings is scheduled to attend in New Denver. Silverton resident Janice Willman has taken over the organizing of the ceremony in New Denver from Vern Hartman, who has recently moved out of the area.

In Kaslo, the Legion will lay the wreaths ahead of the ceremony. The Colour Party will gather at the Legion at 10:45 am and march to the cenotaph, where the president of the Legion and the president of the Ladies Auxiliary will lay wreaths and a list of wreath donors will be read. Residents are welcome to line the route and gather at the cenotaph. There will be no refreshments at the hall, but the lounge will be open at 11 am.

The Slocan Valley Branch 276 of the Royal Canadian Legion thanks the people of the Slocan Valley and the members and friends who helped at and/or supported their fundraising events. In the past year, thanks to local support and a community Gaming Grant, Branch 276 has made $20,649 in donations:

- Food Bank $3,000
- New Denver Pavilion $2,566
- Slocan Community Library $2,000
- Hallowe’en Hoot $2,000
- Veterans’ Program $3,365
- Seniors’ Luncheon Program $3,000
- KLDH Foundation $1,000
- Kids Help Phone $500
- Parent Program $1,500
- Apple Day Fundraising Program $375, Bursaries $1,000
- Seniors Christmas Tea $250

The Slocan Valley Legion hall is donated for the use of funerals/memorials. Branch 276 covers the area from Summit Lake to the Pløy majon. The Legion is Canada’s largest veteran support and is the cornerstone of communities across Canada with one of the largest volunteer bases in the country. The Legion exists so Canada never forgets.

Applications to become a member of the Royal Canadian Legion are available by phoning 250-355-2672 or asking at Mountain Valley Station in Slocan or at the Legion website www.legionbcyukon.ca. Check out benefits that are offered to Legion Members. Dues are only $45 per year at Branch 276. Anyone can be a member. Your support is much appreciated.
November 5, 2020   The Valley Voice

Fundraising begins for new library in Kaslo

submitted by Eva Kelemen, Kaslo library director

As announced on September 15, the Village of Kaslo and the Kaslo & District Public Library have partnered to construct a new library on the vacant lot at the corner of Front and 5th Streets in downtown Kaslo. The Village purchased the lot with support from a CBT Land Acquisitions Grant, and with a commitment that the library would fundraise for this project.

The library is excited about the recent opportunity to apply for an Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) grant. The Village, as landowner, submitted the application. The library cannot own land or buildings under current legislation. During the grant writing process, the library asked for community support and received 374 signatures representing over 16% of the population served by the library. Also, within a short timeframe, donations and pledges from local residents towards this project have totalled $10,000.

The library board first struck a committee to explore solving space problems in 2016 and has worked with the Village since November 2019. After 38 years in the basement of City Hall, options for improvements or expansion have run out. The Kaslo library is the smallest when compared to other public libraries in BC and adjusting for population. There is no designated program room or meeting room so programs run when the library is closed. The shelves are full and the collection is undersized for our population. Usage per capita is higher than the provincial average with a healthy membership of 43% of Kaslo and Area D residents.

The new 5,000 square-foot library will include cozy furnished areas for children, teens, a reading nook, study space, a public computer area, a meeting room and large program room with access to a small kitchen and state-of-the-art AV equipment. There will be a local history ‘OUR STORY’ room with interactive displays, two offices, and a work room. There will be room to expand the library collection. The tech-enabled large program room and small meeting room will be available to the broader community upon reservation. A new library will improve services, be fully accessible, energy efficient, and be more welcoming with plenty of natural light.

While the project is still in the early design phase, the plan is for an exterior that will pay tribute to Kaslo’s heritage downtown, such as portrayed in the preliminary concept design prepared by Bob Inwood. The library and Village of Kaslo are committed to an affordable building similar to other recent small community library construction projects in the province, and are targeting between $3 and $3.5M for the building construction. The fundraising plan involves applying for local, regional and federal grants, including the recently submitted ICIP grant application which, if successful, will cover 75% of the building cost. Other grant opportunities include Community Development grants offered through CBT, RDCK and the Village, as well as grants offered through national and international philanthropic organizations. The local fundraising target is $300,000. There is no expectation that taxes will be raised for this new building, and construction will not start until funding is secured.

People are invited to express their interest for this project by sending an expression of support at the library (for use in future grant applications), donating to the project, and/or attending the upcoming small community library celebration walk-through (by RSVP) event on December 18, where more detailed information will be provided. Of note, donations need to be made to the Village of Kaslo, specifying that it is for the Kaslo library project. The Village will issue a tax receipt. The funds will sit in a reserve fund for the new library until they are needed. For more information, contact Eva Kelemen, Library Director, at 250-353-2942.

Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face logging not scheduled for this winter

by Jan McMurray

Logging in the Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face is getting closer, but isn’t scheduled for this winter, reports Bill Kestell of Cooper Creek Cedar, the tenner holder.

Cutting Permit 405 for the Salisbury Creek to Bulmer Creek unit has been submitted but not yet approved (as of October 28).

“There is no schedule to log anything in CP 405 in 2020,” reports Kestell. “Salisbury does lend itself to winter logging, but there’s no schedule right now to do it this winter.”

CP 405 was included in the Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face, which includes five cutblocks in the Salisbury Creek to Bulmer Creek unit plus one cutblock in the Hossier Creek area. Although Hossier Creek is quite a distance from the Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face, the ministry has allowed CCC to include the Hossier cutblock in CP 405 – called ‘cutblock blending’ – helping CCC to recover the cost of replacing the Hossier Creek bridge this past summer.

“Whereas it is possible to put the costs of the bridge towards the development costs for Salisbury Creek as well as for the block up Hossier, so that enables us to minimize or get the most out of our stumpage,” says Kestell, “it meets all the regulations for cutblock blending.”

Kestell says the 120-foot-long bridge was very expensive to replace and had been due for replacement for several years. Although CP 405 hasn’t been approved, the road permit for three new spur roads in the unit has been issued. Weather permitting, CCC will build the two lower elevation spurs this year. The third road, a short spur off the main road into block 7, “may or may not be built,” Kestell said. If they decide to build it, it will be constructed at the time of the logging. “We might use it as a temporary road down to the landing.”

CCC has done some upgrades to the Salisbury Forest Service Road this fall, the main access road to the unit. CCC holds the road permit for Salisbury FSR as part of its tenure.

In the meantime, development work on the Bulmer Creek to Argenta Creek unit (CP 416) is progressing. “We’ve got a good start on this,” Kestell said. “The majority of the unit has been ground-proofed and is ready for the geotechnical assessments.”

Kestell says they are looking at this unit as a “total change plan.”

“The main thing with a total change plan is access to the entire face unit, so we have a road flagged and laid out that accesses the vast majority of the unit,” he said.

Potential cutblock areas have also been identified and will be further developed over the winter with visual quality objectives in mind. “These blocks were developed without any visual restrictions, so the next phase, which we’ll do over winter, is to produce a map and visual simulation and start to design the block boundaries with the objective of meeting the visual quality objectives,” Kestell said.

The road and cutblocks have been laid out to an elevation of 1,450 metres. Kestell says it is not feasible to further develop over the winter, is to produce a map and visual simulation and start to design the block boundaries with the objective of meeting the visual quality objectives,” Kestell said.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER PUBLIC NOTICES

RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN REVIEW

The West Kootenay EcoSociety has released a draft plan to help the community transition to renewable energy by 2050. The public is invited to help prioritize actions for each participating community, including New Denver. Visit westkootenayrenewableenergy.ca or contact the Village Office.

CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

A planning process is underway to develop a Centennial Park Master Plan. Public engagement will take place this fall and winter, with information available at the Village Office, or check our website. There will be multiple opportunities for people to provide input and feedback. Once developed, the plan will provide a recommended park design and guiding principles for future development.

People are welcome to provide early suggestions to the Village Office.

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REC 6 REPRESENTATIVE

The Village is currently seeking a Village of New Denver representative to sit on the Recreation Commission for 2021. The Recreation Commission has the mandate to carry out recreational programming activities and provide financial contributions to groups providing recreational programs on behalf of the commission. If you are interested or require more information, please contact the Village Office.

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. Burning permits for small fires (less than 3 feet high and 5 feet wide) to burn yard waste, branches and leaves that are bundled or bagged and placed curbside. Please ensure that the branches are not more than 3 feet long and bound with string or twine. Collection is free for residents, so please don’t affix garbage tags to bags of leaves or garden waste. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the Village Office.

All outdoor burning is to be conducted in a reserve fund for the new library until

November 8, 2020   The Valley Voice

November 5, 2020   The Valley Voice

November 5, 2020   The Valley Voice

November 5, 2020   The Valley Voice

November 5, 2020   The Valley Voice

November 5, 2020   The Valley Voice
The Valley Voice November 5, 2020

COMMUNITY

New Denver council, October 27: Village will apply for $300,000+ for Nikkei Centre upgrades

by Kathy Hartman

• Council agreed to provide the North Slocan Trails Society (NTS) with a letter of support in principle for an All-Wheels Skills Park project. See story elsewhere in this paper.

• Council agreed to submit a grant application for improvements at the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (NIMC). Components of this project include repairs to building envelopes, replacement of the fire suppression system, rebuilding of the boardwalk and hardscaping, garden restoration work, updating of the existing kitchen facilities and construction of a new building for safe storage of the NIMC artifact and archival collections. Chief Administration Officer Catherine Allaway believes the improvements will cost “somewhere in the area of $300,000 to $400,000.” The provincial Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) would provide 100% of the funding, with no contribution required from the Village. If the grant is approved, the project will begin spring 2021, stop for the tourist season to allow the NIMC to close out the fiscal year, and begin again in October and November.

• Council agreed to submit a $1.7 million grant application to the Investing in Canada for Infrastructure Program (CERIP) asking council to reinstate the Village’s annual grant in aid to the Chamber. The Chamber has recently discovered that the former council rescinded the policy providing the grant in aid in October 2018, along with about 50 other policies. “The Chamber was not consulted at all, so we wonder if it was really the intention of the former council to rescind our grant in aid,” the letter states.

• A letter was received from the president of the Slocan Valley Chamber of Commerce (SVCC) asking council to reinstate the Village’s annual civic grant in aid to the Chamber. The letter states that the current council “has discovered that the former council rescinded the policy providing the grant in aid in October 2018, along with about 50 other policies. ‘The Chamber was not consulted at all, so we wonder if it was really the intention of the former council to rescind our grant in aid,” the letter states.

• A staff report says that this is a reasonable budget for the long term, says DesCamp.

• The efforts have so far paid off. Wendy Harlock and Mark Adam, who have agreed to continue operating the coin laundry until December 31, and the New Denver and Area Housing Society (NDAHS) has agreed to sponsor the project.

• A small team consisting of DesCamp, Leisa Haddilten and Mark Adam started working under NDAHS to determine what kind of equipment and supplies would be needed, what a reasonable budget would be, and how to raise funds.

• Local organizations have been approached for funding and support, and a provincial Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) grant for building and septic upgrades, and new washers and dryers. Further grants are in process.

• DesCamp says NDAHS should know some time in December if the funding has come through. If so, the laundromat will likely be closed for one or two months while the upgrades are underway.

• If the project is successful and a brand new laundromat reopens, the NDAHS will own and operate the business as a social enterprise.

• “The NDAHS board agreed with the team of volunteers that the laundromat is an essential service in the area for residents who don’t have laundry facilities in their homes, so we agreed that taking it over would fit well with the purposes of our society,” says Jan McMurray, NDAHS board chair. McMurray says financial projections for the new laundromat show a modest profit, which would go to the board to help further its goal of creating rental housing for people with low to moderate income levels.

• NDAHS is currently working on developing a rental housing project on the property owned by the Village of New Denver. McMurray currently houses the recycling depot.

Hoghead Media film crew returns to New Denver

by Jan McMurray

It’s so much better in Slocan Lake on an October day in 1946 when we received the train that sank in Slocan Lake on New Year’s Eve in 1946 while it was being barged from Rosebery to Slocan. Thankfully, the train crew was able to get out of the train and onto the tugboat in time.

“Without giving any thing away, I think we have an amazing show with a complete story arc,” said Wilke.

Wilke wanted to give a big shout out to the community, and gave special mention to the Valhalla Inn, the Apple Tree, the Village Cinema, Doug Fisher at Glacier View Service, and Leonard Palmer at the Slocan mine. “It was a much better filming in a small community than being on a big film set. It’s much more fun – we’re getting to know people,” Wilke said. “We really look forward to our next visit.”
A long-awaited project along the Slocan River was recently completed by the Slocan River Streamkeepers with the help of Wildsight’s Youth Climate Corps. A large pile of tires left near the river was finally disposed of, and trees were planted in their place.

The tires were left by a local landowner who was working on some bank stabilization for his property over 30 years ago. Back in those days, there were fewer regulations, and used tires and other recycled materials were often used to stabilize the banks along the river. Today, tires are not welcome along the riverbank.

Bank stabilization projects now use rocks, logs or living trees, or sometimes a combination of all of the above.

The landowner passed away before completing the project, leaving the used tires in the floodplain. At high water, the tires would be under water for many weeks. In low water in mid or late summer, the tall reed-canary grass would cover the tires, and they were then left ignored.

After many years and many conversations with local people and government agencies, it seemed that nobody wanted to take responsibility and dispose of the tires properly.

Slocan River Streamkeepers (SRS) eventually took it on. After securing a small amount of money from the Regional District of Central Kootenay to cover the disposal fees and the costs of transporting the tires to the transfer station, SRS also received some financial support from the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program to plant native trees and shrubs in place of the tires.

Synchronicity brought out a small group of energetic young people to help with the effort. Youth Climate Corps, a project managed by Wildsight, supplied a group of seven motivated youth to the Slocan Valley for five days to help local organizations with environmental and educational projects, and climate mitigation and adaptation. They were very keen to help out with the tire cleanup project.

The transfer station would not accept the tires if they were covered with soil or grasses, so early in the day, the tires were lifted off the ground with pry bars and other tools and then brought out along the road to be washed. After a good clean-up, a small group of local volunteers showed up with their pickup trucks to load up the tires and haul them away to the transfer station in Ootischenia. (Slocan transfer station only accepts smaller tires and there was a mix of large and small tires at the site.) Except for one truckload, the tires were all removed and sent away that day. In the end, a total of 104 tires were removed from the site.

The next day, the group of young enthusiasts was ready to start planting trees. Holes were dug and a total of 50 native trees and shrubs, including willows, cottonwood, red osier dogwood and mountain alders were planted as well as some red cedars and spruce for higher ground. Tree protectors were installed on the trees, as this area is also regularly visited by local beavers. Trees were mulched with wood chips and watered at the end of the day.

Another part of the project was to install some bird nesting boxes. Five tall cedar posts were planted and bird boxes installed. The main purpose of the bird boxes is to attract cavity-nesting swallows (tree swallow and violet-green swallow) to help reduce the local mosquito population in summer.

In the last three years, SRS has installed over 100 bird nesting boxes and 12 bat boxes along the Slocan River to help minimize mosquito populations. SRS is already seeing over 50% occupancy in the birdhouses, and some have 100% occupancy. The birdhouses are for short-term housing needs while the trees and shrubs are for long-term habitat for birds and other wildlife. Trees planted along the riverbanks also help reduce bank erosion and eventually get bigger and older, they will eventually fall down or along the river and provide habitat for fish and other wildlife.

In the last 15 years, SRS has implemented over 50 riparian restoration projects, including two wetland restoration projects and three projects with fish habitat recruitment structures. SRS is often looking for properties along the river for more riparian restoration projects.

SRS invites people to volunteer or become members ($10/year), and to make a donation (small or large) to help with restoration work as well as water monitoring, scientific research and public outreach.

SRS thanks all their volunteers and everyone who helped make this project happen.

Membership and donations can be sent to Slocan River Streamkeepers, Box 47, Winlaw, BC V0G 2J0.

For more information: https://slocanriverstreamkeepers.wordpress.com/

PHOTO: SRS thanks everyone who helped make this project happen.

Nakusp General Store now in its 27th year of supporting OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Bless a child overseas through a gift-filled shoebox and send a message of Love and Compassion to children in crisis areas of the world. You can share the true meaning of Christmas with millions of precious children.

We welcome the opportunity to join with you to bring a gift of hope, faith and compassion to a needy child this year.

To take part in this exciting program, ask for a brochure at Nakusp General Store.

Shoe boxes available at
Nakusp General Store
302 Broadway St., Nakusp
Ph: 265-3444

The deadline for returning your shoe box to the Nakusp General Store is November 16, 2020.

Nakusp General Store now in its 27th year of supporting OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

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Shoe boxes available at
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302 Broadway St., Nakusp
Ph: 265-3444

The deadline for returning your shoe box to the Nakusp General Store is November 16, 2020.

Tuesday, November 10, 6 to 8 pm
Nakusp Arena

Become involved in your local hiking Trails planning and preservation

Everyone Welcome!

Covid 19 precautions will be in place. Please bring your Mask.

Memberships: $15/person or $55/family.

www.nakusptrails.ca nakusp trails@gmail.com

COMMUNITY

Slocan River Streamkeepers turn tires into trees

The Valley Voice

November 5, 2020

Slocan River Streamkeepers turn tires into trees

This wildlife hazard reduction work is at outdoor worksites. Work duties include cutting regeneration and saplings with power saws, pruning low branches on larger trees, and piling, burning and/or chipping cuttings. Work involves lifting, walking in rough terrain, and outside work in inclement weather.

Interested forestry workers should apply using an application form downloaded from: www.sifco.ca/apply-now

Only parties selected for interviews will be contacted in reply
Standing in the middle of a cutblock on a cold but sunny Saturday, October 17, about a dozen people listened intently to forester Sabrina Mutterer describe the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society’s recent wildfire mitigation work in the Kaslo Wildfire Corridor.

Mutterer and Jeff Reyden, co-managers of the Kaslo and District Community Forest (KDCF), invited community members high up the ridge overlooking Kaslo for a post-harvest tour of the Wardner/Shutty cutblock – part of the fuel break the community forest is establishing in the wildfire corridor.

Mutterer and Reyden explained that the south-facing steep slope in this cutblock presents the potential for very quick spread of wildfire because of the good chance the vegetation on the hillside would be very dry before the fire reached it. To mitigate the danger, standing trees were pruned three metres up from the ground. This reduces the fuel ‘ladder’ that carries fire from the ground to the crowns of the trees, where the fire spreads much faster. Also, taller trees were kept to shade the vegetation below, to reduce drying. Deciduous trees, which hold more water, were planted between the tall hemlock and cedars to reduce the amount of dry fuel.

A big part of fire mitigation is to keep fire crews safe. To address this, access to water at McDonald Creek and Kootenay Lake was improved, and two exits out of the logging area were built. Mutterer said all roads are kept clear and brushed on both sides with regular maintenance.

The challenge for the logging crew was to reduce the risk of wildfire and at the same time retain the beauty of the area for recreational users. There are several well-used trails in the area, such as Easter Lily and No Brakes. Concerns were raised by some of the participants about harvesting too close to recreation trails and creating potential access for motorized recreation. It was suggested that future logging maintain a screen of trees along the trails.

Another suggestion was to ensure that a diversity of plant species is maintained.

The funding for the Kaslo Landscape Level Wildfire Plan came from a $50,000 grant from the Forest Enhancement Society. The Kaslo/Shutty Wildfire Corridor was identified as a priority area for wildfire risk reduction, and will be the focus of the work from 2019 through 2021.
More than 750 elementary, middle and high schools participated in the Student Vote program for the 2020 British Columbia provincial election, including schools in Nakusp, New Denver and Kaslo.

After learning about government and the election process, researching the parties and platforms, and debating the future of British Columbia, students cast ballots for the official candidates running in their school’s electoral district.

CIVIX delivered the program in partnership with Elections BC. This was the sixth provincial Student Vote organized to date.

“Students elected John Horgan and the BC NDP to form a majority government with 58 out of 87 seats and 40% of the vote. Horgan also won in the electoral district of Langford-Juan de Fuca with 52% of the vote.

The Christian Heritage Party of BC won one seat. Rod Taylor was elected in the Stikine electoral district with 41% of the vote.

The Student Vote BC 2020 online results platform presents the province-wide results, as well as results for each electoral district and for each individual school.

Complete results can be found at https://studentvote.ca/results/bc2020
Silverton council, October 27: Water main replacement project moved ahead

by Moe Lyons

Silverton council held a Committee of the Whole meeting followed by a special council meeting on October 27. Councillors K. Gordon and A. Yofonoff were not in attendance.

• The water main replacement capital project will go ahead this fall rather than in 2021, primarily thanks to a change in design. Council was informed that there are many advantages to placing the water main under the creek rather than across and above the creek as originally planned. These advantages include cost savings, reduced environmental impacts, and elimination of the risk of a major creek event damaging the water main infrastructure. The $60,000 needed for the project can be found in the 2020 budget, between the gas tax fund and water reserve fund. A drilling company will be in the area soon, presenting an opportunity to proceed. CAO Elliott explained that an amendment to the financial plan would be required. She confirmed that both the water main replacement and reservoir projects could be completed this year. Council agreed to proceed with both projects.

• The boat launch area within the breakwater appears to be filling in with sediment. While Mayor Jason Clarke agreed improvements are necessary, he was concerned that moving some problematic large rocks might undermine the breakwater. Councillor Tanya Gordon said she was very concerned about the current situation and “would like to see it cleaned up. Larger boats cannot launch and it has been like this since August.” Councillor Main wanted to find how much of the work could be financed through the Village’s gas tax fund. CAO Elliott pointed out that even for minor work, permits would be required. Council voted to proceed with minor repairs for now.

• There was a discussion about what to do about all the small personal watercraft on the foreshore, primarily canoes and kayaks, particularly at Cooper’s Beach. Staff has researched a financially reasonable design for a ‘boat rack’ for several watercraft. The rack would be available to residents on a first-come, first-served basis. Appropriate signage would be part of the structure. This would help clean up the beach and would result in fewer false alarms for Search and Rescue, as fewer boats without passengers would be washed away. Search and Rescue is obligated to go out and investigate when there are boats without passengers on the lake. Councillor Main inquired as to the cost of the racks and suggested that there should be one at the Day Park as well. Staff was directed to report back with more details.

• The New Denver and Area Housing Society requested a letter of support. The society is looking into funding opportunities to save the laundromat in New Denver, including building upgrades and new machines. Council voted unanimously to support this initiative, agreeing the laundromat is a vital service to the area.

• Council reviewed a draft of the West Kootenay EcoSociety’s 100% Renewable Kootenays document as it relates to Silverton. Councillor Leah Main said she saw “nothing glaring that’s needing to be remedied,” and that they “did a reasonable job of capturing the state of play in Silverton.” She noted the Village is awaiting an electric vehicle charging station. “Most of what we could be doing is dependent on other agencies,” she said.
**November 5, 2020**  
*The Valley Voice*

**Nakusp council, October 26: NACFOR presents $400,000 dividend to Village**

*by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter*

The community’s investment in its local forest industry paid off again this year, with NACFOR officials attending that council meeting to announce a $400,000 dividend to the community. Board members from the Nakusp and Area Community Forest Authority presented the cheque at council’s October meeting. The Village is the sole shareholder in the corporation, and has received dividends from NACFOR’s operations since 2014. Dividends from NACFOR are invested and eventually disbursed to “worthwhile community projects.” Last year NACFOR provided the Village with a dividend of $465,000.

The Nakusp Rotary Club also made a presentation to council. Their Seafood Adventure playground project is about to launch in earnest, and they went to council for support. “It’s our biggest project for the next couple of years,” said Bob Gabb, chair of the Rotary playground committee, told the Valley Voice. “We’re hoping people will be supportive of the project and help us with the funding of the project.”

**Timeline laid out for new Nakusp daycare project**

*by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter*

The first children should be attending School District 10’s daycare at Nakusp Elementary in about six months.

That’s according to the timeline given by district Superintendent Terry Taylor at a meeting with trustees Tuesday.

“Anticipated construction completion date is April 2022, later than originally anticipated,” Taylor told the board in a report. “…given changes in the playground project the project was finally approved by the [provincial] New Spaces Fund and CBT, and complexities with supply chain in COVID.”

**The Little Breadwinner finds hope during a brutal civil war**

*by Dan Nicholson*

Fans of Nakusp author Lucia Mann won’t be disappointed with her latest novel - *The Little Breadwinner*. Mann’s latest work of creative nonfiction traces the life of her family – husband and sons – were perpetrating on the innocent small child. The book is a journey that is both rich in detail and poignant. It’s a story that will resonate with readers of all ages.

The story begins with the fact that much of the story is set in the 1980s. When her family is forced to leave their home, they migrate to a new place. The first phase will hopefully start by spring and finish in the summer, he says.

Gabb couldn’t say how much the project will cost at this time, as it depends on corporate sponsorships, community fundraising, and how much material and labour donations they might get. Those factors will determine the final design and cost.

The Rotarians asked council if the Village could help them apply for grants they can’t access directly. Gabb says he was pleased by council’s reception to the idea.

A local trail users group’s four-year quest to repair the rail trail near Nakusp will be located off 8th Ave NW between the cenotaph and Stepping Stones daycare, is a child’s dream. Forget old-fashioned swings; it has modern attractions like the ‘logjam’ (a complex climbing structure with bars, nets, and other play items), the ‘bird’s nest’ (which is not to be climbed in three dimensions), towers, ramps, slides, and more. The playground will be divided up into age-appropriate phases and areas.

The money would come through the federal government’s Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Rural and Northern Communities. Council also had to commit to picking up any surplus from this year’s operating budget to be anticipated at $367,550 at the end of the year.

**A feasibility study into the expansion of the municipal campground should be completed by February 2021. Council approved a bylaw for L.A. West to $16,500, to conduct the study.**

**The town got a good deal on a new 2021 International dump truck. It was purchased at a cost of $138,821.66 (after trade-in). Council also has some gas money left after the buy; it had budgeted $100,000 for the vehicle.**

We are welcoming nominations for board positions and looking for new, enthusiastic community members who have an interest in youth opportunities to join our board.

**LOOKING FOR HIS FOREVER HOME**

Cutius, explorer, easy going, and sooo handsome. *Mr. Bear* has lived a full life and he is looking for a good home and loving family. He is not the most athletic, but is friendly and social, Mr. Bear is a young kitty who gets along with other cats. Call the rescue at 250-265-1370.

PALS announces that the annual Creative Ideas Craft Fair hosted in Nakusp Arena Auditorium is cancelled. The next craft fair will be held on Saturday, November 13.

**SUMMIT LAKE SKI AREA**

Contact us at: info@skisummitlake.com

**SEASON PASS EARLY BIRD RATES AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 5-30, 2020**

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**ON SALE AT SHON’S BILLIARD SHOP AT 409 BROADWAY ST. IN NAKUSP**

**CASH AND CHEQUES ONLY.**

The NAKUSP SKI CLUB will be operating within the guidelines of CWSSA (Canada West Ski Areas Association) and recommendations set out by the BC Interior Health Authority.
The Columbia Basin Trust is focusing for the next two years on making Basin communities more resilient in a time of widespread and rapid change. The Trust board released its strategic priorities for 2020-2022 recently. And as the region tries to adapt and survive in a worldwide pandemic, the board says it will do what it can to help Basin residents build a stronger and more secure future.

“This year is the Trust’s 25th anniversary and while aspects of 2020 have been challenging for all of us, the Basin has accomplished so much,” Board Chair Joelyn Carver and CEO Johnny Stirling wrote in an introductory letter. “While global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic or climate change seem daunting or insurmountable at times, working alongside people in the Basin reminds us of our collective strength and capacity to affect meaningful change together.”

The CBT says it has six strategic priorities for the next two years: community well-being, ecosystem management, high-speed connectivity, housing, local food production and access, and support for business renewal.

“In addition, the integrated priorities of climate resilience and working with Indigenous Peoples will be incorporated throughout the Trust’s work in the Basin,” the plan states.

Community well-being includes supporting local governments and community organizations “realize their aspirations”; strengthening non-profits and community groups to build amenities and services for the disadvantaged, youths and seniors; enhancing trails and recreational facilities; and improving energy efficiency and sustainability of buildings.

On ecosystem management, the Trust will identify projects focused on enhancement, restoration, and conservation and work with stakeholders to advance them; support projects that promote healthy ecosystems; and support climate change resiliency.

High-speed connectivity includes expanding the physical fibre-optic network; increasing use of the existing network; and obtaining government grants.

On housing, the Trust will help communities build and maintain affordable and energy-efficient housing; support local housing priorities, and pursue funding opportunities.

To improve local food production and access, the objectives are to support local food producers; explore value-added production opportunities; reduce food waste; and support climate resilience strategies.

Support for business renewal will include initiatives to help businesses become more resilient and adaptable; provide businesses with assessments and advice on issues like greenhouse gas production, energy efficiency, and regulatory compliance.

The Trust board released its strategic priorities for 2020-2022 recently. And as the region tries to adapt and survive in a worldwide pandemic, the board says it will do what it can to help Basin residents build a stronger and more secure future.

“Throughout the term of this plan, the Trust will continue to fulfill its mission to foster the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Basin,” the report adds. “The strategic priorities identified in this plan will be a focus for new programming and initiatives for the 2020-2022 time period. In addition, many other existing supports will continue to be available consistent with this broader Mission.”

### Workshop on writing about community returns to Silverton November 28 and 29

A writing workshop focused on people writing about community will be held November 28 and 29 at the Slocan Lake Arts Centre (formerly the Silverton Gallery) at 421 Lake Avenue (Highway 6 and 4th Street) in Silverton.

The workshop, which is sponsored by the Slocan Lake Arts Council and entitled ‘What is Happening Here? Writing About Community’ will run from 9 am to noon both days. Due to pandemic health guidelines, workshop attendance will be limited to six people, and physical distancing will be observed.

“Wayman has written books about the Slocan Valley, Winter’s Skin (Oolichan Books, 2013) is a book of poems about the valley in winter, illustrated with photos by local photographers Jeremy Addington and Rod Currie. A collection of Wayman’s short fiction about the valley, The Shadows We Mistake For Love, was published by Douglas & McIntyre in 2015. His most recent volume was published in March by Harbour, Watching a Man Break a Dog’s Back: Poems for a Dark Time.

The fee is $60 and can be sent via transfer to slocanlakearts@gmail.com, with the password ‘Writing.’ Direct transfer to the KSCU chequing account is also accepted, or a cheque addressed to Slocan Lake Arts Council and mailed to PO Box 123, Silverton, BC V0G 2B0. Wayman has written books about the Slocan Valley, Winter’s Skin (Oolichan Books, 2013) is a book of poems about the valley in winter, illustrated with photos by local photographers Jeremy Addington and Rod Currie. A collection of Wayman’s short fiction about the valley, The Shadows We Mistake For Love, was published by Douglas & McIntyre in 2015. His most recent volume was published in March by Harbour, Watching a Man Break a Dog’s Back: Poems for a Dark Time.

### Request for Proposals 2021 Tree-planting Plan

The Village of Kaslo requires the service of an arborist or landscape designer. The project is to plan the planting of trees on the Village of Kaslo parks and boulevards.

Please submit your proposal in a sealed envelope marked ‘Tree Planting Plan 2021’, to:

Village of Kaslo
413 Fourth St. Kaslo, BC (by hand)
Box 578, Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0 (by Mail)
admin@kaslo.ca (by email)

Proposals must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, November 30th, 2020

Full package can be viewed: https://kaslo.civicweb.net/document/11614

### The Hidden Garden Gallery Board and participating artists would like to thank the community for your support in 2020.

Due to Covid-19, we are waiving the membership fee for the Hidden Garden Gallery. Our 2020 Annual General Zoom Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 25 at 1:00 pm.

Members will be emailed a live link along with necessary documents to download and print 2 days prior to the AGM.

To join our membership visit us at https://hiddengardengallery.ca/

The Hidden Garden Gallery Board and participating artists would like to thank the community for your support in 2020.

### COMMUNITY The Valley Voice November 5, 2020

### Stronger communities a focus for Trust for next two years

by John Rotin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Abbey Manor is an ‘Independent Living Seniors’ Residence’ located in Kaslo on the shores of Kootenay Lake. There are ten rental units of single occupancy. We are seeking applications for future residents. If you would like to complete an application form to have your name added to the current waiting list please contact Rod Arnold at Box # 1005, Kaslo, B.C. V0G 1M0 or check our webpage at <kasloabbeymanor15@gmail.com>. Please note you will need a relative or a friend to act as a sponsor on the application.
Kaslo council, October 27: Village to go after funding for sewer expansion

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

With the Village’s Chief Administrative Officer absent, Kaslo’s last council meeting was shorter than a sit-com episode – running less than 20 minutes in public session.

Partly that was because several important items were deferred until his return – but the mayor and council did make a few decisions in that short period of time.

• Council is going to take a crack at getting the expansion of its sewer system underway. Staff will apply for funds from the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for phase two of the sewer expansion program.

After phase one expansion was completed last year, about 35% of the village has sewer service. The rest use on-site septic systems.

• Community Acupuncture responds to community trauma in Kaslo submitted

On the heels of several devastating and sudden losses in Kaslo, the Kaslo Community Acupuncture Clinic has stepped forward to offer free drop-in ‘trauma release clinics.’

Thanks to funding provided by the RDCK, the 30-minute treatment is offered without charge. The treatment is considered a silent treatment, meaning that no background data is transmitted between practitioner and patient. The intention is only to relax, reduce stress and rest the body.

Sitting silently in a peaceful setting, the practitioner needle points proven to enable the nervous system to settle from the heightened charge a trauma induces.

These special clinics are offered to all who can benefit, like family, friends, and frontline emergency workers, and are in addition to the regular twice monthly by-decoration KCAS clinics. Trauma Release Clinics are sporadic, as needed, and are advertised by word-of-mouth, to front-line workers, on the KCAS Facebook page, and by Facebook post.

“We’re excited to provide this healing service. This is the kind of treatment KCAS wants to offer in the community,” said president Kate O’Keefe. “What a wonderful way to mark our first year of service.”

Fringe sensation Devon More comes to the Langham!

Award-winning playwright and nationally touring performing artist Devon More stages her one-woman rare-and-rhythmic cold war cabaret Berlin Waltz.

Unexpected and inspiring, funny and far-fetched – yet composed entirely of true stories – Berlin Waltz is a highly entertaining autobiographical travelogue of high

Village of Kaslo

Kaslo council, October 27: Village to go after funding for sewer expansion

KASLO & DISTRICT

November 5, 2020   The Valley Voice

JUNO winner Cara Luft

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and sudden losses in Kaslo, the Kaslo

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program.

for phase two of the sewer expansion

year – but the mayor and council

did make a few decisions in that short

Council decided to discuss the

matter in camera.

staff will apply for funds from the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for phase two of the sewer expansion program.

After phase one expansion was completed last year, about 35% of the village has sewer service. The rest use on-site septic systems.

• Council is going to take a crack at getting the expansion of its sewer system underway. Staff will apply for funds from the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for phase two of the sewer expansion program.

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THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business? If so, Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training; and delivers the Self Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info kave a message at 265-3067 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

SIMPLIFIED CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS

AFFORDABLE STEEL SHIPPING CONTAINERS 20 ft and 40 ft sizes. Kootenay Containers & Rentals, Castlegar. 250-365-3014.

Bottle Drive – Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 9am-noon. Pick-up from Slocan Park to Slocan City. Call ahead for large pick-ups @ 250-365-2212. Thank you for your support.

LIVE FRINGE THEATRE at the Langham! BERLIN WALLZ Friday & Saturday November 6 & 7, 7 pm. Fringe-theatre sensation Devon More presents her cold war cabaret – a funny multi-media travelogue of high jinks and history told through songs, slam poetry and sock puppets! $20 Sunnywood or Willow.

COMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY FUTURES to learn about the free business training and coaching you will receive. Call now 265-3067 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE? Writing About Community with Tom Wayman. 9 am-12 November 28 & 29 at the Slocan Lake Arts Centre. Silverton. $50 pre-registration is required. Limit six participants to observe physical distancing. Visit slocanlakeartscentre.ca for more info.

FOOD FURNISHED ROOMS FOR RENT at Silverton Lakeshore Inn. $500/month. Furnished rooms for rent. 70-lb square bales. $8/bale. Call Waterfield Farms. 250-265-1502. For cleaning.

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IN MEMORIAM

Selwyn “Chuck” Dallyn 1915-2019
Never met a stranger.
Left too soon.
Forever Loved.
ABC Brother (always be cool).

LUST

LOST: TWO WALKING POLES

Left leaning while I packed my dog in the car. Contact: mbrandy@telus.net Reward.

NOTICES

RHYTHM OF LIFE: You can find the path to love, wisdom, and spiritual freedom by singing every day. Singing helps us align with our own spiritual Rhythm of Life. http://creekar.org/bound-so-and-an-alcohol-or-other-drugs-a-problem-in-your-life/AA and NA

ARCHIVE SWIPER.

A胡 RCHIVE SWIPER.

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CLAIRIFIC/COMMUNITY

HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW been sexually assaulted and want help? Call the Interior Crisis Line 24/7 at 1-888-353-CARE to discuss your options or go directly to Arrow Lakes Hospital or your local emergency room for confidential care.

NO PET: Not your pet. Not my dog.

Find the AMAZING in your dog. www.premiodog.org


JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER: 20 – ticket guide for new construction or renovations plumbing, water systems/siltation, septic. 250-777-3888 (Tanz); www.paradisevalleypainting.ca. or email: schaferspeare@gmail.com

CARPENTER FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION, renovations, repairs and property maintenance. 40 years carpenter, contractor. Foundation up please call. text Gary at 604 354 3884 or email buddy44@yahoo.com.

LOST

WANTED

WANTED: BOSUN HALL / DONATION

Looking for a larger community as well as out and property maintenance. 40 years carpenter, renovations, repairs.

S. KING, CET

Highland Creek Contracting

DRAFTING & CONSTRUCTION, LTD.

CONSTRUCTION

GET IN TOUCH

Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

Koots Kids Store offers used children’s clothing by donation

The Koots Kids clothing store in the Silverton General Store building is becoming an established service. The Donation Store in New Denver is directing all donations of children’s clothing to the Koots Kids Store in Silverton, where parents have an even greater selection of children’s clothing and footwear.

This worthy endeavour is being led by Robin McNabb, who has been working to keep children’s clothing in circulation within the larger community as well as out of the landfill for the last three years. Robin began by accepting excess children’s clothing from the Donation Store and coordinating clothing exchanges several times per year at the Bosun Hall in New Denver. These were well received, with the surplus clothing being stored in her basement, available as needed.

Robin took the opportunity when it arose at the Silverton Store to keep the clothing on display and available for parents in the region to re-outfit their children as they grow. Coordinating with others who use the store as a space for a variety of goods also means making a transition from exchange to donation in order to pay rent and other expenses.

Hours at Koots Kids are Thursday to Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm. Further info: Robin at 250-505-4610.
From the Hill
by MP Richard Cannings, South Okanagan-West Kootenay

I want to start by congratulating all the candidates in the recent provincial election. As I write this, it seems clear that the successful candidates in the South Okanagan-West Kootenay area were incumbents Dan Ashton and Katrine Conroy and newcomer Roly Russell. But I know from experience how difficult it can be to step out of your comfort zone and into a major election, so kudos to all the candidates who took part. I’d also like to thank Elections BC for organizing a smoothly run and safe election as the COVID pandemic was increasing into its second wave.

While that second wave seems to be driven more by infections among younger people than the first wave was, deaths are still commoner among older people with COVID. And that is especially true in long-term care homes, which account for about 80% of COVID-19 deaths in Canada. These deaths and the shocking stories of neglect that accompanied some of the outbreaks have exposed a problem with staffing levels at long-term care homes that was an issue long before the pandemic. And it’s a problem that the federal government must deal with quickly to prevent further suffering.

The federal NDP has called for the federal government to immediately draw up national standards for care in long-term homes. However, those new standards by themselves won’t fix the problem. All provinces have standards of care, but the sad truth is that not one province is meeting those standards. And the reason why is simple — there is not enough money put into these facilities to cover the staffing levels needed to meet the standards.

Many private care homes hire care workers on a part-time basis, so the workers are forced to take jobs at more than one care home. That issue alone caused a lot of the rapid spread between homes in the first wave of the pandemic. Fortunately, BC quickly banned the practice of working in several care homes, but other provinces were slower to do so, precipitating outbreaks in multiple facilities. Care workers in long-term care homes work hard to keep seniors healthy and happy. It’s a difficult job, one that most of us would find very tiring and stressful. But we don’t pay them enough for that hard work. I’ve talked to employees at several local care homes. At one site, some of the workers had been employed there for over 20 years and were making less now than when they started their jobs. No wonder it’s hard for the facilities to attract workers to fill vacant positions.

So the second proposal that the federal NDP has put forward is to include long-term care in the National Health Act, so that the federal standards of care are matched with federal funding, allowing workers to be fairly paid with full-time employment at a single facility. That action would have to be negotiated with the provinces. But the federal government could take immediate steps to help fix one aspect of this issue. We’ve discovered during the pandemic that seniors living in for-profit homes are four times more likely to become infected and die from COVID-19 than in non-profit homes.

One of the companies with the worst pandemic record — a total of 230 deaths — is Revera. It operates long-term care homes across Canada, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Public Sector Pension Investment Board, a federal Crown corporation. Revera has shown that it is unable to protect our seniors and the federal government should ensure that it is run in a manner that puts the health of its residents first.

Maximizing profits should never be more important than providing quality care to Canadian seniors. The NDP will continue to work hard to ensure long-term care facilities are healthy homes where seniors can live in dignity.
**School District 10 enrolment up by more than 10%**

by Jan McMurray

Enrolment is way up in School District 10 Arrow Lakes – by more than 10% or about 50 students over last year. Superintendent Terry Taylor provided the figures in her October report to the board of education.

As at September 30, 2020, there were 501 students enrolled in the district. As of October 13, there were 507. Projected enrolment for this school year was 463. At the end of September last year, there were 454 students.

**Numbers have jumped significantly in the Arrow Lakes Distributed Learning School, to 73 at the end of September this year compared to 33 at the same time last year. Edgewood’s numbers have dropped to 10 from 17 last year.**

At Nakusp Elementary, enrolment has also decreased, from 174 last year to 155 this year.

Nakusp Secondary has seen a rise to 139 students as at the end of September this year compared to 122 at the end of September last year.

Lucerne School in New Denver has also seen an increase, from 90 students in September 2019 to 94 in September this year and 98 in October. There are 88 students in the district (18%) who self-identify as Indigenous, about the same as last year. Students with diverse needs has increased to 79 or 15%, compared to 55 or 12.1% last year.

**Avian Night Flight**

Most birds migrate at night (calmer skies, avoid predators, feed more in daylight). How? By following the pattern of stars and moon, smelling changes in terrain, and assessing the relative strength of Earth’s magnetic field (to orient to north) through chemical reactions between eyes and brain, iron in the inner ear, and nerves in beaks.

**The Goat Mountain Kids Centre at Lucerne School is very close to opening. The two former classrooms in the school’s west wing near the gym have been transformed into a childcare centre that will be sure to charm both children and adults alike, with beautiful furnishings and delightful details such as flooring that looks like a sandy beach with a river running through it! Contact goat.mountain.kids@gmail.com for registration and other information.**

**NEW RECREATION FACILITIES?**

Maybe, but we need your help to envision the possibilities.

**Residents**

Watch for a postcard in the mail with your unique access code.

Access the on-line survey at: [www.rdck.ca/CampbellField](http://www.rdck.ca/CampbellField)

**Community Organizations**

We need your help to reimagine the possibilities for Campbell Field. Email: [Campbellfield@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:Campbellfield@rdck.bc.ca) to receive your survey link.
Road access to parks worries local volunteer group

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A group of local volunteers has cleared a section of the old Enterprise Creek Trail into Kokanee Glacier Park and is inviting the public to make use of it.

A work party from the Friends of West Kootenay Parks Society spent part of the summer reopening the section of the trail to Tanal Lake. This section links up with the final two kilometres to Enterprise Pass, cleared last year by BC Parks staff, and thus restores access to the core area of Kokanee Glacier Park.

“We’re basically a group of people who are volunteering our time and effort to do all the things Parks does not have a budget for,” says Ron Groom, a FWKP member.

“We realized that with a bit of effort you can clean this back up and make it a really nice hike again. And I like walking around the bush with a chainsaw, cleaning things up.”

Jerry Ernest Simmons, 1943-2020

Jerry Ernest Simmons, 77, of Slocan, BC passed away in his home on October 22, 2020.

Jerry had the ability to brighten the lives of all who knew him. Born in Trail, BC on June 9, 1943 to Bert and Anna Simmons, Jerry grew up in Passmore, then moved to Nelson where he met the love of his life, Patricia. Jerry and Pat were married on March 25, 1967, and lived happily ever-after in Slocan, BC.

Survived by his wife Patricia, daughters Rochelle, Rebecca and son Joel (Dawne), grandchildren Alena (Jovany), Karina (Tony), Wesley, Victoria, Braedan, Tajaeh, Kassandra, Qian, and great-grandson Niko; siblings Terry (Joan) Simmons, Shirley (Shane) Stevenson, Beverley Louie, Alan (Rita) Simmons, Valerie (Fred) Swanson, Nick Simmons, Rick (Debbie) Simmons, Dale (Ray) Phelps, Diana (Paul) Phillips.

Jerry was predeceased by daughter Kathy Siegmund, granddaughter Brooke Malakoff, sisters Marjorie Gustafson and Bonnie Winje and his parents Bert & Anna.

At Jerry’s request, there will be no service; instead, the family would like you to raise a glass at 5:00 pm in his honor. In lieu of flowers, the family would ask you to consider donating to the BC Children’s Hospital Foundation Oncology Department or Ronald McDonald House BC.

Jerry/Dad/Grandpa your absence is overwhelming every day. You will be in our minds and hearts forever.

COMMUNITY

Hiking enthusiasts say it’s a beautiful trail, with kilometres of old growth and views of waterfalls, lakes and, this time of year, slide paths filled with colourful trees.

The road to the park is accessible up to about the three-kilometre mark, then a rock barrier closes it to regular vehicle traffic for another eight kilometres to the park border. It is still navigable on bike, ATV, or on foot past the barrier, Groom says. The area cleared off by the Friends starts at the Park border.

Bigger issue

FWKP say the Enterprise Creek Forest Service Road is an example of the overall neglect of BC’s backcountry road system. Over the last several years, this neglect has been reducing access to public parks and recreation areas.

The historic road, which starts between Slocan and New Denver, has a long and interesting history, with use by pioneers, explorers, miners and loggers — and over the past several decades, recreational users and park visitors. The road reaches into the high country 12.5 kilometres to the Kokanee Glacier Park boundary, but the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRDO) each have a say in its operations, along with the road tenure holder (currently Interfor). That is where the complications begin. The road has been closed to regular vehicle traffic since 2007, when nature closed it with a combination of wildfire and subsequent debris flow near the eight-kilometre mark.

The road’s troubles mirror what’s happened to other road access into the core area of the park… which is down to just one regularly maintained route in and out, after three other roads (including Enterprise Creek FSR) have been allowed to deteriorate.

“This situation doesn’t promote tourism, safety or enjoyment. Someone described the current road use on the Enterprise FSR as anarchy,” says Dave Smith, a 25-year-old trails committee of the FWKP.

“In the last 15-20 years or so, a noticeable deterioration and increase of FSR use has occurred, some of it justified, some of it highly questionable, as is the case with Enterprise Creek FSR,” says Smith.

“Unfortunately, this coincides with a surge in backcountry recreation, from hunting and fishing to hiking, camping, climbing and skiing.”

And FWKP is worried access is going to get worse. Interfor, the logging company with a timber licence off Enterprise Creek FSR, is bringing a section of the road up to condition for hauling logs. However, Smith says he’s been told the road will be deactivated as soon as Interfor is done with a planned timber harvest.

“Thus, another long-standing park access road will be denied to local and outside visitors who don’t have an ATV, because deactivation usually results in impassable conditions for the average passenger vehicle or truck,” he says.

FWKP is advocating for protection of the Enterprise Creek and other forest service roads as important accesses to local parks — for recreation, but also for the economy.

“[Tourists] spend money outside their home areas, and it has been shown that BC Parks generate money for the Province through tourism and continue to do so on a rising curve,” says Smith. Without proper road maintenance, “...eventually, your visitors become limited to locals, so the government is eliminating out-of-province visitors from the potential tourism dollar stream, which makes little sense.”

FWKP also say having access to more than one route in or out of the park makes sense in case of emergencies like flooding or forest fires.

Smith says FWKP is developing a case for guaranteeing reliable access to parks over existing forest service roads. He says it’s a bit premature to be discussing their plans, but they are drawing on past work by groups like the Kootenay Mountaineer Club, digging up economic research to support their case, and figuring out just which ministry is the best to approach with their ideas.

Smith says they realize this is a hard time to be bringing up the issue, with the COVID-19 pandemic hammering government budgets.

“We are trying to preserve a legacy for future generations to enjoy, without over-extending the public purse,” he says.

Smith says FWKP welcomes public input on the issue.

The Valley Voice November 5, 2020