Now that the $1.5 million sale of the former mill site to the Village of Slocan has closed, the Village has started preparing the way for long-term redevelopment of the property. At Slocan’s November 9 council meeting, details from in camera meetings held October 13 and 19 were made public.

On October 13, council passed a resolution to advise the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy that the Village wishes to opt out of administering the provincial contaminated sites site profile system. Mayor Jessica Lunn emphasized that opting out does not reduce the Village’s responsibilities. The Village will still be obliged under the Contaminated Sites Regulation to follow all regulations for remediation and restoration. Lunn said that opting out “allows the Village to take a strategic approach... Areas of the site are less contaminated or not contaminated.” Without opting out, the whole site is “frozen” until every part is remediated. Opting out will allow the Village to take actions on cleaner areas of the site without being held up by the remediation of the contaminated areas.

Mayor Lunn said that the Village acted quickly as there was “a short window to move on this.” Regulations are changing and the opt-out option for local governments will be eliminated on February 1, 2021. Forty-three other local governments in BC have already opted out of the site profile system.

On October 19, council met with its environmental consultant and directed staff to take three actions: to work with the consultant to draft a subdivision plan where non-contaminated areas and contaminated areas of the mill site would be in separate parcels; to investigate ways to rezone the property so that future development would not be restricted; and to procure a survey estimate for the mill site, based on the proposed subdivision plan provided by the environmental consultant. The estimate will be considered during 2021 budget deliberations.

The mill site is currently zoned ‘mill industrial.’ The Village’s Official Community Plan bylaw calls for the land to be redeveloped for non-industrial use. The goal is to ultimately designate the land as a ‘special development zone.’ This would allow future redevelopment to include a combination of residential, park, and possible limited commercial and/or non-industrial land uses. A public planning process and rezoning application would be required prior to designating the site a special development zone.

In the meantime, council plans to rezone the northern portion of the site as ‘parks’ to accommodate future waterfront development within the foreshore and riparian areas.

Staff were directed to prepare an amendment to the zoning and Official Community Plan bylaw. CAO Michelle Gordon said this amendment would remove the site’s designation as a mill zone and would “start the rezoning process.” The northern portion would be rezone as ‘parks.’ The bulk of the mill site would be designated as a ‘special waterfront development area.’ CAO Gordon said the new designation “will not have any use attached to it.” After the public planning process, it will be determined how the land can be developed. Council agreed to waive subdivision and rezone fees for these changes.

Council scheduled a special meeting on Thursday, November 19 at 4 pm to consider these amendments. CAO Gordon said a lot more information on the amendments and future plans will be made available at the meeting. During public participation at the November 9 council meeting, Mayor Lunn invited people interested in the mill site redevelopment to attend this special meeting.
Mail-in votes make little difference to BC election results

by Jan McMurray

The mail-in votes have been counted, and the final count for BC’s 2020 election was announced November 8. The end result was much the same as announced on election night.

The record number of mail-in ballots – approximately 595,000, according to Elections BC – made only one major difference, in the West Vancouver - Sea to Sky riding. On election night, the seat was declared Green but in the final count, it went Liberal by 41 votes. The race was so close that there will be an automatic judicial recount. The final count in

West Vancouver - Sea to Sky tallied 9,216 votes for the Liberals and 9,175 votes for the Greens, with the NDP candidate trailing behind with 6,174 votes.

It was close in Nelson-Creston on election night, but in the final count, the NDP’s Brittny Anderson pulled ahead with 1,685 more votes than the Green Party’s Nicole Charlwood. Anderson garnered 7,296 votes (41.78%) and Charlwood received 5,611 (32.13%). Liberal candidate Tanya Finley came third with 4,171 votes (23.89%). Terry Tiessen, Libertarian Party candidate got 384 votes (2.20%). There were 17,462 votes cast in Nelson-Creston out of 29,389 registered voters – a turnout of 59%. Provincially, voter turnout was 54%.

In Kootenay West, NDP incumbent Katrine Conroy’s landslide win got even bigger in the final count. She garnered 61.15% of the vote (10,822 votes). Trailing way behind was the Green Party’s Andrew Duncan with 3,040 votes (17.18%). Corbin Kelly, Liberal, got 1,975 votes (11.16%) and Glen Byrne, Conservative candidate, received 1,447 votes (8.18%). The two independent candidates were Ed Varney with 224 votes (1.24%) and Fletcher Quince with 189 votes (1.07%). Voter turnout was slightly less than the provincial average in Kootenay West this election at 53% (provincial average was 54%) – with 17,697 votes cast out of 33,192 registered voters.

In the 2020 BC election, John Horgan and the BC NDP handily won their majority with 57 members elected and 47.70% of the popular vote. The BC Liberal Party currently has 28 seats (33.77% of the popular vote) and the Green Party two seats (15.08% of the popular vote), but that could change depending on the judicial recount in the West Vancouver - Sea to Sky riding. The Libertarian Party received 8,360 votes (0.44%) province-wide, and all others (BC Vision, Christian Heritage Party of BC, Communist Party of BC, Conservative, Rural BC Party, Wexit BC, independent candidates and candidates with no ballot affiliation) received 56,592 votes or 3%.

“The Province has decided to conditionally support the project,” says ALCS head Hugh Watt. “To gain full support we have a few criteria to satisfy – including completing our full project plan, First Nations consultation, and pen construction in order to get Wildlife Act permits to operate.”

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

Watt says the Province will pay for some of the construction costs, and will support the project with staff time and expertise. The provincial endorsement will also help with grant writing for the effort, which is expected to cost up to $300,000 a year to operate.

“Nakusp caribou pen gets provisional go-ahead from Province”

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Arrow Lakes Caribou Society (ALCS) has been given the green light to proceed with its project to build a birthing pen for an endangered local caribou herd.

“The Province has decided to conditionally support the project,” says ALCS head Hugh Watt. “To gain full support we have a few criteria to satisfy – including completing our full project plan, First Nations consultation, and pen construction in order to get Wildlife Act permits to operate.”

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

Watt says the Province will pay for some of the construction costs, and will support the project with staff time and expertise. The provincial endorsement will also help with grant writing for the effort, which is expected to cost up to $300,000 a year to operate.

“We hope that support increases over time as we get started on the project and results can be seen,” says Watt. “I think we are developing a good working relationship with government and others.”

ALCS is now working on getting the pen built before winter sets in, and Watt says it is about 75% complete. ALCS is also now applying for operational grants to pay for operating the pen starting next spring.

The first caribou will be captured in late March or early April of 2021 subject to good conditions, Watt says. They’ll give birth and will reside in the pen until mid-July, when they will be released.

The project was launched after a well-attended community meeting about the herd in 2019.

Arrow Lakes Caribou Society volunteers are building a caribou maternity pen on the bench above Hot Springs Road.
Residents of the West Kootenay have had their chance to weigh in on plans to make their local governments a lot greener in the coming decades.

The West Kootenay EcoSociety has concluded a series of virtual workshops, looking for public input on their ‘100% Renewable Energy Plan.’

Started two years ago, the plan now has nine local governments in the West Kootenay committed to producing net-zero greenhouse gases (GHG) by 2050.

The WKES has done extensive consultations and workshops with civic leaders, whom it identified as key to reaching climate change targets.

“Our local governments have a critical role to play in moving local communities toward renewable energy,” the WKES report says. “Local governments shape daily behaviour with policy and infrastructure, and elected leaders make decisions in the interest of diverse constituencies.”

The consultant leading the project says there’s good reason for citizens to engage in the drive to eliminate fossil fuels from our lives, including benefits to physical health and mental well-being – not to mention benefits to their local environment and community economic resiliency to climate change.

“The more we can accelerate our transition to 100% renewable energy, the safer our communities will be in the long term,” co-ordinator David Reid told one workshop. The transition to renewable energy would also mean local jobs to implement the changes, and millions of dollars remaining in the community, instead of being spent on gasoline and other fossil fuels annually.

The WKES plan looks at four areas local governments have some control over – transportation, which includes public transit and ‘active’ transportation like biking and hiking; the buildings people live and work in; reducing greenhouse gases coming from landfills; and how energy is generated.

The WKES calls them the ‘Big Moves,’ and sets out policy and actions local governments can take to encourage community reduction of greenhouse gases.

“They’re also the easiest for communities to act upon, giving encouragement and a sense of progress as the years go by. “Ultimately, yes, there are a number of things that are costly and time consuming and expensive to do, and I think of those things as the fruit at the top of the tree,” says Reid. “We need to get to work quickly on picking up the fruit that’s on the ground, and picking that low-hanging fruit, while thinking about the ladders we need to build to get to the fruit at the top.”

The greenhouse gas savings will be slow at first; but as changes are made – the biggest being the introduction of electric cars – the savings will increase dramatically.

But organizers admit even if all these areas met their targets to remove greenhouse gases, none of the communities will actually hit the 100% renewable goal. Big items to cut local GHG production, like the introduction of all-electric commercial vans and trucks, are both out of the jurisdiction of local governments, and depend on as yet undeveloped technological advancements.

Concerns about affordability
But the workshops also heard concerns from some participants.

“I don’t think the plan speaks to the real dynamics that are in our communities, the large inequity gaps,” said Lilly Yumagulova, a planner in Slocan. “...transferring to electrical vehicles is very possible, but it’s only possible to a very few.

“When are these people going to be able to afford an electric vehicle?” she continued. “That’s a long way away... we have to realistically look at the inequity gaps that are in our communities, and where we are at, and without that, this [plan] has very little meaning in our communities.”

She asked the planners to look at the reality on the ground and the kind of challenges real people face.

Reid said the plan has in its core the need to make the changes “as equitable and inclusive as possible.”

“You bring up some good points,” he said. “It is really challenging... it’s not going to be painless to make these changes, and as you point out, the people who are well off have an advantage – if you can afford a new car, you can afford the subsidy to buy an electric car. If you can’t afford a new car, you can’t access that subsidy. The same is true of building retrofits.

“So how do we create policies and actions that help everyone, especially people who have less economic resources? We want to make sure those people aren’t further disadvantaged by a bunch of systems that are intended to help the whole community.”

Project concluding
Meeting the 100% renewable target is something that local municipalities will have to tackle on their own as they move forward without the help of the EcoSociety. WKES conceived, designed, and built engagement for the idea, but its role ends when the funding for the project runs out in December.

“We’ll be presenting our plan back to local government, with tweaks and customizations we heard from community members, then it’ll be up to them to adopt the plan and take the steps to move forward,” says Reid.

Planning for that transition is now underway, with local governments talking about how to cooperate and collaborate and share work on how to meet the goals.

Reid says he’s confident those governments be able to run with the ball.

“The response we have had from local governments is ‘this is great, this is what we needed to start taking the next steps to renewable energy,’” he says. “It’s not always that governments know how they’re going to do it, or where they’re going to get their resources to do it, but I think their commitment is 100% there, because local politicians see the value of taking those steps, to have more efficient lives, saving money, being healthier. The benefits are clear – besides avoiding the catastrophe of climate change.”

The public meetings ended this week. If you missed the workshops, visit the West Kootenay EcoSociety’s webpage to read the report and take part in a survey about the plan.
Let’s give BC a green recovery

Coming out of the election, we’re heading into a historical NDP majority government. The BC NDP ran on a platform to prioritize public services and the environment first. John Horgan promised to expand and improve our provincial parks – to create new campgrounds and trails, increase funding to improve infrastructure and safeguard nature across BC. Delivering on these promises will have a real impact for those who want to be able to take the children in their lives to parks, creating memories around campfires and lakes.

Last summer, BC’s parks were overwhelmed by the huge demand for people to get outside. The government rolled out the day-pass program to alleviate some of the pressure on parks and added a few more temporary staff positions to help repair some of the overused areas. As MLAs get ready to return to the legislature, I hope that the memories of our parks bursting at the seams this past summer will be fresh as they prepare next year’s priorities.

I’m already counting down the days to when I can head to my local parks in next summer’s sun-filled days to when I can head to my local parks.

seams this past summer will be fresh memories of our parks bursting at the seams this past summer will be fresh as they prepare next year’s priorities.

Let’s give BC a green recovery that prioritizes nature. And while we are at it, Stop Logging Old Growth Forests!!!

Denise Dufault

Re: Rob Morrison’s ‘Message from your MP’

I just received a campaign flyer from my MP, Rob Morrison. I have some concerns about the content. There is a certain luxury to being in opposition in that you don’t have to have demonstrated your performance in the situation for which you are being critical. The endorsement from other party members intended to add credibility to the content.

In his new shadow cabinet position for national security, Mr. Morrison has not seriously acknowledged the role of climate change. In his book Climate Wars, author Gwyn Dyer points out how climate change has helped lead to the destabilization of governments and produced climate refugees. The government has acknowledged that climate change is the biggest threat to national security.

Mr. Morrison offers input from Pierre Poilievre, shadow Minister of Finance, “… the government must immediately approve $20 billion of privately funded natural resource projects.” You can assume these are oil and gas projects, both of which have a long history of government financial assistance. This seems counter to other positions offered by the UN Secretary General, who on several occasions called upon national leaders to remove subsidies to that sector. In addition, Guterres called for more investment to deal with climate change.

Recently, Mark Carney, former head of the Bank of Canada, head of the Bank of England and now UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, cautioned the investment community about climate risk when making investment decisions. Furthermore, to this, the World Bank has been called out for its continued investment in fossil fuels.

Clearly, what my elected representative and his party are proposing is not being influenced by global trends and concerns. Perhaps they should be.

Ron Robinson

Re: Delivery of fibre-optic service for Slocan Valley pushed back three years (Valley Voice, November 5, 2020)

As someone who recently moved to the Slocan Valley to build a business, and based that decision in part on the promise of non-cellular broadband internet being installed in 2020 or 2021, news of Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation delaying their fibre-optic service until 2025 is very disappointing. A three-year delay on what was originally to be a 12-month project is not a small miscalculation.

I’m curious to know what permits are required (for the southern half at least) to lay standard cable beneath a pre-existing, formerly industrial right-of-way (rail trail). Are the involved regulators not treating this project with the urgency it deserves? A delay due to a landslide or surprise archeological find would be one thing, but due to bureaucracy or complacency is just tripping over our own shoelaces.

Meanwhile, in roughly the same period of time, a California billionaire has launched a constellation of 895 satellites into Earth orbit, secured Government of Canada (CRTC and ISED) approval, and began rolling out rural service with speeds of up to 170 Mbps. Burying a cable isn’t rocket science (but it would keep subscription dollars and jobs in the province).

Not only has the pandemic elevated rural high-speed internet as essential to e-learning, telehealth, and business continuity, it is – at this time of rediscovery of rural regions, regenerative living, #WorkFromAnywhere, and $1.75 billion in federal investment – perhaps the region’s most exciting opportunity for economic development, diversification, self-reliance and sustainability. It is the single highest leverage thing CBT can do and everyone involved should be accelerating these projects, not slowing them down.

Stephan Hardy

Argenta-Johnson’s Landing Face logging article, November 5, 2020

Valley Voice

Cooper’s Creek Cedar should not be allowed to destroy the last of the ancient red cedar hemlock in the upper reach of Howser Creek. BC’s timber barons and political elite have enjoyed the free-wheeling ecocide of the Duncan, Landreau and Trout lake for 40 years plus.

CCC, BC’s NDP or any other timber corporation does not have the God-given right or legal First Nations consent to continue ignoring the obvious consequences of industrial clearcutting intact ancient forest ecosystems.

The last seven or eight kilometres were not destroyed in the upper Howser Creek should be preserved. It is an accessible wonder of an ancient ecosystem with some of the red cedar trees probably more than 1,000 years old. Please see short documentary Howser in Peril on YouTube.

CCC should be given back the money they recently spent on a new bridge over Howser Creek. This intact ancient forest ecosystem is a massive carbon sink, priceless in terms of potentially helping to mitigate climate crisis.

Myself and three others are being prosecuted by CCC. In reality, CCC is doing the dirty work for the NDP.

BC’s jurisprudence is a little recticent to issue court orders or civil claims against the people – it is considered a hallmark of fascism.

We are not allowed to attend public meetings regarding industrial timber.
The ‘conspiracy theory’ phenomenon

Early this year I was made aware of a somewhat elaborate conspiracy theory and much more recently I began to hear about this same theory on CBC radio, but also heard the occasional rational notions added to it. We could call this a kind of pop-up phenomenon, where both the pre- and the anti-conspiracy theorists attempt to simplify their world view by creating one giant theory that blankets it all. Such an extreme and simplified world view tends to divide us into us and them.

We are conditioned to take a position on everything. If we admit we do not know, we are left out of our social group, our tribe, our political affiliation, or our religion.

We all know the story of The Boy Who Cried Wolf. The real idiots in the story were the villagers (us). Why did they insist on sending the same incompetent shepherd to tend the sheep? And by what logic did the wolf’s misinformation ‘prove’ that a wolf did not exist? Furthermore, we must acknowledge how useful the fake news was for the wolf in realizing his mistake. He didn’t suffer the consequences of his selfishness and greed. Our problem is that we are being taught what to believe.

In the present climate, it is difficult to sort out the valid from the fake, but looking into events of the past, things can clear up quite quickly. An interesting example is leaded gasoline. I remember, as a child, I was told not to wash my hands after handling gasoline cans, which a weekly or more frequent cleaning would remove, along with the toxic lead would get on my hands. The system. You are telling artists that the jobs of cheap labour that they need. The average life expectancy for a man living in 1850 was 30 years. And then turn around and happily spend twice as much money on something that was manufactured in a world where the upper class relies on mindless blue collar workers to fill the jobs of cheap labour that they need for capitalism to work. By not being a part of the system, you are telling them that you believe the system is broken. The world needs to be doing differently or to also talk about what government is doing. By not being a part of the system, you are telling them that you believe the system is broken.

As the trail enters Columbia 2015-2019) Cranbrook Norbert Duerichen New Denver CCC or a community-based co-op should consider a less destructive manner (cable or high lead) to harvest timber and mitigate the fuel load on the face. They should not put in miles and miles of industrial roads. BC’s working forest base is 15% roads and landings, i.e. not growing trees but creating massive erosion problems. They should also be mandated to create value-added jobs.

The artist in the capitalist system

I am an artist. I don’t like the capitalist system any more than the next person does, but the only way to survive is to live with it. As a creative person, I feel I am being suffocated and strangled out of existence by a regressive society that favours commodity and cheap garbage over works created and cultivated by the artist’s mind. It’s impossible to survive without selling out to what the masses are being sold or relying on others to see the worth of your work. The masses have literally been trained in society to see art as free because it is not a necessity to survival and is constantly being cheapened by the over processed and hyper-sensationalized media that surrounds it. Why? Because creative and independent thinkers are dangerous in a world where the upper class relies on mindless blue collar workers to fill the jobs of cheap labour that they need for capitalism to work. By not being a part of the system, you are telling them that you believe the system is broken.

Additionally, as the trail enters Cranbrook, I commend the Slocan Valley Trail Society for the bird houses. I see the gazebo daily, and not to create fear and anxiety and to bother? Seventy-one percent of respondents said in April they would accept the vaccine; that number dropped to 61% in August. At 39% of these respondents saying they don’t believe in the vaccine or are they saying COVID-19 isn’t serious enough to bother? Our media has a responsibility not to create fear and anxiety and our governing bodies have the responsibility not to use COVID as a tool to control us.

November 17 will be the anniversary of the first COVID death. What have we learned? We know the system was already strangled out of existence by a regressive society that favours commodity and cheap garbage over works created and cultivated by the artist’s mind. It’s impossible to survive without selling out to what the masses are being sold or relying on others to see the worth of your work. The masses have literally been trained in society to see art as free because it is not a necessity to survival and is constantly being cheapened by the over processed and hyper-sensationalized media that surrounds it. Why? Because creative and independent thinkers are dangerous in a world where the upper class relies on mindless blue collar workers to fill the jobs of cheap labour that they need for capitalism to work. By not being a part of the system, you are telling them that you believe the system is broken.

The Italian Ministry of Health reported 96% of COVID-19 hospital deaths had been patients with at least one severe underlying illness. Almost 50% had had coronary heart disease. Canada is no different with 80% of our COVID deaths happening in long-term care facilities. So how did we respond? Increased hospital bed numbers, restaurants, nightclubs, gyms, sporting events, air travel, etc. The federal government has been printing $5 billion a week since spring with no end in sight. We’ve added $340 billion to our national debt and many billions to provincial debt. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business estimates 225,000 businesses across Canada may permanently close.

How do we draw the line in the sand? We have seniors stocked up like cord wood in BC hospitals waiting for a space in long-term care to the tune of 450,000 hospital days per year. These $1,800 a day beds as opposed to $50 to $150 a day in care homes are $1,800 a day beds as opposed to $50 to $150 a day in care homes. The people waiting in these expensive beds are not receiving the special care they need. The average life expectancy for a man living in 1850 was 30 years. And then turn around and happily spend twice as much money on something that was manufactured in a world where the upper class relies on mindless blue collar workers to fill the jobs of cheap labour that they need for capitalism to work. By not being a part of the system, you are telling them that you believe the system is broken.

Passmore

The gazebo location is subject to high winds. Should the swallows manage to overcome the other disincentives, nests along the eaves could be vulnerable to wind damage. It should be noted that barn swallows are multi-nest builders and will not use bird houses.

The birds return as early as the first week in April and begin choosing nesting sites, so any proposed nest shelters should be Johnson’s Landing Face. I was threatened by thugs and asked not to publish her findings. She was immediately fired from her position at the University. Thus, for another half century we passed on our children with leaded exhaust fumes.

She was threatened by thugs and asked not to publish her findings. She was immediately fired from her position at the University. Thus, for another half century we passed on our children with leaded exhaust fumes.

Patricia McGregor Slocan Village’s fall 2020 newsletter is both disappointing and concerning. Disappointing because it’s been over a year since the 2019 federal election and this is only the second time we’ve heard from our MP. I say only the second time because Canada’s House of Commons encourages regular communication between MPs and their constituents, covering the costs of designing, printing and sending out newsletters. I have been waiting for years under the pressure of constituents’ views on a variety of issues, up to ten times a year.

MP’s fall newsletter disappointing and concerning

Why do we have only received two pieces of communication when 14 were possible can only be answered by Mr. Morrison, but I can tell you this:

You have to care about the people in your riding to actively communicate with them. It is a lot of work writing newsletters and questionnaires and responding to constituents’ concerns, but that’s what MPs are there to do.

You have to be accomplishing things that make a difference in the lives of these constituents and want to know what you are doing on their behalf. If the quarterly newsletters are just repeating partisan party rhetoric like this latest newsletter, I support MPs not sending them out. If you’re not really interested in hearing the opinions of your constituents, you will still do a survey with them their time with mini surveys (the House of Commons calls them 10 percenters).

To be helpful to constituents, at least part of the communications must be non-partisan, particularly in these COVID-19 pandemic times.

Individuals, families and businesses need to know what kind of help government has available to them. Non-profit societies need to know what financial support or grants are available to them in the uncertain future. While sharing this information with constituents, it is fair for MPs to also talk about what government is doing. While sharing this information with constituents, it is fair for MPs to also talk about what government is doing.

We have only received two pieces of communication when 14 were possible can only be answered by Mr. Morrison, but I can tell you this:

You have to care about the people in your riding to actively communicate with them. It is a lot of work writing newsletters and questionnaires and responding to constituents’ concerns, but that’s what MPs are there to do.

You have to be accomplishing things that make a difference in the lives of these constituents and want to know what you are doing on their behalf. If the quarterly newsletters are just repeating partisan party rhetoric like this latest newsletter, I support MPs not sending them out. If you’re not really interested in hearing the opinions of your constituents, you will still do a survey with them their time with mini surveys (the House of Commons calls them 10 percenters).

To be helpful to constituents, at least part of the communications must be non-partisan, particularly in these COVID-19 pandemic times.

Individuals, families and businesses need to know what kind of help government has available to them. Non-profit societies need to know what financial support or grants are available to them in the uncertain future. While sharing this information with constituents, it is fair for MPs to also talk about what government is doing. While sharing this information with constituents, it is fair for MPs to also talk about what government is doing.

What is most concerning about this newsletter. It arrived during Remembrance week – not one word of thanks to our veterans. Not one word about our seniors, our environment, the climate crisis, the Columbia River Treaty, the good work being done in our communities by constituents. Instead we got a piece of Conservative propaganda that should have been paid for by the Conservative Party and not by us as taxpayers.

Members of Parliament play an extremely important role in representing all of us, regardless of how we voted, once they are elected. The key to proper representation is a good two-way communication, and the current lack of meaningful communication from our MP is both disappointing and concerning.

Wayne Stetski (MP Kootenay–Columbia 2015-2019) Cranbrook
Jason Clarke resigns as mayor of Silverton

by Jan McMurray with files from Moe Lyons

Jason Clarke has resigned as mayor of Silverton. His letter of resignation is available at jasonclarke.ca.

“I have come to the conclusion that I have given all I have to give,” he writes. “The role of Mayor is both demanding and sustaining the role. I have done my best to give what I can to the role while trying to maintain a balance in the other areas of my work, family, etc. I can see that the role needs and deserves more time and energy than I have available.

“It is for this reason I am tendering my resignation as Mayor.”

Clarke submitted his letter of resignation to the Chief Administrative Officer ahead of the council meeting on November 10. The meeting did not go ahead for lack of quorum.

Clarke took a leave of absence from late April to early June this year. The minutes of the April 22 meeting note: “Council accepted Mr. Clarke’s request for a leave of absence for three months, without stipend, after which Council will consider his resignation.”

Clarke returned after less than two months, in early June, after being asked by council if he would be willing to return early. On June 2, Clarke wrote a strongly worded letter outlining the reasons for his leave, and stating the terms upon which he would return. He made it clear the main contentious issue was council/staff relationship. “Under no circumstances is it ok for Council to micromanage staff... Elected officials are not employers or managers. Our job is to set direction via policy and bylaws – that’s it... It is my view that if Council continues on its current path they will have massive turnover and/ or staff will unionize to protect itself from Council.” He said that in order for him to return, “A complete 180 would have to be taken by the majority of Council regarding the above. Council would have to be committed to holding strong to that course, trust in my ability to lead, and trust in our staff to execute on our direction.”

A governance workshop for Silverton council was held in early June, and afterwards, Clarke wrote another letter with an entirely different tone: “Thank you for coming out today with open minds and a willingness to learn. Thank you for putting in the effort, speaking your minds and hearing each other. Based on our work together today I feel we are at a place where I can resume my role as Mayor.”

In his recent letter of resignation, Clarke says, “I have had a lot of time to think, consider and reflect since I’ve been back from my leave of absence. I appreciate all of your efforts to come together and pull in the same direction – to operate as a team.”

In a brief interview, Clarke said he felt the Village of Silverton was “well positioned” in terms of staff, projects and finances.

Clarke was elected mayor in November 2014 and re-elected in October 2018. He served as councillor for one three-year term (2011-2014) before taking the helm as mayor.

News about a by-election in Silverton should be coming soon!
New Denver council, November 10: COVID funds dropped into Village bank account

by Kathy Hartman

• An unexpected windfall of $324,000 came in for New Denver under the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments. Council discussed using some of the funding for cleaning protocols or community facilities could be reopened and for rehiring a public information officer.

With the new outbreaks in Salmo, Creston and Kelowna, council feels there may be shutdowns in the future. “Shutdowns are expensive,” said Chief Administrative Officer Catherine Allaway. “It will be a welcome addition to the tools council are using for operations.” Councillors John Fyke, Gerald Wagner and Colin Moss agreed to put together a COVID protocol plan that may allow for the reopening of the Slocan Community Health Centre gym if they can access some of the Safe Restart Grant funds from the RDCK.

• A Meeting to discuss Mental Health in New Denver will be ready to go in time for the holiday season. Published by the Village of New Denver, the book is scheduled to go to print in mid-November. The initial print run will be 250 copies. The book tells the story of the Nikki Kintner Memorial Centre, the people who created it and the healing it inspired. Several local artists have donated work to the project.

• Council received the West Kootenay EcoSociety 100% Renewable Energy Plan and the recommended priorities for New Denver. According to the plan, most of New Denver’s non-renewable energy use comes from vehicles. The priorities under transportation are to conduct a survey about travel habits and needs in New Denver and advocate for electric vehicle and electric bicycle incentives at the provincial and federal levels. Under buildings, the recommendation is to work with the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) on the Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) for Home Renovations. Under zero waste actions, the priority is to advocate to the RDCK to support and expand the Healthy Community Society’s Organics Diversion Pilot Program. Councillor John Fyke was excited about the expansion of school buses, and felt the Village could help renters and homeowners arrange for blower tests and the materials to secure houses from winter damage. Councillor Jane Rayner, Community Planner, reviewed the draft of the plan and recommendations prior to adoption of the plan by the Village.

• The Sustainability Advisory Committee, created in 2019, has changed its name to the 100% Renewable Energy Advisory Committee to better reflect its goals. Also, the committee will now focus not only on sustainability for the municipality, but also for the community as a whole.

• There will be no more raves at the mouth of Shannon Creek without feedback from Slocan Lake residents. The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLS) informed council that the society was successful in having that general anxiety and sleeplessness are long-standing. My dad had a certain kind of blindness.” and are. As they say, “Privilege is a上学 anxiety! I want it to be like my privilege – and my blindness and are long-standing. My dad had a certain kind of blindness.” and are. As they say, “Privilege is a stable family? Tick. Food, steady job, there was always enough – are long-standing. My dad had a certain kind of blindness.” and are. As they say, “Privilege is a stable family? Tick. Food, steady job, there was always enough – are long-standing. My dad had a certain kind of blindness.” and are. As they say, “Privilege is a date with the Village of New Denver, the

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

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER
PUBLIC NOTICES

SNOW REMOVAL
The Village reminds residents that snow removal is a priority over the winter months. We request your cooperation in removing items from the lanes, avenues, and sidewalks so that plowing can be done efficiently and safely. Please note that the Village is not responsible for removing any vehicles or items left on the village streets, boulevards or property.

To ensure public safety, residents are asked not to approach the operators while they are working. Please direct any questions regarding snow removal to the Village Office.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
The Village of New Denver has openings for the following temporary and part-time positions:
• Equipment Operator
• Office Staff
• Janitor
For more information please 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 guidance for managing future park amenities. The public is welcome to provide early suggestions to the Village Office.

SUPPORT THE
Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription
Only $5-$50
Send Cheque or Money Order to: Valley Voice, Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER
PUBLIC NOTICES

SNOW REMOVAL
The Village reminds residents that snow removal is a priority over the winter months. We request your cooperation in removing items from the lanes, avenues, and sidewalks so that plowing can be done efficiently and safely. Please note that the Village is not responsible for removing any vehicles or items left on the village streets, boulevards or property.

To ensure public safety, residents are asked not to approach the operators while they are working. Please direct any questions regarding snow removal to the Village Office.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
The Village of New Denver has openings for the following temporary and part-time positions:
• Equipment Operator
• Office Staff
• Janitor
For more information please 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 guidance for managing future park amenities. The public is welcome to provide early suggestions to the Village Office.

SUPPORT THE
Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription
Only $5-$50
Send Cheque or Money Order to: Valley Voice, Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER
PUBLIC NOTICES

SNOW REMOVAL
The Village reminds residents that snow removal is a priority over the winter months. We request your cooperation in removing items from the lanes, avenues, and sidewalks so that plowing can be done efficiently and safely. Please note that the Village is not responsible for removing any vehicles or items left on the village streets, boulevards or property.

To ensure public safety, residents are asked not to approach the operators while they are working. Please direct any questions regarding snow removal to the Village Office.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
The Village of New Denver has openings for the following temporary and part-time positions:
• Equipment Operator
• Office Staff
• Janitor
For more information please 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 guidance for managing future park amenities. The public is welcome to provide early suggestions to the Village Office.

SUPPORT THE
Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription
Only $5-$50
Send Cheque or Money Order to: Valley Voice, Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER
PUBLIC NOTICES

SNOW REMOVAL
The Village reminds residents that snow removal is a priority over the winter months. We request your cooperation in removing items from the lanes, avenues, and sidewalks so that plowing can be done efficiently and safely. Please note that the Village is not responsible for removing any vehicles or items left on the village streets, boulevards or property.

To ensure public safety, residents are asked not to approach the operators while they are working. Please direct any questions regarding snow removal to the Village Office.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
The Village of New Denver has openings for the following temporary and part-time positions:
• Equipment Operator
• Office Staff
• Janitor
For more information please 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 guidance for managing future park amenities. The public is welcome to provide early suggestions to the Village Office.

SUPPORT THE
Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription
Only $5-$50
Send Cheque or Money Order to: Valley Voice, Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER
PUBLIC NOTICES

SNOW REMOVAL
The Village reminds residents that snow removal is a priority over the winter months. We request your cooperation in removing items from the lanes, avenues, and sidewalks so that plowing can be done efficiently and safely. Please note that the Village is not responsible for removing any vehicles or items left on the village streets, boulevards or property.

To ensure public safety, residents are asked not to approach the operators while they are working. Please direct any questions regarding snow removal to the Village Office.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
The Village of New Denver has openings for the following temporary and part-time positions:
• Equipment Operator
• Office Staff
• Janitor
For more information please 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 guidance for managing future park amenities. The public is welcome to provide early suggestions to the Village Office.
**SD 10 schools address students’ mental health**

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Mornings at New Denver’s Lucerne School look much like any other across the country. Staff greet the students and offer a kind word. Some kids play outside, some may go off to the library or other activities. But the pandemic has created a sense of uncertainty, and it feels like one has to take part in a bit more unusual first-things-in-the-morning school activity – stretching, deep breathing, and mindfully meditating.

“Five years ago this was not on the radar the same way it is now,” says Taylor. “But mental health can’t be a ‘sweeping, system-wide… a crisis who require intervention; these are a fair amount of effort is being concerned with challenging behaviours, and so – often behaviour is a sign that students are not coping well and may be struggling with well-being,” says Superintendent Terry Taylor. “Both the school district and schools continue to address these issues with a variety of interventions.”

Researchers worldwide have noted more children suffering from ‘stress-contagion’ – picking up the social interaction and school is such a stressor that learning,” says Peter Dubinsky, superintendent of SD 10.

“The valley is a bit of social regulation factor to getting back to normal,”

“Five years ago this was not on the radar the same way it is now,” says Taylor. “But mental health can’t be a ‘sweeping, system-wide… a crisis who require intervention; these are a fair amount of effort is being concerned with challenging behaviours, and so – often behaviour is a sign that students are not coping well and may be struggling with well-being,” says Superintendent Terry Taylor. “Both the school district and schools continue to address these issues with a variety of interventions.”

Researchers worldwide have noted more children suffering from ‘stress-contagion’ – picking up the social interaction and school is such a stressor that learning,” says Peter Dubinsky, superintendent of SD 10.

“Five years ago this was not on the radar the same way it is now,” says Taylor. “But mental health can’t be a ‘sweeping, system-wide… a crisis who require intervention; these are a fair amount of effort is being concerned with challenging behaviours, and so – often behaviour is a sign that students are not coping well and may be struggling with well-being,” says Superintendent Terry Taylor. “Both the school district and schools continue to address these issues with a variety of interventions.”

Researchers worldwide have noted more children suffering from ‘stress-contagion’ – picking up the social interaction and school is such a stressor that learning,” says Peter Dubinsky, superintendent of SD 10.

“Five years ago this was not on the radar the same way it is now,” says Taylor. “But mental health can’t be a ‘sweeping, system-wide… a crisis who require intervention; these are a fair amount of effort is being concerned with challenging behaviours, and so – often behaviour is a sign that students are not coping well and may be struggling with well-being,” says Superintendent Terry Taylor. “Both the school district and schools continue to address these issues with a variety of interventions.”

Researchers worldwide have noted more children suffering from ‘stress-contagion’ – picking up the social interaction and school is such a stressor that learning,” says Peter Dubinsky, superintendent of SD 10.

“Five years ago this was not on the radar the same way it is now,” says Taylor. “But mental health can’t be a ‘sweeping, system-wide… a crisis who require intervention; these are a fair amount of effort is being concerned with challenging behaviours, and so – often behaviour is a sign that students are not coping well and may be struggling with well-being,” says Superintendent Terry Taylor. “Both the school district and schools continue to address these issues with a variety of interventions.”

Researchers worldwide have noted more children suffering from ‘stress-contagion’ – picking up the social interaction and school is such a stressor that learning,” says Peter Dubinsky, superintendent of SD 10.

“Five years ago this was not on the radar the same way it is now,” says Taylor. “But mental health can’t be a ‘sweeping, system-wide… a crisis who require intervention; these are a fair amount of effort is being concerned with challenging behaviours, and so – often behaviour is a sign that students are not coping well and may be struggling with well-being,” says Superintendent Terry Taylor. “Both the school district and schools continue to address these issues with a variety of interventions.”

Researchers worldwide have noted more children suffering from ‘stress-contagion’ – picking up the social interaction and school is such a stressor that learning,” says Peter Dubinsky, superintendent of SD 10.
by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Local politicians are warning Slocan Valley residents to move fast before they see high-speed service – even after a fibre-optic cable up the valley is completed as planned in 2023.

That’s because of something called ‘the last mile’. It’s tricky because different communities have very different needs.

“Some of these communities, like us here in Silverton, we’re tiny and super dense,” says Jason Clarke, the manager of Silverton’s Credit Union. “If the provider is not meeting your needs, you can shop elsewhere and swap them out.”

Another problem in making a decision, says Zeleznik, is that one community has nothing of the tiny communities dotted along the project’s length have the ability to install fibre-optic line or manage customers via a private internet service provider.

“Do you go about getting the grants? Our board is not set up to manage the capacity to do that,” says Zeleznik. “We need help. But it takes so long to go through that last mile term commitment. So a lot of private companies look at it and run the other way, because there’s no profit in it.”

That’s got some local politicians calling on the Columbia Basin Trust to have its way to distribute it, or even take it on itself to bring it to us, but now they’ve reached out to discuss the issue with them.

Zeleznik also points to new developments like the high-speed satellite network, Starlink, now being launched by SpaceX founder Elon Musk. By the time the cable is laid in 2023, he notes wryly, fibre-optic cable might be yesterday’s internet delivery system.

Tantalizingly close, high-speed internet service – seen as a key to the valley’s economic future – remains a distant dream.

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Initiative reporter

A member of the board of Kaslo’s community-owned internet service has a simple message for civic leaders in small municipalities: bring in the fibre, deliver the ‘last mile’ of fibre-optic cable to homes and business in the Slocan Valley and you will see a noticeable improvement.

“It’s not rocket science,” says Tim Ryan of the Kaslo infoNet Society (KiN). “And the last mile is where the municipality can own and maintain the line.”

Follow Kaslo’s lead for fibre service, says proponent

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative Initiative reporter

The Nelson Library services in the Slocan Valley submitted

Things just got easier for book borrowers in the valley. Sipra Clarke of the Heritage Credit Union in Nelson says that the library’s community-run entities providing the service, like in Kaslo, can be withdrawn. “That’s a big question.”

It’s tricky because different communities have very different needs.

“Some of these communities, like us here in Silverton, we’re tiny and super dense,” says Jason Clarke, the manager of Silverton’s Credit Union. “If the provider is not meeting your needs, you can shop elsewhere and swap them out.”

Another problem in making a decision, says Zeleznik, is that one community has nothing of the tiny communities dotted along the project’s length have the ability to install fibre-optic line or manage customers via a private internet service provider.

“Do you go about getting the grants? Our board is not set up to manage the capacity to do that,” says Zeleznik. “We need help. But it takes so long to go through that last mile term commitment. So a lot of private companies look at it and run the other way, because there’s no profit in it.”

That’s got some local politicians calling on the Columbia Basin Trust to have its way to distribute it, or even take it on itself to bring it to us, but now they’ve reached out to discuss the issue with them.

Zeleznik also points to new developments like the high-speed satellite network, Starlink, now being launched by SpaceX founder Elon Musk. By the time the cable is laid in 2023, he notes wryly, fibre-optic cable might be yesterday’s internet delivery system.

Tantalizingly close, high-speed internet service – seen as a key to the valley’s economic future – remains a distant dream.
Welcome Constable Matthew Jones and family to the New Denver RCMP detachment

by Kathy Harman

Constable Matthew Jones and family arrived in October to replace Constable Robert Santon.

Constable Jones was last posted in Prince Rupert, where he got his first experience with community policing. Jones started in general duty policing but then joined the Prince Rupert Coastal Unit. It “was a really cool opportunity. We policed several remote First Nations communities along the coast. We’d travel by police boat in teams of two and do eight-day circuits living and policing in the five reserves. That’s where I got my first taste of community policing. Getting in the schools, doing DARE and presentations for the kids, and participating in community outreach.”

Jones is excited to get back to community policing. He has already met with the Lucerne Parent Advisory Council and has begun setting up presentations on impaired driving for the older students. “Ethics in order to find real sustainable solutions to any issues we need be proactive, familiar, and really immersed in our communities. Community policing relies on the trust of the community. I think a big piece from the more historic style of enforcement to focusing on the educational side.”

The Jones family – Matthew, Marlaina and their three-month-old daughter Lucia – were originally from Ontario and had never been to the Kootenays. “Honestly, we did the majority of our research by watching YouTube videos,” explained Jones. “I think someone had posted some really nice drone footage of New Denver and there were videos of the area filmed by guys on their motorcycles.” After living in rainy Prince Rupert, the family is also looking forward to living in a community that has seasons. “It’s beautiful here. We’re so excited to get some real seasons and we’ll put up with the snow. Next step is to find a boat for the summer time whether that’s a couple of kayaks or a powerboat.”

Jones wants the community to know that if you see them out pushing the stroller around town and walking their little dog, Barb, the Tahltan bear dog, “come say hi.”

Sandon Museum basement remediated after freshet flood

by Jan McMurray

The Sandon Museum has been cleaned up after the May 31 flood event. Most of the artifacts and historical documents were saved, reports Frank Barnes, Sandon Historical Society director.

Clean Scene out of Castlegar did the remediation work over six weeks in September and October. “There was about three to four inches of sediment on the basement floor, covering an area of about 1,000 square feet,” says Tim Fotiou, Clean Scene owner.

The sediment was removed by hand – shoveled into garbage containers and disposed of – and then a truck mount unit was used to extract the remainder. Dehumidifiers, dryers and air movers were used to dry the place out, and a special dryer was used for the historical documents.

“The humidity was originally 89% in the basement and we were able to bring it down to 51%. I would be happier with 40-49%, but the museum is beside the creek and it’s an old building, so 51% is satisfactory,” said Fotiou.

Fotiou says one of their main objectives was to save the artifacts and historical documents, and they were successful.

During the flooding event on May 31, the mud came in through the windows and doors at the back of the museum when the berm on Sandon Creek was destroyed. The museum was closed all season.

The cost of the Clean Scene cleaning job was about $30,000 and will be 80% covered by the provincial Disaster Financial Assistance program.

At the Sandon Historical Society AGM on October 25, the board thanked all those who donated equipment, material and time to the work done up at the museum this season: Klonkide Silver (otherwise known as the Sandon Mine), YRB, Dan Pasemko, and Gerald and Abi Wagner.

Clean Scene was on the job at the Sandon Museum for six weeks this fall, remediating the basement after the May 31 flood.
West Kootenay photographer publishes 2021 Kootenay Landscapes calendar

by Jan McMurray

Local photographer Jesse Schpakowski has just published a 2021 calendar featuring 12 stunning Kootenay landscape images. “I feel truly alive.”

The images for the calendar were selected from Schpakowski’s considerable collection. “I could have put together a few more calendars with all the photos I have,” he said with a chuckle, “but I narrowed it down to these ones.”

Schpakowski has a line of greeting cards, as well. He is a licensed drone operator, does real estate photography, and is currently working with the Slocan Valley Chamber of Commerce on a series of short videos, each showcasing a local business.

The calendar, printed at Hall Printing, is available at many local stores and through his website at www.jesseschpakowski.com. His website is currently being updated with an online store, more image galleries, and more information on his services.

A Canmore native, Schpakowski recently moved to the area full-time after visiting here all his life. He has taken some courses in photography, has had a number of mentors, but is largely self-taught.

“The learning never stops,” he says. “I live for the days when I’m out there to unearth and create another beautiful image or visual story. These are the moments when I feel truly alive.”

The calendar is for sale in New Denver (Raven’s Nest, New Denver Community Pharmacy, New Market Foods), Kaslo (Kaslo Community Pharmacy), Nakusp (Nakusp General Store, Nakusp PharmaChoice), Nelson (Gaia Rising, Through the Looking Glass, Nelson Visitor Centre) and Castlegar (Columbia River Pharmacy).

Jesse Schpakowski Photography
— Serving the West Kootenays —

• Photography
• Videography
• Licensed Drone Operator
• Calendars and Greeting Cards

West Kootenay photographer publishes 2021 Kootenay Landscapes calendar

West Kootenay photographer Jesse Schpakowski has just published his 2021 Kootenay Landscapes calendar.

Meet the new owners of Marvin’s Small Motor Repair, soon to be named Eagle Small Motor Repair

Nov. 21, 1-5 pm

JV Humphries School in Kaslo now has a tipi on the grounds. Set up on November 2 with the help of three School District staff (two of them Indigenous), it will be used as a learning space for all students at the school. The aboriginal education department at School District 8 provided some funding for the purchase from Mukwa Teepees, an Indigenous company in West Vancouver.
REMEMBRANCE DAY

More than 75 socially distanced people attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies at the cenotaph in Slocan.

Bill Dummett, president of the Edgewood Legion, officiates at the Remembrance Day Ceremony in Edgewood.

Lest we forget

The secret of happiness is freedom. The secret of freedom is courage.
– Thucydides

Mountain Valley Station
We thank our veterans for the freedoms that we enjoy today.
355-2245
Slocan, BC

And at the going down of the sun
We shall remember them

save on foods
510 Broadway Nakusp 250-265-3662

Smokey Creek Salvage
With the tears a Land bath shed
Their graves should ever be green.
– Thomas Bailey Aldrich
359-7815 1-877-376-6539

If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields
– John McCrae

Lest we forget

The Valley of New Denver
The value of the price they paid is evident in the faces of our children.
We thank all our veterans!

Thank you to all veterans for your service.

KASLO MECHANICAL INC
250-353-7409

Lest we forget

The Village of Slocan
It is time to Remember all those who fought to preserve our freedom and for all Canadians to ensure their dream of peace is realized.
– Canadian Archives

And at the going down of the sun
We shall remember them

Smokey Creek Salvage
With the tears a Land bath shed
Their graves should ever be green.
– Thomas Bailey Aldrich
359-7815 1-877-376-6539

If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields
– John McCrae

Lest we forget

New Market Foods
New Denver 355-2270

Pacific Inland Pole & Piling Co. 2004 Ltd.

And at the going down of the sun
We shall remember them

save on foods
510 Broadway Nakusp 250-265-3662

The Village of Silverton
In peace the sons bury their fathers, but in war the fathers bury their sons.
– Crousus

Eric’s Meat Market & Deli
“Serving Valecola and Area since 1962”

We shall remember their commitment and sacrifice
425 Front St, Kaslo 250-353-3436

Lest we forget

The Village of Silverton
In peace the sons bury their fathers, but in war the fathers bury their sons.
– Crousus

Eric’s Meat Market & Deli
“Serving Valecola and Area since 1962”

We shall remember their commitment and sacrifice
425 Front St, Kaslo 250-353-3436

Kaslo Building Supplies
6521 Hwy 31, Kaslo
250-353-7628
www.kaslobuilding.com

Although no sculptured marble should rise to their memory, nor engraved stone bear record of their deeds, yet will their remembrance be as lasting as the land they honored.
– Daniel Webster

Meritxell Books
In troubled times such as these we are reminded even more strongly of what we owe to our brave veterans and our current soldiers and peacekeepers.
They are in our hearts.
314 Broadway, Kaslo 265-4450

The Apple Tree
Lest We Forget

RHC INSURANCE
For those who leave never to return.
For those who return but are never the same.
We remember
Main St, New Denver 358-2617

Although no sculptured marble should rise to their memory, nor engraved stone bear record of their deeds, yet will their remembrance be as lasting as the land they honored.
– Daniel Webster

Kaslo Building Supplies
6521 Hwy 31, Kaslo
250-353-7628
www.kaslobuilding.com

Meritxell Books
In troubled times such as these we are reminded even more strongly of what we owe to our brave veterans and our current soldiers and peacekeepers.
They are in our hearts.
314 Broadway, Kaslo 265-4450
A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.
- Joseph Campbell

"Those who dare to give up freedom in order to gain security will not have, nor do they deserve, either one."
- Benjamin Franklin

Lest we forget.

HUB INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE
NAKUSP • 250-265-3631

"Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lest we forget.

Remembering the sacrifice of those who serve their country and the world, that we may live in peace.

SILVERTON BUILDING SUPPLIES

We shall remember them.

The Valley Voice wishes to recognize the contribution of our veterans to building peace in the world.

We shall remember them.

Member of Parliament Richard Cannings lays a wreath at the Remembrance Day Ceremony in New Denver.

PHOTO CREDIT: KATHY HARTMAN
Officials at Interior Health are now discouraging non-essential travel and asking citizens to be vigilant as COVID-19 cases surge in the region.

“Due to higher rates of COVID-19 being detected, Interior Health is concerned by the upward trend and frequency of new clusters in the region,” says a recent release by the health authority, which manages health care in the southeast of the province.

As of November 16, Interior Health has had 1,088 cases in total since the start of the pandemic, with one person currently in intensive care. There have been three confirmed deaths in the health region.

While the Okanagan and Kamloops remain the hardest-hit areas of the Interior Health Authority, the new warnings come as cases also rise in our immediate area.

In Salmo, the coronavirus infected a reported 10 people earlier this month; at least one individual attended the community’s Remembrance Day ceremonies, though there’s no report yet of community transmission from any local events.

“While we cannot provide specific numbers, we can say that cases to date appear to be tied to a small number of recent gatherings at various locations in the broader Salmo area,” says an IH official. “At this time, there is no evidence of widespread transmission in the community and an outbreak has not been declared.”

All identified active cases of COVID-19 have been directed to self-isolate and public health continues to follow up directly with all close contacts to offer guidance and support.

Other Local Health Areas, which are sub-districts of Interior Health, have also seen increases as shown on the latest maps found on the BC Centre for Disease Control website.

As of November 16, the Nelson LHA (which includes the lower Slocan Valley) was showing 12 cases since the start of the pandemic, while the Castlegar and Trail LHAs were reporting 10 each. The Kootenay Lake LHA, which includes Kaslo and Area D, has had one case, and there have been two cases in the Arrow Lakes LHA, which includes Nakusp, New Denver, Silverton, Burton, Fauquier, Edgewood and Trout Lake.

“This is an important reminder that COVID-19 is circulating in many areas of Interior Health, not just our larger urban centres,” says IH. “Everyone in the Kootenay Boundary area in all communities should remain vigilant.”

Restrictions are growing tighter in areas of the province harder-hit by the virus. However, Interior Health officials are calling for the support of residents “to avoid stringent measures in the Interior region.”

Residents can keep their bubble limited to their household and up to six close friends, avoid travel and adhere to physical distancing.
Today is Women’s Entrepreneurship Day, a day that highlights and celebrates the impact of women-owned businesses in communities all around BC.

As we have all learned during the pandemic, supportive communities are essential to help small businesses through recovery and beyond. So Women’s Enterprise Centre is putting out a call for experienced entrepreneurs in the Kootenays to come together and support other business owners in their community as part of our One-to-One Mentoring program.

A lot of women business owners, particularly in their first five years of business, are solopreneurs.

Kaitlyn McConnell is the Mentoring Program manager at Women’s Enterprise Centre. A lot of the challenges that women business owners face – like work/life balance, growing their sales, managing too much demand, pivoting during health restrictions – transcend industries, and the Women’s Enterprise Centre’s mentees appreciate the different points of view from their mentors.

“This November 19, I invite experienced business owners – women and men – to consider becoming a mentor and giving back to the small businesses that build our communities,” says McConnell.

“As a business owner with years of experience, you could be the right person to share the insight and experience to help that struggling entrepreneur come out the other side.”

If you’d like to become a mentor with Women’s Enterprise Centre to help women business owners in your community, you can learn more or apply at wec.ca/BeAMentor and McConnell will get in touch with you.
It’s WEGCSS Holiday Hamper!

Would you or a group you belong to like to sponsor a Hamper? You can help make spirits bright for a local family or senior. It’s fun and easy.

Call for details 250 355 2484

With thanks to our many, many donors!
Progress made on Rosebery to Summit Lake Trail Network this season

by Jan McMurray

The highway crossing on Hwy 6 at Bonanza Road in Hills was constructed this year, and the connector trail from Pete’s Road to Slide Road was completed. However, still outstanding is the section of the trail through the Summit Lake Ski Area and the construction of the Bonanza Forest Road Service extension.

Art Forsythe, director on the Slocan Lake ATV Society board, reports that the Summit Lake Ski Area section of trail construction is almost ready to go but they are waiting to hear back from the Nakusp Ski Club about the amount of liability they should be carrying on their insurance policy. Forsythe says the ATV Club will need liability insurance for the one-month trial construction period only, as RSTBC will take on the insurance once the trail is built.

The original plan for the Summit Lake Ski Area section of the ATV trail was to use existing cross-country ski trails, but, “so far, it’s a wash,” said Forsythe. The revised plan will see 3.6 kilometres of 10-foot-wide, culverted trail up toward the peaks of the ski area.

The extension to the Bonanza Forest Service Road was scheduled to be built this year by BC Timber Sales, but wasn’t, Forsythe said, and they haven’t heard when that will happen.

Most of the work on the ATV trail this season was done by volunteers. “Everything except the machine time has been done by hand,” said Forsythe. “We’ve had probably put in 400 hours of brushing this year alone. I bet we’ve had 200 members of the club working.”

Contracting [out of Castlegar] has been very generous with their civil engineering services. Silverton Transport and Jim Heins of the Contracting was the main contractor for brushing.”

Forsythe thanked Kerr Louis Gordon, who was president of the club from December 2019 until she stepped down for health reasons in August 2020. “She did a phenomenal job for the short time she was there,” he said. The club is still looking for a president for a new season.

In Bonanza, the Doukhobour story is a sensational one: arson, nudity and civil disobedience once made headlines. But it isn’t the whole story. In Our Blood, Our Pain: Memories of a Doukhobor Life (Caillt Press, 2020), author Vera Maloff, through the stories of her mother, Elizabeth, shares her family’s life, the struggles of living a pacifist, agrarian life in a world with industrialization, governmental and societal retribution.

Shannon Creek ‘rave’ events now subject to public input

submitted

After four years of working with the Province to address concerns about large group events on Crown land at the north end of Slocan Lake, the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society has received word that organizers of any large music event on that land will now need to apply for a permit.

In 2016 and 2017, local residents expressed concern about the loud rave events that had taken place on the lakeshore Crown land near Shannon Creek on the west side of Slocan Lake, just south of Maggie Beach.

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SSLS) was concerned about the 150+ campers, sound equipment and gear ferried across the lake to be set up in a sensitive riparian zone, and the resulting foreshore damage, large fires, cut trees, small sheds built and intense all-night sound and lights, which disturbed wildlife and certainly to the nearby residents. The society applied for a permit under the Act and had a piece of Crown land and has just received word that the application was successful.

This Crown land is now designated as an “Application Only Area” for “special events that involve music.” This means that organizers must not only apply for a permit, but must publicize the event and provide an opportunity for local residents to submit their comments. The comments would be could be considered in the decision on whether or not to issue a permit. SSLS worked with the Land Act branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development on this application. Letters of support for the SSLS application were provided by all local governments in the area, including: Village of New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and RDCK Area H.

Hopes are high for a community garden in New Denver

submitted

On November 24, representatives from the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley (HCS) will go to New Denver Village council to discuss the possibility of creating a community garden in New Denver.

The Healthy Community Society (HCS) has been working for the past year to create a community garden on their property near downtown New Denver. Just a few weeks ago, an approach to the Village council was tabled before the council could discuss the proposal. The Chief Administrative Officer suggested the possibility of leasing some Village land for the community garden.

The HCS is proposing a community garden in New Denver to Hills, there was major cleanup of debris, dealfall and blowdown, and ditching and culvert work to improve drainage above the marsh north of the Girl Guide Camp.

“This is just the beginning of what will be a multi-year series of improvement projects on the rail trail,” said Mike Koolen of the North Slocan Trail Society. “There are three more bridges planned for 2021, and more trail improvements once the rail trail is designated non-motorized next October. We’ll be looking for the formation of a management group for the rail trail, and will hold public info sessions in the coming year.”

Local author releases first-hand account of Doukhobor community

The Doukhobors—both the South, the Freedom and the Glorious sects—led anti-military protests throughout the early 1900s, harboured draft dodgers in the ’60s, and stood up for their beliefs. In recent times, they had hosed down, arrested, and jailed. As a child, Elizabeth, and her family were interned in an abandoned logging camp while their father served time in Okalla Prison for charges related to a peaceful protest. In 1909, Elizabeth’s 12 children were institutionalized—one of a series of Canadian government efforts in assimilation.

In writing the book, Maloff says she “gained a deep respect and empathy for members of my family and an understanding of the conflict that they had been blocked grief.” Her grandchildren did so with dignity, without regret or blame. I hope I have done their memories justice.

The Doukhobors are a typically controversial group of Russian origin. There are an estimated 65,000 people of Doukhobor descent living in Canada today. Yet, in the 2011 Census, only 2,290 indicated their Doukhobor as their religion. The Doukhobors faced violence and pressure for their pacifist objections to military service and in February 1898, the Russian Tsar granted permission to the Doukhobor group of conscientious objectors to leave Russia. Approximately 8,780 Doukhobors emigrated to British Columbia between 1899 and 1910. The original settlement of Doukhobors in the Kootenay valley of British Columbia. Her writing, including the new memoir, reflects the influence of her Doukhobor grandparent, who were active in the peace movement. After retiring from teaching, Vera began to record family stories passed down from generations.

“I hope that readers will develop an understanding of the diversity of Doukhobor lives and go beyond the bizarre news reports that have dominated Doukhobor topics in the past,” says Maloff. “I hope they can understand the passion that drove my grandfather, to act on a principle, even when sacrificing the best interests of his family.”

Koozma J. Tarassoff, an ethnographer, writer, and peace activist, who knew P. N. Maloff, wrote, “Granddaughter Vera retracts her turbulent life through manuscript, newspapers, and interviews with family members and others—a giving us a picture of what it was like for him and his family and friends to go against the grain. For those who dare to actively work for peace and truth, this is a book for you.”

On the Slocan Lake section of the track from Rosebery to Summit Lake a pit in Hills, there was major cleanup of debris, dealfall and blowdown, and ditching and culvert work to improve drainage above the marsh north of the Girl Guide Camp.

November 19, 2020   The Valley Voice
Nakusp council, November 9: More applications for cannabis shops

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

• Nakusp could potentially have three pot shops in the next few months. After changing Village bylaws to allow more than one store, last month, council has received two applications for cannabis retail outlets.

But the public hearing on zoning for the first new shop, at 572 Highway 6 South, raised some concerns. Nakusp Fire Chief Terry Warren said the business location was at the crest of a hill, where driver visibility was severely limited. He said he knew first-hand of the danger there: his brother had been killed at that spot many years ago. Since that time there had been numerous other accidents and near-misses. With traffic pulling onto and off the highway, “it’s a very poor place” to have a business, he told council.

The owner of Nakusp’s current pot shop, which just opened a few months ago, also opposed the project. He said his business was established when council was supposed to only allow one retailer, and they should have a chance to get established before facing competition. He also said the highway shop would draw business away from downtown.

Council tabled the application until its next meeting, to give the applicant and Village staff time to address the concerns.

The second application for a cannabis retailer, for 201 Broadway Street, moved smoothly to the next stage of its application. Council gave the preliminary first and second readings to the zoning change needed. The public will now get its chance to weigh in on the matter before council makes a final decision.

Both applications will come back before council in December.

• Council is hoping the Region of Central Kootenay’s planning department can help them get through an avalanche of development applications. Staff are swamped with a huge increase in work, CAO Cheryl Martens told council, including a 10-lot subdivision development application – one of four subdivision applications, compared to none last year. Martens asked, and council agreed, to make a formal request for help from the RDCK. That will allow the regional government staff to review their workload and see if they have the capacity to take on the Village’s planning. The RDCK already provides building services.

The Village is hoping to have them look at the project by the end of January. The council tabled the application until its next meeting, to give the applicant and Village staff time to address the concerns.

Nakusp council urged to support green power generation

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The owners of a private electricity generating station are asking Nakusp Village councillors to support their drive for more choice for power customers.

Hul and Vida Turok own Silversmith Power and Light, a historic generating station in Sando. But while the station has produced power from water flowing downhill for more than a century, it faces an uphill struggle to get that power to market.

“Supposing the government ruled that only Toyota owners would be allowed to use the highways,” they said in a letter. “This would certainly trigger a revolt and the scenario seems farfetched. But, in reality, our publicly funded electrical grid (our electrical highway) is used by BC Hydro to limit the movement of electricity to itself and its friends” in order to restrict who can use it.”

Wright told councillors that the power they produce, which is renewably and clean, was not “green” energy. And BC Hydro’s monopoly on transmission lines has made small, truly green producers like them struggle to survive – and many local ones, like Homestead Hydro on Seaton Creek, haven’t.

“This local green business is now dead and because the grid is monopolistically controlled, they cannot even send their green electricity to markets that are wanting it,” Wright told council.

If council passed a motion endorsing the idea of using truly ‘green’ electricity, the couple says it could open up enormous possibilities for the community.

“This area could be a leading green energy provider to other areas that have a view of grid parity, but ownership of the grid is currently a problem,” they said in their brief.

“The Nakusp area has similar green electricity potential as Nelson. Not only can our area be 100% green, we could have millions of dollars more per year in our communities to pursue our cultural and environmental dreams.”

They told council Silversmith P&L could sell Nakusp ‘green’ power at the same rate BC Hydro charges – if they were allowed to.

The company’s request – one it’s brought to other local governments in the last year – was for council to pass a motion to “strive to procure and utilize certified green electricity to power all municipally owned buildings, pamps and street lighting as soon as it can be made available.” They said council could then write a letter to the BC Utilities Commission asking it to clear the roadblocks BC Hydro puts up to the sale of ‘green’ power.

Council directed staff to draw up a letter for consideration at the next meeting.

---

Fatal house fire near Edgewood

by Jan McMurray

A mobile home about 10 kilometres west of Edgewood went up in flames on Friday, October 30. Unfortunately, the renter was inside the trailer and didn’t make it out.

Floyd Webber, member of the Edgewood Fire Department, reports that the department was called out at 9 pm, and the trailer was fully engulfed when they arrived.

“Nothing knew where the renter was, so I phoned the police,” Webber said.

The police attended, found the body and called the coroner, who arrived the next day and transported the body to the hospital in Nelson, Webber said. The police stayed on site overnight and until noon the next day.

“All we could do [the night of the fire] was to try to save the stuff that was in the yard – a forklift, a holiday trailer, a barn and a couple of boats,” Webber said.

The owner lives nearby, Webber said, and he came to the site Friday and Saturday as well.

The department was called back to the scene on Saturday morning at 8 am to “cool it down,” Webber said.

---

4360 Hillcrest Avenue, Nelson, B.C. V1L 4W6
(250) 355-6888
www.silkelkirealty.com

Weekly Sponsor

SIL KIRK REALTY

Nakusp

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Nakusp Fire Chief Terry Warren said the highway shop would draw business away from downtown.

Street decorating will begin on November 27, however, and the public are welcome to come help.

• Concerns about the impact of automation on people have kickstarted plans for a high-tech recycling station in Nakusp. Encorp Pacific had asked council in October to allow one of their ‘Express & Go’ machines, a solar-powered, web- enabled, automated recycling station to be placed in Nakusp. Operating without staff, the company said the seacan-sized station “supports a growing need for innovative recycling infrastructure.”

But council was concerned about the impact on local community programs that employ people with diverse abilities. Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services hires several people to work at a human-scale recycling depot, and they told council the robo-recycling station would hurt the community.

The new system “would not only take away all these benefits and jobs from our crew, but also our little family we have built together since the launch of the program will feel like it has been torn apart,” wrote Christiansa Samui, the social venture coordinator for ASLCS.

Council rejected the Express and Go application.

• Village staff are hoping the Regional District of Central Kootenay’s planning department can help them get through an avalanche of development applications. Staff are swamped with a huge increase in work, CAO Cheryl Martens told council, including a 10-lot subdivision development application – one of four subdivision applications, compared to none last year. Martens asked, and council agreed, to make a formal request for help from the RDCK. That will allow the regional government staff to review their workload and see if they have the capacity to take on the Village’s planning. The RDCK already provides building services.

The company’s request – one it’s brought to other local governments in the last year – was for council to pass a motion to “strive to procure and utilize certified green electricity to power all municipally owned buildings, pamps and street lighting as soon as it can be made available.” They said council could then write a letter to the BC Utilities Commission asking it to clear the roadblocks BC Hydro puts up to the sale of ‘green’ power.

Council directed staff to draw up a letter for consideration at the next meeting.

---

Rats! Yes, they are in Nakusp.

But CAO Martens says there’s no need to panic. Council will be sending a mailer out to all residents with tips and advice about getting rid of the pests – and how to prevent them from becoming an even bigger problem. The Village may also try to encourage the establishment of a ‘rat patrol’ like one that was set up in New Denver, to act as a strike force against the rodents.

“If it has to be an initiative of the community,” she told council. “Council doesn’t have the capacity to do that.”

---

New Den, N LK 23, Nakusp

10 am – 6 pm
313 Hwy 23, Nakusp
250-265-7258

Wednesday – Saturday

This is Rewind!

Rewind is looking for a quiet, loving forever home.

This beautiful 9-year-old, short-haired, female has to move out of her home. Rewind is a very quiet and shy girl. She is showing her loving and caring personality to her foster family and is a joy to be around. If you are interested in her, please call PARL at 250-325-3720 today to see if your home is right for her very sweet and special kitty.

Your Home is right for this very sweet and special kitty.

The Valley Voice   November 19, 2020
Kaslo council hears last-minute pitch for Kemball Building grant

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Kaslo council opened last week with a request to support a last-minute application for funding to renovate the Kemball Memorial Centre.

Randy Morse, the communications director for the BC Rural Centre, asked council for a letter of support for a nearly $1 million grant application that was submitted that same day.

“This is a real opportunity for Kaslo,” Morse told council.

Morse said that he had been approached by a loose-knit group of tenants at the Village’s Kemball Memorial Centre, a historic building that contains tenants hoping to turn into a local business and tech innovation hub.

The group had learned of a $97,000 grant that was available through the Province’s Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program. The fund was developed to support the community, economic resilience and urban and rural economic development projects in the post-COVID world.

“This will help us up the skills in the infrastructure of the Kemball building,” says Morse.

But the tenants had a problem. They weren’t an official organization and couldn’t apply directly for the money. So they approached Morse at the BC Rural Centre and Morse and his group, if they agree, the Village has nothing to lose by agreeing to it.

The money would be used to upgrade the windows, heating system, deal with potential environmental problems – all issues identified in a consultant’s report on the building done two years ago.

“All the things necessary to bring the building up to code, and as someone half-laughingly put it, ‘finally make it insurable,’” Morse told council. The building would be a far more valuable community asset after the renovation work, he noted.

Morse said the letter of support would be proof for the funders that the building’s owner is on-side with the plan to work to do the job.

Morse told council that the grant was exactly what was needed to further his organization’s other aim, to make Kaslo the ‘21st-century communications centre’ for rural BC.

The Kemball building could become the physical centre of that manifestation of one of our greatest assets,” he says.

Morse said he would drop off a copy of the application at the Village hall for staff to review.

Kaslo council, November 10: Kemp Creek dam project postponed

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

• Fixing the Kemp Creek dam after last spring’s rains may end up being a lot more expensive than first expected.
• The tender for further repairs on the Village’s damaged water source has been cancelled after the only compliant bid came in nearly twice as high as budgeted.
• The Village’s damaged water source with a cost double the expected cost at $338,500.

So far the intake pipe has been restored, the road to the tailrace has been rebuilt and debris and hazards removed, Dunlop reported to council. But there’s still plenty of other work to be done: engineering and environmental assessments, concrete work on the dam and spillway repair, replacement or repair of incidental parts of the dam – the walkway, crane and handrails, stairs, etc. – and other work.

Staff and the engineering consultant recommended to council that temporary repairs will be done before winter and the rest of the work in spring when water levels are low. The dam will ensure the Village’s dam is safe and operational until work can resume.

About $191,000 of work has been done to restore the dam (covered by insurance and BC grants); about $250,000 still remains.

• The Kemp Creek dam is not the only public works project that’s going up in cost. The Kaslo River Drive project was originally budgeted at $304,000. In an update, CAO Dunlop told council that had now been estimated at more than $461,000.

The project will see remediation and riverbank protection work done at six erosion spots along the lower portion of the river, as it enters the Village.

“By the time we are working through environmental and federal fisheries permitting processes, Dunlop says they’re investigating how the shortfall will be covered - Village staff will be contacting the funding agent, the Union of BC Municipalities Structural Flood Mitigation Program – to inquire about further support for the project.

The Chamber of Commerce will hold the annual Christmas Light Up on December 5. Council approved requests for downtown road closures, a bonfire and opening and operating costs, emergency planning, bylaw enforcement and emergency services, computer and other tech costs to improve interconnectivity and virtual communications, and help for vulnerable people.

A motion was made to have a Community Hall for staff to review.

Village of Kaslo

KASLO & DISTRICT

INTENTION TO LEASE PROPERTY

It is the intention of the Village of Kaslo to lease a parcel of land and premises consisting of approximately, 147 acres known as Kaslo Shipyard to the Kaslo Shipyard Company Limited for a 5 year term beginning 1 November 2020 for an annual cost of $3,172.70 in the first year and $3,434.24 in the fifth year for property taxes and for paying the costs of operating a shipyard. For further information, contact the Village office, 413 Fourth Street, Kaslo B.C. at (250) 353-2311 on regular working days between the hours of 10 am and 3 pm prior to 12 Noon, Friday, 4 December 2020.

Ian Dunlop
Chief Administrative Officer

Expanding opportunities for Kaslo youth

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Mountain Outlook is proud to announce the “Youth Action Grant” made possible through a collaboration between the Kaslo & Area Youth Network and the Village of Kaslo.

The Mountain Outlook is proud to announce the “Youth Action Grant” made possible through a collaboration between the Kaslo & Area Youth Network and the Village of Kaslo.

The Mountain Outlook is proud to announce the “Youth Action Grant” made possible through a collaboration between the Kaslo & Area Youth Network and the Village of Kaslo.

The Mountain Outlook is proud to announce the “Youth Action Grant” made possible through a collaboration between the Kaslo & Area Youth Network and the Village of Kaslo.

The Mountain Outlook is proud to announce the “Youth Action Grant” made possible through a collaboration between the Kaslo & Area Youth Network and the Village of Kaslo.

The Mountain Outlook is proud to announce the “Youth Action Grant” made possible through a collaboration between the Kaslo & Area Youth Network and the Village of Kaslo.

The Mountain Outlook is proud to announce the “Youth Action Grant” made possible through a collaboration between the Kaslo & Area Youth Network and the Village of Kaslo.

The Mountain Outlook is proud to announce the “Youth Action Grant” made possible through a collaboration between the Kaslo & Area Youth Network and the Village of Kaslo.
large donations needed for matching funds
grooming. Small snow cat being sought,
to pay for parking lot ploughing and trail
Membership fees and daily passes help
groomed trails from easy to very difficult.
New Denver and Nakusp. Off-highway
Jackrabbits, racing programs and discounted
keyword: “Valhalla” Club membership
SKI TRAILS. Early bird memberships
tracks to VAHLALLA HILLS NORDIC
and make
GET OUT THIS WINTER
slocanlibrary.ca.
Bring a mask, use our sanitizer. Check out
250-353-2282.
Award
BUDDY’S PIZZA, KASLO:
CLASSIFIED ADS
HOURS
• All Organic Produce
• All Organic Grains
• Certified by the Province of BC to test drinking water
Instruments • Vintage Vinyl Records • New
• Guitars and Accessories • Musical
Email: dalyce@habenson.ca
Tel: (250) 358 - 6806
Email: sha01@telus.net
Sharie Merrifield
Financial Statements
Need to manage your GST, PST, MRDT, Worksafe BC, & Wage Deduction remittances?
WWW.RDCK.CA
email: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca
in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For
delivers the Self Employment program
loans, counseling & training; and
and a quaint
owner of the
Valley Voice
building on the main street of New Denver.
and a modest living for you and your family,
Bonnie & Dan.
If so, call Community Futures to learn about
the free Business Plan workshop open to anyone!
And if you’re eligible, you may also qualify for the Self-Employment
program where you will receive ongoing business start-up coaching and
usually financial support while you start your business. To learn more call
265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.
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 leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.
bc.ca.
CARD OF THANKS
WE WISH TO THANK the Veterans Affairs Canada Commemorative Partnership
Program for their funding assistance to help
support our Remembrance Day ceremony this year.
-Silvertown Community Club
COMING EVENTS
SLOCAN LAKE ARTS COUNCIL
AGM - November 29 at 2 pm. Slocan
Lake Arts Centre (aka Silverton Gallery)
and ONLINE. Seeking Board Members,
Secretary and Treasurer positions vacant.
Consider joining our team and helping
arts and culture thrive in our community!
Committee members and general members
always welcome! Get your membership
two to vote at the AGM. Details available
on our website - slocanlakearts council.ca
WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?
Writing About Community with Tom
Wayman. 9 am-12 November 28 & 29 at
the Slocan Lake Arts Centre, Silverton.
$60, pre-registration is required. Limit six
participants to observe physical distancing.
Visit slocanlakearts council.ca for more info.
The New Denver Community
MARKET Society AGM is happening on
Wednesday, November 25th at 5 pm. This will be a Zoom meeting so please
e-mail beforehand to get your invite -
ndmdaymarket@gmail.com
The Goat Mountain Kids
SOCIETY AGM will be held on December
2, 2020 at 6 pm. For health safety reasons,
we are asking that only five people from
local stores. Donations may be deposited
by December 10. Donations of food, gifts
Syrup, Raised Bed Vegetable culture,
New Market Foods
518 6th Ave • New Denver
250-265-0008 • WWW.RDCK.CA
Our hours are 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Gaia Tree Whole Foods
Community Market
• All Organic Produce
• All Organic Grains
• Grown on site, order up to 7 days in advance
• 8 pm, Easter Mon-Sat
Community Discount Day: Last Friday of the month
Mon-Sat 9-6
Sunday 1-3
Downtown Winlaw • 250-226-7255
New Market Foods
518 6th Ave • New Denver
250-265-0008 • WWW.RDCK.CA
Our hours are 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Gaia Tree Whole Foods
Community Market
• All Organic Produce
• All Organic Grains
• Grown on site, order up to 7 days in advance
• 8 pm, Easter Mon-Sat
Community Discount Day: Last Friday of the month
Mon-Sat 9-6
Sunday 1-3
Downtown Winlaw • 250-226-7255
CLOTHING
Raven’s Nest
CLOTHING, BOOKS & GIFTS
New Fall Hours:
Tuesday – Saturday
11 am - 4 pm
Closed Sunday & Monday
Main Street, New Denver
250-358-2178
with grants applications. hillsnordic@
gmail.com
THE NEW DENVER & AREA
HAMPER SOCIETY from Hills to
Enterprise Creek: Anyone wanting a
Christmas hamper call Sue 358-7787 or
Syl 356-2676 and leave a contact number by December 10. Donations of gifts, food
and money may be left in boxes and bins
in local stores. Donations may be deposited
e-mail: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca. Yours,
Dan & Jan.
CLASSIFIED ADS
ARE YOU ASPIRING ENTREPRENEUR? If so, call
Community Futures to learn about
the free Business Plan workshop open to anyone!
And if you’re eligible, you may also qualify for the Self-Employment
program where you will receive ongoing business start-up coaching and
usually financial support while you start your business. To learn more call
265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.
bc.ca.
November 19, 2020

The Valley Voice

### Health

**Shade Tree Massage Therapy**


[Email: shadetree@fastmail.com](mailto:shadetree@fastmail.com)

**FREE CLASSES**

*with Tyson, C.T.


### Classifieds

**CAREGIVER WANTED**

– Part time, 


### Community

**FREE CLASSES:**

Yoga with Tyson, CBT

shadetreemassagetherapy@fastmail.com

Jessica Coonen RMT 250 226-6887

office located in Winlaw. Mobile available.

**treatments. Clean, quiet, professional**

clients for therapeutic and relaxation

**SILVERTON LAKESHORE INN**

is looking for people who have witnessed: heavy machinery piling on our septic field, heavy machinery piling on our septic field, slander against the hotel or hotel owner.

Please email buyriteautosales@hotmail.com.

**NOTES**

RHYTHM OF LIFE: You can find the path to love, wisdom, and spiritual freedom by singing Hu every day. Singing RHYTHM OF LIFE:

sound-of-soul

freedom by singing Hu every day. Singing

[Email: jobs@kaslohotel.com](mailto:jobs@kaslohotel.com)

### Jobs

**Opening for a dishwasher. To apply, please**

250-358-2756.

**CAREGIVER WANTED**

– Part time,


### October snow dump nearly set record

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Weather forecasters say winter’s first visit in October was indeed unusual.

The Southeast Fire Centre’s weather office has released its summary of last month’s weather. And while overall temperatures and precipitation were more or less normal, it was punctuated by some bouts of more extreme weather.

“A series of alternating ridges and troughs within the prevailing westerly flow led to a normal month in terms of the mean monthly temperature,” says forecaster Jesse Ellis. “The number of days with measurable precipitation also fell quite close to normal: 13 days this year compared to the average of 12.”

Two daily precipitation records were broken when active fronts passed over the region on the 10th and 16th.

Then, winter came for a short visit on the 22nd. That’s when a dry northerly flow pushed colder and drier air into the area, the forecaster says. That front saw bitter winter temperatures for four days, breaking one daily minimum temperature, on the 25th, when the mercury hit -8.6°C.

But Ellis says the most notable event from that front was the early shot of accumulating snow – 11.4 cm – on the 23rd.

“This snowfall event was quite an anomaly – not only did it result in 9.5 cm more snow in that one day than the total monthly average, but it was also one of the earliest occurrences of a significant accumulation,” says Ellis.

“Over the last 20 years there have only been two other snowfall events exceeding 5 cm (2009 and 2006, with 7.2 cm both times).”

That snow dump came close – within 1.3 cm – of breaking a daily October snowfall record of 12.7 cm, set in 1975.

Even without breaking the record, it was still impressive, bringing 600% more snow than average for the month.

At least it melted a few days later, giving residents of the West Kootenay a second chance at fall.
A big thank you to all SLUGS volunteers

The Kohan Reflection Garden benefited from a satisfyingly good turnout to the Kohan Fall Cleanup last weekend on November 7 and 8. “We were somewhat concerned we’d become disconnected from our faithful and dedicated volunteers by COVID-19 disruptions to normal Kohan activities and volunteer events,” said Barb Yeomans, Slocan Lake Garden Society board member. “But all the regular volunteers, and some new ones, showed up for the two brisk and sunny days.”

Some folks came beforehand to set up compost bins or to rake and clean sections of the garden. Everyone raked leaves or trimmed perennials then filled the leaf composting bins to overflowing. Everyone raked leaves or trimmed perennials then filled the leaf composting bins to overflowing. On Sunday, an enthusiastic crew installed the holiday lights, which will be illuminating the dark winter evenings starting December 6. Despite the fact the SLGS board of directors decided not to serve a free lunch this year, the Kohan Garden volunteers work well on empty stomachs, albeit with some good-natured complaints. Next year, the board of directors promises to reignite the usual delicious hot lunches.

For the next year, the society is planning a major infrastructure project, installing a fence around the service area, where the mulch and compost bins are stored. Also, the society is currently developing a strategic plan for the future economic sustainability of the garden. This effort is sponsored by the CBT Non-Profit Advisors Program and the Central Kootenay Arts Council and will be presented to the public at the SLGS AGM in February 2021. SLGS extends thanks to the Village of New Denver for its contributions to the garden upkeep. The Village funded the removal of danger trees and pruning of the giant weeping willow. The public works crew also put in a fair bit of time to maintain and repair the irrigation system, regularly remove all the pruning refuse and clean up the woody debris from the spring freshet flooding of the lawn. Village support for the Kohan Garden is much appreciated.
Spicer’s Farm delivery service coming soon

by Jan McMurray

Spicer’s Farm in Nakusp will soon be delivering fresh vegetables right to customers’ doors. A new website where people can place their orders will be up and running in early December.

The Farmer Fresh Delivery website is being developed by sisters Jeannie Zorn and Michelle Downey. Zorn works at Spicer’s Farm, and Downey lives in Campbell River. “We were born and raised on a farm in Northern BC,” says Zorn, “and we understand the hard work and dedication it takes to farm. We want to help Janet [Spicer] with this tool. All she’ll have to do is fill the orders and deliver.”

Orders will be due on Mondays, and deliveries will be made on Wednesdays to Slocan Valley and Nelson, Thursdays to Revelstoke, and Fridays to Nakusp, Burton and Fauquier. Zorn says Spicer’s Farm has bought a van, and Zorn’s daughter Avery will do the deliveries.

People will be able to order their produce for a week or a month at a time, and pay with their credit or debit-credit card on the website. “The site will provide the tool to take orders and collect payment,” Zorn said. “Farmer Fresh Delivery will provide the bags for delivery, and we’ll take care of the marketing and all the customer feedback.”

The Farmer Fresh Delivery website is set up to expand to service the whole province. “We’re looking for farmers throughout BC to service every town and city,” said Zorn.

Zorn says she and her sister want to honour Janet’s many years of hard work by streamlining things for her through the Farmer Fresh Delivery website.

Spicer’s Farm was started up in the 1940s by Janet’s parents, Chris and Jean. Much of the farm was lost when the valley was flooded during the construction of the Hugh Keenleyside dam under the Columbia River Treaty. Janet has rebuilt the farm to close to its original size.

“Janet is not only an organic farmer,” Zorn says. “She is a visionary, an environmental activist and she truly grows the best carrots you will ever taste.”

The website will be ready for orders in early December at farmerfreshdelivery.ca. Zorn and Downey can be reached at farmerfreshdelivery@gmail.com.
Wolverine research study boosted by citizen science

submitted

Wildlife biologist and Selkirk College ecology instructor Doris Hausleitner has always had a penchant for species that are considered something of an underdog; those without champions to promote their cause. It’s no wonder then, that the elusive wolverine captured her imagination years ago when she was approached by friend and colleague Andrea Kortello to start the South Columbia Mountains Wolverine Project.

“Wolverines intrigue me so much,” said Hausleitner. “You go to the hardest-to-reach places and you’ll see the tracks of a wolverine bagging peaks and it looks like it’s doing it for fun. It really is awe-inspiring the amount of ground that they can travel in a day and the amount of terrain that they go over. Every time I think I know everything about a wolverine they’re always surprising me with what they can do.”

Funded by the Columbia Basin Trust, Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative with in-kind provided by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the South Columbia Mountains Wolverine Project started out using non-invasive genetic sampling of wolverine to estimate abundance and connectivity, and unmanned aerial vehicles to determine denning of wolverines. In recent years, the project has relied on citizen science observations collected through the online Wolverine Watch platform, which has been a wildly successful partnership.

“And so we’ve combined habitat modelling and our former work with genetics with the citizen science contribution to decide where we’re going to fly our drone and look specifically for dens or reproductive areas,” said Hausleitner. “All of the reproductive areas that we’ve found – all of them – have been informed by citizen science. It’s huge, it’s massive, it’s really a game changer.”

A species of concern in BC, wolverine are found at very low density on the landscape (two per 1,000 sq km – lower than bears) and cover vast areas. As a result, data collection is challenging and in the South Columbia mountains in particular, there was a large knowledge gap.

“One thing that our research really helped to illuminate is that wolverine are not as abundant as we thought they would be in our region,” said Hausleitner. Compounding this concern was the lack of harvest limits on wolverines combined with substantial barriers to wolverine movement such as the network of roads in the South Columbia mountains.

“If there’s an area that is heavily replenished and that’s what we were worried we would see happening.”

Their team shifted to a ‘drones and dens’ approach when they realized their focus had to be on making a direct conservation impact and that the reproductive piece was key to increasing their population. With low reproductive output to begin with, wolverine are vulnerable when they den in mid-February to mid-May at their reproductive sites, to which they have fidelity and return every year if they can.

“We thought if we could conserve just those areas we’ll probably have an impact on the conservation of the species,” Hausleitner said, “and so that’s where the citizen science piece comes in. If we could get other people to start seeing, being our eyes on the landscape, we’ll have a better idea of what’s happening and we’ll have a better idea of where wolverine are.”

To engage the public in their study area, the team joined forces with Wolverine Watch, started by Mirjam Barneto and used by a collaboration of scientists in BC and Alberta to collect citizen science observations on wolverine. Hundreds of sightings are collected each year with reports coming from as far as upstate New York, Alaska and the Yukon, and every single sighting is mapped and used in research, and the data is shared with whoever can use it.

“Every time we find a wolverine, we take steps. If it’s on Crown land we apply for conservation status, if there’s one in the park we’ve worked with provincial parks to create a wildlife management zone for it. We take each one and see if we can do something tangible. Putting aside one small denning area at a time, it feels like we’re doing something.”

Another tangible outcome was a research article the team helped co-author that was published in November 2019 suggesting wolverine trapping wasn’t sustainable in Southern Canada. In August 2020, the updated 2020-2022 Hunting & Trapping Regulations Synopsis for BC was released and included a ban on wolverine trapping within the Kootenay and Columbia regions.

“It’s nice to see that science-based management, it’s exciting,” Hausleitner said. She admits she had no idea eight years ago that she would still be skiing to remote locations trying to find traces of wolverines, or that the project would attract the interest of so many people recreating in the backcountry. She chalks it up to the wolverine’s elusive appeal.

“I think people like to have a little mystery and be in awe of something, like an animal out there being bad ass because they can. I don’t know if we spend time doing that enough in our lives.”

Visit the Wolverine Watch website to learn more: https://www.wolverinewatch.org/