submitted

Art on the Rails is an outdoor art exhibition on display for the month of February at four locations along the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. Until March 21, weather permitting, a snow sculpture at Crescent Valley and a series of digital print signs representing a variety of artists are accessible to ski or walk to (200 m) from four trailhead locations: Crescent Valley, Passmore, Winlaw and Slocan.

The project is a collaboration between the Slocan Valley Community Arts Council and the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society, thanks to funding in part by the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund.

The large snow sculpture is on display opposite Frog Peak Café at the Crescent Valley trailhead. The impressive carving is a pair of trumpeter swans, masterful in size and striking against a dark row of thick evergreens overlooking the river. Winter Guests is the title of the piece, created by the father and daughter team, Carl and Simone Schlichting.

Surrendering to the pandemic protocols, the arts council conceived the idea of hosting a ‘non-event.’ “Our hope was to create something accessible for our community to enjoy, and safe for all to engage in during these times where we cannot gather for events,” says Eden DuPont, president of the Slocan Valley Community Arts Council.

Artists responded to a call for entry earlier this year to submit digital images of their artwork for the exhibition. A selection of images has been curated into a vibrant compilation, representing a diverse collection of mediums and artistry. “We were thrilled with the response from artists,” said DuPont. “With very few parameters, it was remarkable how many submissions were noticeably inspired by place. We imagine participants cross-country skiing along the trail, or parking at designated locations and taking a short walk to see the art.”

People flock to the valley rail trail during the winter months to recreate and enjoy the well-maintained trails. The Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society grooms and tracksets the 50-kilometre-long rail trail, maintains kiosks, benches and outhouses, as well as plows trailhead parking lots.

“We’ve seen so many people out enjoying the trails and scenery this winter, and are really pleased that they’ll be able to enjoy the work of artists as well,” said Helene Dostaler, chair of the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society. “It’s the perfect setting for an art show!”

DuPont asks people to consider making a donation to the trail society at the donation boxes located at each trailhead, or by e-transfer to donate@slocanvalleyrailtrail.ca. “Come out for the swans, ski towards the art, and don’t miss out on the contests!” reminds DuPont, “You can take a selfie with one of the signs, tag #svartontherails (Instagram) and you’ll be entered to win one of the many draw prizes from participating artists.”

Visit www.slocanvalleyarts.ca to learn more about Carl and Simone’s snow sculpture and for detailed information about exhibition locations along the trail. Contact the arts council at svcarts@gmail.com.
by Jan McMurray

**Kaslo Jazz Fest cancelled for 2021**

It probably won’t come as a surprise that the Kaslo Jazz Etc Society has recently announced the cancellation of this year’s festival.

“The board made the decision and it was kind of a formality,” said Paul Hinrichs, executive director, in an interview. “We try to remain optimistic, but the writing is on the wall that this summer is going to be very different.”

Hinrichs said they are planning a festival for 2022 for sure, and they are open to doing something this year “if things shift.”

Hinrichs says in 2022, they hope they can “do a live event with an audience and some form of normalcy” but he doesn’t think it will be “back to normal” post-pandemic.

“I think it will be revising when it comes to events, rather than going back,” he said. “What if it’s going to take for people want to want to be in a crowd, in a compact environment? So there’s a lot we need to flush out before we can determine what 2022 is going to look like, but we’re certainly sitting tight. We do it however we can.”

Last year, the festival was streamed from the Admiralry House in downtown Kaslo with 80 people in attendance. The society rented the space and turned it into a livestreaming studio. Two bands a day performed live on the deck. Some artists submitted pre-recorded sets that they recorded in their own studios, and others played live from their own studios.

“We called it ‘Kaslo Home’ and it went really well,” Hinrichs said. “We had 100,000 views – more than all the people who have attended all the Jazz Festivals altogether, so that shows you the reach of the internet. For a small village like Kaslo, to reach an audience of that size – we’ll keep doing that however we can.”

Hinrichs said a “view” means a unique IP address on the site for at least a minute, so it’s not mean 100,000 people watched the whole festival – but it’s still impressive.

However, he said the on-screen festival isn’t the same as the live festival. “It doesn’t take you to the same place – but it’s better than nothing, so we’d be happy to do it again and we’ll see if we can do it again this year.”

The festival has reserved Admiralry House again for this year, “so if we can, we will,” Hinrichs said.

Last year, the festival offered ticket holders three options. They could get a refund, roll over their ticket to 2021, or donate or partially donate it back to the festival. This year, the roll over option will not be offered, so ticket holders will choose between a refund and a donation.

Hinrichs said most people rolled over their tickets to 2021, and many chose the donation option, which was “encouraging.” The roll over option won’t be offered this year, because, “We don’t know what 2022 is going to look like. Maybe we won’t be allowed to sell that many tickets. There are so many variables at play.”

Financially, this has been very hard on the festival. “It’s not as dire, but it’s a similar situation as when I took over in 2016,” he said. “We operate off ticket revenue. The federal wage subsidy and the rent subsidy have been helpful, and Canadian Heritage and Creative BC have increased their funding and have shifted to operational funding, so that’s been incredibly helpful. It’s not a great financial situation for a charity to be in, but ultimately the expenses are manageable and with the subsidies and support, we’ll be able to relaunch for sure. In the meantime, we’re not taking on any projects. Me and the bookkeeper are the only employees left. We’ll keep the lights on for as long as we can.”

Hinrichs closed with an appeal for support. “I look forward to bringing the Primary Care Network vision to fruition in Nakusp to forward to bringing the Primary Care Network vision to fruition in Nakusp to forward to providing high-quality, full-service family medicine and looking forward to bringing the Primary Care Network vision to fruition in Nakusp to complement the excellent medical model already in place,” the announcement says.

“Norm has been an early partner in UBC education to help establish the UBC KB Residency program. He is a mentor to young physicians and recently has been successful in recruiting many new graduates due to creating a welcoming and supportive work environment. Norm assisted administratively with the new ER establishment, helped with nursing shortages and is appreciated by nursing colleagues.”

He says he is “incredibly grateful” for the support people have shown the Jazz Fest with merchandise purchases and donations. “People remember, people care, they want us to keep going. It’s a very hard time, and the love we have received – it’s felt, it’s appreciated.”

New chief of staff announced as Dr. Norm Lea winds down his practice in Nakusp

Two new physicians coming to Nakusp this summer

by Jan McMurray

Long-time Nakusp physician and chief of staff for Nakusp and New Denver, Dr. Norm Lea, is winding down his practice in anticipation of a move to the Okanagan.

Interior Health reports that two new physicians have been recruited and are starting work in Nakusp in August 2021, and will take on the care of Dr. Lea’s patients. The two new physicians are Dr. Adam Stich, Dr. Lea’s former medical resident, and Dr. Kyle Rudge.

Dr. Chelsea Anchikoski, who has practiced in Nakusp since 2013, has accepted the role of chief of staff for Nakusp and New Denver effective February 15.

With the two new physicians in Nakusp, the village will have its full complement of five physicians. “I look forward to having two fresh new physicians here this summer, and to the stability that will come to our community,” says Daniel Abraham, chair of Nakusp’s physician recruitment committee.

In an Interior Health staffing announcement, Dr. Nattana Dixon-Warren of IH says new Chief of Staff Dr. Anchikoski “considers herself a local and permanent mentor to young physicians and recently graduated due to creating a welcoming and supportive work environment. Norm assisted administratively with the new ER establishment, helped with nursing shortages and is appreciated by nursing colleagues.”

The IH announcement says she is “considered herself a local and permanent fixture in this rural community” and that she is “excited about the opportunity to serve as a physician leader.”

Dr. Anchikoski has a passion for providing high-quality, full-service family medicine and looks forward to bringing the Primary Care Network vision to fruition in Nakusp to complement the excellent medical model already in place,” the announcement says.

“Norm has been an early partner in UBC education to help establish the UBC KB Residency program. He is a mentor to young physicians and recently has been successful in recruiting many new graduates due to creating a welcoming and supportive work environment. Norm assisted administratively with the new ER establishment, helped with nursing shortages and is appreciated by nursing colleagues.”

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Dr. Chelsea Anchikoski is the new chief of staff for the Arrow Lakes Hospital and Slocan Community Health Centre.
Backcountry ski touring proposal sparks idea for community plan

by Jan McMurray

A tenure application for a small-scale, non-mechanized commercial backcountry ski touring operation in the Slocan Valley has led to a groundswell of support for a community-driven plan for the proposed tenure area.

Conor Hurley, owner of Hurley Holdings Inc. and a resident of Slocan, hosted a Zoom meeting on February 17 to introduce his tenure proposal and to answer questions about it. About 20 people attended.

Although many people were passionately about keeping commercial operations out of the proposed tenure area, by the end of the meeting, there was a lot of support for a community land management plan or a community-held tenure, overseen by a local board of directors.

Hurley himself suggested the idea of a community land management plan “that allows locals like me to guide and locals like you, but I will keep going with the process. “That might upset some of the course with the application part of that… I am willing to adjust BC and I'd be very proud to be a member of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides. He has been guiding in this area and other areas of BC under the ‘incidental use’ clause of BC’s Adventure Tourism Policy. Hurley and his partner have recently had a baby, and he is looking for a way to continue his guiding career close to home.

“I want to keep doing what I’m doing, potentially with a little more volume,” he said.

He is proposing 50-150 user days a year, which translates to 50 days with a group of three guests or 30 days with a group of five guests. He said he usually guides with two or three guests.

He said he runs a very low-impact, “not cushy” operation. He is a strong proponent of the Leave No Trace program and is respectful of wildlife. “If we see wildlife, we go somewhere else.”

Hurley said he wants to work with the Valhalla Wilderness Program at W.E. Graham School to enhance the experience for the students.

Concerns about the proposal

The ability to sell the tenure was one of the biggest concerns Hurley had heard before the meeting. He said he was working with the lands manager on this, and “I can’t make the tenure non-transferable, but if I wanted to sell it, I would turn it over to the public.”

He also said that if he is awarded the tenure and wants a change in scope, he would have to go through the entire application process again, with public consultation.

There were concerns about the possible use of a Cat in the operation. Hurley explained that he has spoken briefly to a person who lives near the access and unsalable area for the tenure, and who owns a Cat. Hurley sees renting the machine as a way “to put money in his pocket to say thanks for putting up with us.” Also, it runs on biodiesel – recycled vegetable oil – so is much more clean burning than a snowmobile, Hurley said. It also provides an opportunity for grooming. Hurley said he will not use the Cat if the community is against it.

In response to a question about First Nations consultation, Hurley said he had been in touch with Marilyn James of the Sinixt in the Slocan Valley, and with the Colville Confederated Tribes. “I fully intend to get their insight and ask them how they want me to operate,” he said.

Hurley also answered a question about liability. “This is a non-exclusive tenure. You have a right to go there. I am not liable for your actions in my tenure. I can’t tell you to stay out.” He said a Controlled Recreation Area like Zincton can be exclusive, but this type of tenure is not.

See the notice on page 15 for this tenure application. Public comments are being accepted until March 28.

Hurley is planning more public Zoom meetings. Email him at arctoxguide@gmail.com.

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TRUMPETER SWANS

A conservation success from near-extinction in the 1930s due to settling hunting and the swan skin trade serving the Hudson’s Bay Co., to continuing expansion in numbers and range thanks to regulations and the protection of wetland habitat across N.A. A few spend part of the winter on Slocan River and Skikin Marsh in the north end of Slocan Lake.

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society
slocankeekes.com

MARCH 5 - 12 / 2023

ONLINE EVENT

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE
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TRUST

NORTH VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL
Dear Valley Voice editor

Are you in favour of not wearing a mask when among people other than your daily next of kin? Do you keep the six-foot distance in a shopping lineup? Do you truly believe, like Lisa Ross, that the 100.00% of deaths from COVID-19, as reported in the news, are a hoax?

Do you think that the reports of COVID-19 infected people the world over are lies? Do you think that medical doctors, virologists and politicians are playing a game to some mysterious power? Do you really believe that Dr. Bonnie Henry is out to get you?

If your answer to all these questions is no, then why do you publish sponsored pages like those of Ted Kuntz? Would you print claims that the Holocaust committed in Germany during the Nazi time never happened?

We are not dealing here with opinions, we are dealing with facts and their deniers. Free speech ends where lies and misleading people start.

Richard Eichenauer
Fauquier

Site C controversy

This controversy shows a demand for change!!

New rules:
1. Any project that cannot be completed (financially and physically) within the term of the sitting government must pass a referendum to proceed.
2. If any project started that did not go to referendum and was not completed within the term of the sitting government – the MPs/MLAs in that government lose their pensions.
3. No contract will be entered into that goes beyond the term of the sitting government (e.g., highways).

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous.

Letters will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

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

The COVID dichotomy

The dichotomy of the rhetoric surrounding the COVID pandemic would be more interesting if it weren’t so dangerous. Some of it is dangerous in the extreme, bordering on criminal negligence. The doctors and nurses and those professionals who have examined, studied, and understood the impact of this virus leads me to that conclusion. How could anyone argue against the reality that one can see, feel or touch? Where does conspiracy come from – a lack of education, misreading of events and facts, just not paying attention, not enough to do, or someone telling lies over and over until your brain is awash with flotsam and jetsam?

To believe that the entire hierarchy of the world’s countries and the capitalist system are plotting and planning a pandemic is ludicrous beyond belief. Some countries are still at war with others and have long-standing disputes that seem never to reconcile. How do some think that they would cooperate to create a virus that kills so many?

To deny the reality of COVID-caused death is also ostrich-like behaviour: you can only look the other way for so long until facts and evidence are insurmountable and then, perhaps you could be dragged kicking and screaming into consciousness.

Reality is that it is safer to live and work here in the Interior Wet Belt where winter tourists are few and far between, keeping us away from infection rates that are found in larger populated areas. Not to say it couldn’t happen here if we let our collective guard down.

It is a very simple thing to do, get in touch with reality, wash your hands, keep a safe distance and wear a mask. Simple cooperation and concern for your fellow citizen should be our goal. Do no harm!

Jim Van Horn
Kaslo

Canadian humanity

A landmark legal decision by the German court declared that regional containment policies – including lockdowns, social distancing, prohibitions on gatherings by family or friends – are unconstitutional. The judge called lockdowns a “catastrophically wrong political decision with dramatic consequences for almost all areas of people’s lives.” Denmark is marching currently as one people – millions of humans being together to drop the COVID mandates that make no sense, are unconstitutional, and are restrictions against free will.

New Zealand seems to have some unspoken alliance among their entire country and their political leaders have announced no COVID cases, closed their borders and are living happily with the same freedoms as they did before.

I offer New Zealand much respect for this display of leadership.

There are more, Italy and so on... Have we lost our Common Senses?

Do you remember what it was like to be a child at home with a flu? Do you remember Mother’s warm hug, tender gaze and kind words? Do you remember being told tenderly, you need a day’s rest in a warm bed, hot soup and warm fresh lemon and honey tea? Do you remember warm smiles among the community around you? Do you remember sharing art and dancing? Do you remember discussion freely without fear or tension offering you space to grow and discover a sense of humour and laughter? Do you see this child within the people who come to you for help?

Do you remember what service to humanity truly is?

This was my conversation with an elder nurse in Victoria. She was telling me the hospital is packed and everyone is overwhelmed (December 20, 2020). What can be done? I asked her what she was telling the people. That they may have some potentially deadly disease and that they need to be quarantined and tested – offering them no useful information related to their health and wellness, their well-being, not offering them the humanity she received and is meant to return to others now. I told her to remember to be herself, be brave and help others as she knows how to do!

“You are not just a nurse,” I said, “it’s time you rise up and see more than just titles! You have been a mother on this earth and there is not a greater service or feeling in this universe than offering another human their humanity, peace of mind, freedom and joy. You have this power within you and it grows when it is shared. Remember the doctors who inspired you so long ago. What did they say to you?”

We all have this power, for it is our love and it grows when it is shared.

Canada, please stand together for Our Common Senses, Our Humanity, Remember...

Nicholas Anthony Cifarelle
and Guru Gian
Silverton

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

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The Valley Voice
Denial, Disinformation and Conspiracy Theories

by Anne Sherrod

We live in a world beset by dangers of a magnitude that my generation had never seen until recent times. I am speaking of climate change, an existential threat to our species, but also the growing threat to our democracies due to disinformation. Protecting ourselves demands individual and collective efforts.

Unfortunately, it is easier to turn a blind eye to the evidence, and accuse the messengers of lying, to justify an angry re-feeding of the strange bedfellows of the religious and the science denialists and others — whether it’s paying a gas tax, wearing a mask, restricting business, or (in the US) accepting the results of a democratic election.

The current local example is summarized in an email distribution by a group called Kootenay Freedom. "There has been an unprecedented attack on people who value freedom by local and provincial governments, by mainstream media and by various individuals who believe that we should give up our rights and freedoms because there is a one in 10,000 chance that someone may get sick. All without direct proof that the COVID virus even exists."

Elsewhere, as in letters to the Valley Voice, we are told that most doctors are conspiring in the misrepresentation. The denunciation is that doctors who dare point out the plausibility that Covid is becoming less virulent, or proportion, while omitting that perhaps 99% of doctors are telling us it is not.

Of all of us who listen to the doctors — we are “sheepies” who don’t care about freedom. Oh, and we’re not supposed to believe the doctors — because that’s an “ad hominem attack”.

In service to proving that Covid-19 is a hoax, it is over-blown, and there is no proof of its existence, facts are being distorted to create a barrage of distractors: the tests are inaccurate, the number of cases is inflated, the vaccine is dangerous, but Covid-19 — “we’re to believe that it’s harmless. This ignores 2.4 million deaths worldwide in a little over a year.”

As an environmentalist, I first encountered a misinformation assault against irrefutable science in regards to population and species extinctions. Oil and gas companies trotted out contrarian scientists to claim that there was no climate change. Sorry to say, the denial industry can usually find one or even a hundred Ph.D.s or M.D.s to “verify” their false claims. They rely on us not to question reality, not seeing the doubt, because doubt robs people of the conviction needed to undertake the necessary, but inconvenient, changes.

Finally, a study at Yale University found that 97% of climate articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals affirmed that climate change was real and caused by humans. (https://climate.nasa.gov/scien
tific-consensus/). This represented an estimated 90-100% of publishing climate experts. Were all of them conspiring to hoax the public? For years? Was it logical to think so? Are 99% of medical doctors, nurses and health authorities lying to us about Covid-19?

The oil industry campaigns were highly successful, so today we read about forest fires, massive die off of forests, life-threatening droughts, and more and more extreme weather events—and politicians and members of the public who deny climate change.

Latest Covid-19 deniers have seized on a study by the World Health Organization (WHO) to support their claims that Covid-19 is a hoax. They say that the WHO, and their global health emergency (a cover for the pursuit of vaccines for anti-vaxxers) has admitted that Covid-19 tests using PCR technology produce “false positives” that grossly inflate the number of Covid-19 cases. This claim appeared in letters in the last two Valley Voices.

As a layperson, my fact-checking journey took me to many websites, including the relevant documents by WHO, the comments of Dr. Fauci in an online video, and various fact-checking sources. I found that the anti-Covid crowd has taken simple facts and reconstructed them to grossly inaccurate conclusions. One prominent fact-checking organizations concluded their claims were false, when the overwhelming evidence was to the contrary. Fact checkers for the New York Times, the Washington Post, the BBC; concluded: “WHO released guidance on proper use of tests, it did not admit PCR tests showed inflated infection numbers.” The WHO document itself verifies this. The PCR tests are actually considered highly accurate as to whether an individual has or has had the virus.

Unfortunately, the internet is deluged by the false claims. I well recall researching climate change on the internet and finding an avalanche of attacks on the science. There were cries that men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.” (The amazing Helen Keller, 1880-1968). Bill White

Time to change course from resource extraction
Right up to the present, the Canadian governments, provincial and federal, have embraced resource extraction for the export market as being the best way to plan for the future. Look at the advantages: in their own words, only the oil industry has to deal with a few players. They don’t need to depend on taxpayers for enough money to run things, they don’t need to be beholden to them. An easy way out, as espoused by Steven Harper.

So the thought is, the big resource extractors – logging, mining, oil and gas – pay the shot. But what happens when that all goes south? You find governments locked into schemes that don’t – can’t – work anymore. Like Trudeaue building a dilbit pipeline. The only market for bitumen is in the southern US, not Asia. It was never Asia. And this is the best thing right now is to shut the oil sands down to export altogether until global warming, climate change, CO2, have come under control. In Asia, much of the new energy supply is coming from renewables.

Coal is being phased out. Natural gas will have a market for a few years, but then it, too, will be phased out as well. So here we are, with the provincial government pushing LNG, and willing to throw a lot of money at it – probably more money than they will ever make back.

continued on page 6
The great debate

Death is not the only disastrous effect COVID-19 can have. It can also cause long-term damage to people’s health. People sceptical about the pandemic have never mentioned this very important fact.

It is obviously hard to attribute the cause of death of a person who was old and had two or more serious medical conditions. However, I read of a doctor in the USA who was in trouble for stating that COVID-19 deaths were being undercounted in an area so that the officials, when Trump was president, didn’t look so bad. Also, I read today that, “After 10 years of inaction,” according to the BC governor, Andrew Cuomos is facing an uproar over revelations that his administration intentionally and drastically undercounted the deaths from COVID-19 in nursing homes. Clearly the problem swings in both directions.

I have read scientific articles that say mask wearing and what seem others that don’t. It is one of those topics that one would think would be very easy to prove one way or the other, but in practice has many variables that would make it difficult to provide evidence to the possibility of controversy remains.

There is however much anecdotal evidence that masks help reduce the transmission of viruses. Mr. Kuntz states that there is no evidence that asymptomatic carriers of the virus can transmit it. However, from a study carried out in South Korea, “98 of the 110 asymptomatic patients did not develop symptoms over the course of a 20- 28 day follow-up timeframe, according to the researchers. However, they found that the asymptomatic patients had as large of a viral load in their noses, throats, and lungs as patients who were infected with the coronavirus and developed symptoms of COVID-19.”

Asymptomatic carriers would be less effective at transmitting the virus only in that, being asymptomatic, they do not cough or sneeze.

I agree with Mr. Kuntz that it is most disturbing that vaccine producers have been found guilty of illegal marketing. Add to that the sinister fact that contracts for vaccines are legally required to be kept secret. I also agree that the measures taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19 are psychologically damaging us as a planet and I think no one would deny this. But I find it hard to imagine that the techniques of social distancing, wearing masks, and washing our hands a lot aren’t cutting down COVID-19 transmission. I’ve heard that flu transmission is much lower this year as a result of the above. If I know some people believe believe there is a world conspiracy to take away all our freedoms and make slaves of nearly all of us for the 1%. If so then there is no time at all the countries of the world agreed on any line of action. Frankly, one of the few things I think I can be certain of is that this will never happen.

Keith Newbury Sloan
Not the time to engage
The TV opinion pieces have struck new lows. “...minus mask, you are putting my life in danger”. “...for right agent provocateur...”.

“...fantasyland of conspiracy theories...” “B.S. whining and crying...”. Then there are those throwing around statistics and those who can hardly wait to get the vaccine (not really a “vaccine” though more accurately an experimental inoculation), to have things return to “normalcy.” And there are those saying “Even with safe, effective vaccines and the following of responsible guidelines, we will be back to “normal” for a year or two or three to come.”

There is a bit of truth to this last part. Despite irational hope, the new “vaccine” does not offer real or even decent immunization. It won’t be as effective as some would like it to be and if the pandemic runs its course “in time” (CTV news Jan 8, 2021).

Regarding masks: just as Dr. Theresa Tam states (video available from left-brain thinking to right brain thinking of your body even when you are wearing a mask (eyes for example) and that gives a “false sense of security.” Ah, security. The sale for irrational fear and desperation. Is it any wonder people clutch to treatments and cures that don’t really make sense, simply because they are part of the established/collective norm?

Truly, the length of the effort required to deal with this largely outside our control just as the lockdown was. Disaster capitalism is driving for the end-zone. Klein describes it as “…the way private companies are using the pandemic for profit from large-scale crises.” There are powers that be, not all concerned with overall health. In fact, they profit from an unhealthy population.

But I digress. This isn’t the time to engage. It’s time to move on to the larger questions. To our instincts. Deep within, for those willing to hear and see, are inner truths.

We need to be in the sun, breathing in deeply. We need to oxygenate ourselves. Check out Wim Hof breathing tutorials (free online videos). It’s time to alkalize our bodies, lower acidity, and deal with body stress, digestive irregularities, hormonal imbalance, body pains/discomfort, and much more (information online). It’s time to no longer engage.

We’re dealing with embedded fear and apprehension. We need giving the world back to every community, to our instincts, to our sovereignty. It’s time to build prosperous local economies and tight-knit communities. Time to turn to local food security, grow locally and save seeds. It’s going to take more effort and we likely won’t return to “normalcy.” Maybe it’s time to question “normal.”

There’s a decent chance we could make our lives and world better. For those who are desperate, those holding on to make-shift life preservers provided by a deeply flawed system, I turn to questions and reflections. How can I be more heart-centred? What am I giving back? Do I want to connect to the Earth, to future generations?

What am I perpetuating? What can I give that will last, that will be sustaining?

T. Orlando Winlaw
Corona determines our life
We would like to thank Ted Kuntz on his great piece, “The Right to Question,” in the February 11 Valley Voice.

One year has passed and people still behave like the “three monkeys.” The mask is now the symbol of oppression. People display more anger, frustration and aggression. For many hundreds of years, we have had this sense of environmental awareness and survived the annual flu, Ebola, AIDS, HIV, Asian flu, SARS or bird/swine flu and never had lockdowns. We have to treat COVID-19 as a reinforced flu, not a damn death sentence for our country.

The laziness of humans worldwide is epidemic. The whole isolation scam is fear-based and not science-based.

If you trust the government, then you must have failed history class. Politicians have been constantly caught lying. This is a true and complete power play. Do your own research. To think for yourself is perhaps too exhausting – so it’s easier to leave it to the government to listen to the social and mainstream media. Repeat a lie often enough and it becomes truth.

But those who find the practice of ‘torture’ acceptable have not only abandoned their humanity, they have also forgotten their history and fallen for a lie.

The government is promising ‘safety and security’ in exchange for our freedom. The government misuses power and the coronavirus is a great excuse to steal our freedom and nobody questions anything.

Start questioning:
Why did the government of BC fail to inform British Columbians about the deception around the use of face covering (Ministerial Order 425)? Why did the BC Legislative Assembly pass Bill 19 (Public Health given unlimited power, an assault on our bodies)? Why does the government of BC violate the Charter of Rights & Freedoms, Sections 2,7,8,9,15? Why does the government of BC threaten, threaten and destroy people’s lives? Why does the government of BC call “positive-tested” “infected”? Why is the government of BC allowing the use of a test (the RT-PCR test) that is inappropriate for discovering/ diagnosing a virus infection? Why does the lockdown not work with all the restrictions? Where do the death numbers come from? Did they do autopsies? Where is the math behind the numbers? Why was ‘vaccine’ emergency approved and rushed to develop? Why can you still get coronavirus when you have been ‘vaccinated’? Why will COVID-19 bio-agents fail to end the pandemic?

Why are we human guinea pigs? If COVID-19 is so dangerous, why aren’t homeless people wiped out? Are all the governments in the world that are publishing the only two interest groups for consultation – and groups that have a vested interest in killing wolves at that time, the BC government has been gravitating towards a stance that recognizes only hunters, trappers and First Nations as having a valid interest in the province’s wildlife. Past administrations have even considered giving control of BC wildlife management to private interests dominated by hunter, trapper and guide outfitter groups.

This has been infuriating to the many BC residents who aren’t hunters or trappers, but who are aware of the crucial role that apex predators have in maintaining ecosystem health in BC. BC’s wildlife belongs to ALL British Columbians.

The Globe & Mail also quoted you as saying, in regards to the hunting and trapping of wolves: “As far as I am concerned, there are no conservation concerns.” Please reconsider this common fallacy that has long been promoted by hunters, trappers, and some wildlife managers who are in the pay of the science of ecology. Does “—no conservation concerns”—infer that we can kill as many wolves as we want to
February 25, 2021

The Valley Voice

LETTERS

continued from page 6

because their breeding habits make it difficult to wipe them out?

And if there are no conservation concerns, then is there no need to include these areas of common ownership of flora and fauna groups, wildlife viewing businesses, and unaffiliated citizens who value our wildlife alive?

If this is the case, we assure you that wolves have been wiped out over a vast area of the United States. They were nearly wiped out historically in parts of southern Canada from early trapping, strychnine poisoning and persecution. But conservation concern for wolves must also include the crucial role that wolves play in maintaining the balance of species in an ecosystem. Simply reducing wolf populations can have very negative ripple effects in ecosystems that can extend to wiping out other species.

Your desire to “close the loopholes” is clear. But it is notoriously that hunters, trappers, and their organizations, who believe they have large carnivores regularly killed in order to increase ungulate populations, for no other reason than to make it easier for humans to hunt them. That is not science, and it is detrimental to biodiversity, which healthy wolf populations promote. Conservation organisations believe this could introduce serious bias into the new rules that you propose to put in place. That would be a betrayal of the public trust vested in a government that is supposed to be committed to fairness to all.

We therefore request that the environmental groups, independent conservationists, independent scientists and non-consumptive wildlife viewing tourism businesses have standing equal to hunting and trapping interests in this matter. Please bring your attention and that hunters, trappers, and their organizations, who believe they have large carnivores regularly killed in order to increase ungulate populations, for no other reason than to make it easier for humans to hunt them. That is not science, and it is detrimental to biodiversity, which healthy wolf populations promote. Conservation organisations believe this could introduce serious bias into the new rules that you propose to put in place. That would be a betrayal of the public trust vested in a government that is supposed to be committed to fairness to all.

We therefore request that the environmental groups, independent conservationists, independent scientists and non-consumptive wildlife viewing tourism businesses have standing equal to hunting and trapping interests in this matter. Please bring your attention and那。请把你的注意力和那。请把你的注意力和

Friends of the Lardeau River, Mt. Willet Wilderness Forever, Valhalla Wilderness Society

Not surprised about Zincout

I was saddened but not surprised to read that the Zincout resort plan got the go-ahead from our development-province provincial government. That is the unfortunate truth about our so-called NDP government with John Horgan at the helm. Given the chance, they will develop everything to within an inch of its life. They will want to clearcut your mountains, they will give you a chance to comment on the demise of the last remaining old growth, as they are in the Duncan and Lardeau Valleys, but likewise, sorry for you. The NDP has gone down this trail twice, when before welcomed, Omer and his clan to take ownership of this beautiful land. Given the so-called NDP government with John Horgan at the helm. Given the chance, they will develop everything to within an inch of its life. They will want to clearcut your mountains, they will give you a chance to comment on the demise of the last remaining old growth, as they are in the Duncan and Lardeau Valleys, but likewise, sorry for you. The NDP has gone down this trail twice, when before welcomed, Omer and his clan to take ownership of this beautiful land.

If the NDP doesn’t have enough for them to employ, they could build themselves delving into a hole that is the maintenance, inland ferry operation, BC Ferries, BC Transit, electoral energy producers (like Fortis), and freight, should all be public enterprises. If the NDP still believed in their founding principles. If not now, then? They have a very solid majority.

Rod Retzlaff

Birds, gravel and insanity

The little crossbills and siskins flock to the highway for gravel; they are small bits of energetic fluff in the vastness of deep snow. How do they thrive on the mountainside through the short days and long frigid winter nights? How does a tiny bird keep its warmth in the face of such a hostile environment? Flying through their icy world they seem to scoff at any concern with ‘wind chill’. The flock looks down and sees the only open gravel available to them. Down to the road they fly and, like deer to a salt lick, they cannot believe their good fortune. They bubble with glee, chittering and chattering among themselves over the perfection of their find.

Eighty years is nowhere long enough for them to evolve an understanding of how lethal a chorus of gravel travelling at over 82 feet per second can be. We, on the other hand, think of our cars as mere toys, and choose not to extinguish something just because it is perched in our path.

Almost all bird populations on our planet are in jeopardy, the little crossbills and siskins are no exception. What is the track record? What does “emergency use authorization” mean exactly? When the company says the vaccine is 95% effective, what does that mean? What is it effective at? Will it stop me getting infected? Keep me from transmitting to others? Reduce symptoms? How long is this effectiveness predicted to last? If I get the shot, will my life go back to normal? Was the shot tested on people in my age group with my medical conditions? What is it in? (You can ask to see the package insert, then go away and read it in detail before making a decision. Very few people do ever read this.) Did it undergo animal trials? How does an mRNA shot work? Has this technology been used before? How is this different from a regular vaccine? Are there long-term safety studies? During the testing of this product, how many people experienced adverse events or death? Ditto for people receiving the shot now? (Keep in mind that most vaccine manufacturers are not doing the test properly. They may have standing equal to hunting and trapping interests in this matter. Please bring your attention and那。请把你的注意力和

Informed consent

Informed consent is crucial when choosing medical treatment, and no one should ever coerce you one way or another. If you are slow learners, if you only see, local people can’t be trusted to decide. The benefit to the population at large is paramount.

Right to a choice

Who is the manufacturer? What are my chances of making a full recovery? Is it effective at? Will it stop me getting infected? Keep me from transmitting to others? Reduce symptoms? How long is this effectiveness predicted to last? If I get the shot, will my life go back to normal? Was the shot tested on people in my age group with my medical conditions? What is it in? (You can ask to see the package insert, then go away and read it in detail before making a decision. Very few people do ever read this.) Did it undergo animal trials? How does an mRNA shot work? Has this technology been used before? How is this different from a regular vaccine? Are there long-term safety studies? During the testing of this product, how many people experienced adverse events or death? Ditto for people receiving the shot now? (Keep in mind that most vaccine manufacturers are not doing the test properly. They may have standing equal to hunting and trapping interests in this matter. Please bring your attention and那。请把你的注意力和

Open letter to healthcare professionals

First, thank you for all you are doing during this pandemic. As a nurse, I can appreciate the increased workload and stress you are experiencing and value immensely your commitment to keeping the healthcare system working during this challenging time. I’m writing now, during COVID, because scientists are reminding us that we face an even larger crisis, that of climate change. The World Health Organization stated that climate change is the greatest threat to global health. With that in mind, I would like to ask, ‘What can or should we be doing as healthcare providers?’ Whether we like it or not, we will be on the frontlines dealing with the health effects of climate change. It’s time to integrate climate action into our practices and use our influence to change policy.

Scientists say we have 10 years to turn this around. For me, the way to do that is to get involved. I’ve found that informing others about the immensity of the problem is a great way to turn this around. For me, the way to do that is to get involved. I’ve found that informing others about the immensity of the problem is a great way to

Lisa Ross Kaslo

Climate crisis

With COVID front and centre, you may have missed some of the good news stories about how our community is tackling the other big crisis, climate change. Like the pandemic, it requires action on multiple fronts, from global to local, from individual to collective. While we celebrate our local gains, we also need clear policies at all levels of government that support and amplify our local initiatives. We need common sense alignment of those policies. For example, we need to stop subsidizing fracking if we want carbon pricing to be effective.

We need citizens willing to continue to push hard for the better future we want. We hope you will take time to talk to family, friends, and hear what they are excited about, and also what their concerns and fears are for this transition. We share so many common values – fresh air, clean water, healthy forests, our own health, and our children’s future.

Lauri Sacks and Judy O’Leary, Nelson-West Kootenay chapter of Citizens’ Climate Lobby

Northwest Kootenay Healthcare Professionals for a Healthy Climate

Learning from the flu

It seems that the measures most of us are taking to tamp down the spread of COVID in our communities has an unintended consequence. Influenza has virtually ceased to exist this year. In the first five weeks of 2021, just 57 cases have been confirmed in Canada whereas the average for the same five-week period during the past six years is 29,973. Although the testing level is similar, it is more likely that the number of flu cases is an underestimate because the flu whereas the six-year average is a 24.9% positive result. Whereas it is estimated that an average of 3,500 Canadians die each year from influenza, it seems possible that there may be no deaths from influenza this year. (All figures from www. canada.ca)

The big difference between this year and the past six years is the measures we are taking to control the spread of COVID. As both COVID and influenza spread the same way – through droplets from breathing, sneezing, coughing and talking in close quarters – just maybe all that has made COVID so deadly, making social distancing, hand-washing and disinfecting is paying a very huge dividend in lives saved.

So far 21,577 Canadians have died from COVID in the 11 months since the epidemic began. We can see the drastic effect those measures seem to have had on reducing influenza this winter. Is it not reasonable to conclude that the death count from COVID would now be very much higher if we had not put them in place.

Rory Lindsay

Lemon Creek
John Gates retires after 12 years as Slocan fire chief

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

The Slocan Fire Department held a COVID-safe celebration on February 10 to mark John Gates’ 75th birthday and his retirement as Slocan’s fire chief. With lights flashing, the volunteer firefighters drove Engine 461, a pumper, and Rescue 46, a medical first response and technical rope rescue vehicle, down Slocan Street and then up Harold Street to Gates’ home. The volunteer firefighters stood in Gates’ yard, lit sparklers, and sang Happy Birthday. They also set off a few very small, very legal fireworks. Post-COVID, a more formal retirement ceremony will be held with RDCK Regional Deputy Fire Chief (Training) Brent Scott. Gates is a highly respected and much-loved leader. “He’s been very dedicated to the fire department and has built up a great team,” said Devin Lindsay who has been appointed Acting Fire Chief. “He’s been a great mentor.”

Gates has been a member of the fire department for more than 20 years. At the turn of the millennium, he was one of eight people asked by Bill Patterson to become first responders. At that time, Gates said, Premier Gordon Campbell had “hacked all our hospitals” and Patterson was concerned that there was no medical coverage in the area. After agreeing to be trained, the group learned that first responders had to be members of a fire department – so that is when Gates joined the fire department.

“The downside” of being a first responder, Gates said, was responding to calls for friends with cardiac arrest. He said the main job, once you know first aid and CPR, is to give comfort to the family. “I did lots of that,” he said.

In 2006, Gates became the deputy fire chief and in 2008, fire chief. Twenty-five years of military service gave him the leadership, material management, and administrative skills to do the job. The fire chief is in charge of getting equipment, filing reports to the RDCK and the Province, and attracting and keeping new members. “As chief, you have to be a diplomat,” he said. He estimates that as fire chief, he has worked 25 hours a week on average.

Gates has seen a lot of changes over the years. When he first started, the fire department operated out of the back part of the old Village public works shop. The firefighters had no meeting space and had to pull the trucks out to make room to meet. Then the Slocan Volunteer Fire Department amalgamated with the RDCK. The new fire hall with a meeting space upstairs was built and trucks and equipment were updated.

Gates says the fire department “is doing well” now and has “fairly new trucks and gear.” There are 23 members, down from the 30 they had before the pandemic started. One of the things that has changed under Gates’ leadership is how many more women are firefighters. Seven women are now volunteers; before Gates was chief, there had only been one or two on the force. Gates said the majority of the new firefighters are in their mid-20s to early 30s. “I really like the young people that are coming out,” he said.

The night in 2005 when the Slocan Motel caught fire is one memory that stands out for Gates. The motel had been repeatedly renovated and the fire was “a nightmare to put out.” The main building burned down but the captain kept his hose trained so that “a collector car six feet from the building” was saved. The firefighters worked all that night and into the next day. “It took a full day to put that fire out,” Gates said.

“The town wouldn’t be the town it is if there wasn’t a group that does this,” he added.

The vast majority of calls are for first response, Gates said. “People around here are pretty good. They don’t go off the road.” If you do though, the firefighters are fully trained in rope rescue and have all the equipment and training needed. Lindsay and another firefighter have also taken a course in vertical rescues to help with accidents on cliffs and steep embankments. “If you go off the road, we can come and rescue you,” Gates said.

During the summer, much time is spent “telling young people to put out fire in dangerous spots. They’ve taken a liking to the mill site,” Gates said. “Touch wood, but we haven’t had one fire yet this year.”

Now that he’s retired, Gates is going to focus on his other community commitment, the Royal Canadian Legion. He is the Legion Zone Commander for the West Kootenays and is responsible for nine branches: Nakusp, Slocan Valley, Castlegar, Grand Forks, Trail, Rossland, Salmo, Nelson, and Kaslo.

Gates said, “I think Devin will do a terrific job. He has jumped right in there and is really working at it.” He said Devin Lindsay is at the fire hall two or three times a week and has been doing all the fire chief’s work since Christmas. Lindsay was previously deputy fire chief.

Slocan’s fire department serves the area from just north of Cape Horn to the top of Perry’s Hill. Slocan’s first responders cover a little larger area – all the way south to Nixon Road in Appledale. The volunteer firefighters meet every Tuesday evening at the fire hall to practice their skills. “We always welcome more new members,” said Gates. Training is provided and firefighters are paid when they are answering a call. Prospective members can call the fire hall at 250-355-2943 or check out the RDCK website.

The Slocan Fire Department serves Slocan, New Denver, Silverton & Area H

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) invites the public to provide input into the development of the 2021-2025 RDCK Financial Plan.

Time: 5:00 p.m.  
Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021  
Location: Virtual Meeting - Visit rdck.ca for information on how to participate in the meeting.

Connect with RDCK Directors and staff • Ask questions • Find out about projects and initiatives happening in your area • Learn about the RDCK • Provide feedback

rdck.ca
Press Pause, Let’s Provincial petition launches in response to Zincton submitted

A petition asking for a pause on the Zincton resort developments in the New Denver-Kaslo corridor has launched, asking the Province to help the region come up with a good plan for a healthy future.

“Where the Province cares about rural areas,” said Nicky Blackshaw, a spokesperson with the Wild Connection, the coalition which organized the petition, “the Province is failing BC to demonstrate its commitment to modernized land use planning. We want an updated land use plan for our region.” Until then, the group says, there should be a moratorium on new, or expansions of, commercial recreation tenures in the area.

The Mountain Resorts Branch recently allowed David Harley’s Zincton All-Season Resort idea to move to the next stage – the formal proposal. The proposal must address concerns over development during the expression of interest stage, and provide a higher level of detail on intended development plans and financing viability. If the formal proposal is submitted, there will be another round of review and comment by multiple provincial agencies, First Nations, stakeholders and local government, including a public open house.

“The initial expression of interest from Zincton received a lot of opposition,” said K.L. Kivi, a member of the Wild Connection coalition and representative of the Autonomous Sinixt.

Much of the local, provincial, and Indigenous opposition over the serious impacts Zincton would have on wildlife, and especially grizzly bears. The proposal is planned to be built in prime grizzly bear habitat, in a critical wildlife corridor which connects Goat Range and Kokanee Provincial Parks. “The area is known as piq ki’lkwām, named by the Sinixt after the rare white grizzly found here,” added Kivi.

There is also very serious concern about the impacts this kind of development would have on the existing community and culture of the nearby villages. “Studies repeatedly show that small communities are negatively impacted by large-scale recreation resorts. Housing prices significantly increase, scarce housing becomes unaffordable, and resort jobs typically pay minimum wage,” noted Blackshaw. “When resorts like the Zincton proposal provide shops and services on site, resort visitors don’t tend to support surrounding communities.”

In addition, recreationists across the region have opposed Zincton because it restricts local access to the Crown land they have been using for decades.

The Wild Connection and partners are requesting that a regional planning process occur for the Central Selkirk Mountains. There is hope, they say, as Revelstoke was recently successful with a Section 17 moratorium, prompted by protest against a proposed commercial development on their cherished Mount Begbie.

“Planning provides the much-needed process and time to assess current and potential cumulative ecological and socioeconomic impacts,” said Blackshaw.

Kivi added, “We are in a new era and these proposals must be reviewed under many lenses. It is no longer an option for one government branch to just go ahead and approve a resort. This, in fact, flies in the face of BC’s commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and modernized land use planning.

People are encouraged to join the request for the Province to take real leadership and allow for regional planning before any decisions are made. Visit TheWildConnection.ca/presspause.

Search and Rescue Awards were well earned in 2020

like so many organizations, Kaslo Search and Rescue recently resorted to an online Christmas gathering to relax a little and celebrate the recognition of some members for outstanding contributions.

Kasco Search and Rescue, serving a population of not much more than 1,000 people, did as many search and rescues in 2020 as Central Okanagan Search and Rescue did in 2019. The Central Okanagan team serves a population of 160,000.

While 2020 moved at a frenetic pace, it appears as though 2021 is on track to increase the workload for the local volunteer group, with five call outs already since January 30.

Six members were recognized with awards at the online gathering. The award winners were selected by the award sponsors: Angry Hen Brewing, Kaslo Building Supplies, Kaslo Pharmacy, Rally4Life and Stellar Heliskiing.

The individuals recognized for the awards were:

- Robyn and Glen Skobalski (Rally4Life, President’s Award); Kevin Conover (Angry Hen Brewing, Top Rookie of the Year); Chris Cullen (Kasco Pharmacy, Heaviest Backpack Award); Jana Poborilova (Stellar Heliskiing, Most Valuable Technology); Hayley Walker (Kasco Building Supplies, Most Valuable Volunteer). For volunteers to commit enough time to being trained to the pinnacle of professional discipline is outstanding, and each and every person involved in the organization plays a critical role in keeping locals and visitors safe when things do go out as planned.

Broader community support comes from Area D, Village of Kaslo, BC Community Gaming Grants, and Columbia Basin Trust.

Kasco Search and Rescue would like to thank the local communities and businesses for their support and to remind everyone that no matter what outdoor activity you are planning, be prepared. Follow the three Ts: trip planning, training, and taking the essentials. AdventureSmart is a great resource to help you get informed before heading outdoors.

Anyone interested in applying for a volunteer for Kaslo Search and Rescue, visit the Facebook page or website (kaslosar.com) and send a message to the agency’s admin team.

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Covid Regulations Followed.
Howald says the laptops will be assigned to students just like textbooks are assigned. He said there will be district-wide guidelines on the use of the devices, but individual schools and classrooms will be empowered to decide if the laptops can go home with students to support students with homework, review and assignments. Howald recommends committing to a four-year refresh cycle for these devices. “A four-year refresh cycle will allow the district to redeploy laptops that are four years old to support students in lower grades and in our Learning Commons,” he said in the interview. “There may also be an opportunity for students to graduate a laptop to be used in their post-secondary life.”

In his presentation, Howald recommends maintaining computer labs in schools with specialty media workshops, only to be used for computer/media-specific courses. He also recommends providing a pod of devices in the Learning Commons (libraries and maker spaces). Finally, Howald calls on the school board to commit to ongoing costs and deployments of similar size in future years.

Next year, projected enrollment for grades 7-12 students in SD 8 is 2,300, and 750 of them will get a laptop. It will take about two more years to get a laptop to every grade 7-12 student.

Nakusp & Area

Bon Marche Dollar Dollar
Open 9 am - 5 pm Monday to Saturday. Cashless debit/credit. Check out the products at the door. www.bonmarchedollardollar.ca

Marvin’s Small Motor Repairs
Mon-Fri 9 am-6 pm; Sat 9 am-5 pm
Open for business hours. 250-265-4911

Nakusp Glass
Open
Drop in, call or email to make an appointment. 250-265-1202, nakuglass@telus.net

Nakusp Taxi
Pick-up and delivery of anything from licensed food, beverage and retail stores. 250-265-8222

Royal LePage Seikirk Realty
Open Mon-Fri 9:30 am - 6 pm; 4:30 pm with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. 250-265-3903, rlpseikirk@telus.net

Silverton Camp Cafe
Wed-Sat 9:30 – 2:30 • Sunday 10-2 250-358-7271

Slocan Valley

NEW DENVER
Glacier View Service
Open 7 days, 8 am - 6 pm 250-358-2445

New Denver Community Pharmacy
Open Mon-Fri, 10 am-6:30 pm; We look forward to serving you! Welcome to shopping by visiting during business hours or: By phone: 250-358-2501. By fax: 250-358-2514. By email: kaslopharm@gmail.com (please use reference “NDCP”) 303 8th Avenue, New Denver V0G 1S0

New Market Foods
Open every day, 8 am-6 pm You are welcome to come and shop. Keep your distance as much as you can with others. We have hand sanitiser at the door as well as all around the store. If you are self isolating or not wanting to come to the store, we can do your shopping for you and have it delivered to you or you can pick it up. You can call the store at 250-358-2270 or email newmarket@newmarketfoods.ca to place your orders.

Raven’s Nest
Happy New Year! New Open: Wednesday to Saturday. 11 am – 4 pm. Closed Sunday to Tuesday. We’ve got awesome clothes, warm blankets, great books, and much more. Thanks for shopping locally – we hope to see you soon.

Valley Voice
Open 7-833-501-1700; valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca; www.valleyvoice.ca

SILVERTON
Silverton Building Supplies
Open Monday-Saturday 8:00 am-5:00 pm Hand sanitizer is provided. Please observe distancing. We look forward to serving you! 250-305-2295

Silverton Camp Cafe
Wed-Sat 9:30 – 2:30 • Sunday 10-2 250-358-7271

SLOCAN

Slocan Village Market
Open. Limiting number of customers in the store. Providing gloves and masks to shoppers. We are accepting orders by phone for pick-up for those who prefer not to enter the store. We are also offering delivery services on a weekly basis. 250-355-2211, svmkt@telus.net

WINLAW
Emery Herbals Botanical Dispensary, Healing Suites and Teaching Centre
The Botanical Dispensary Open Thurs and Fri 1-8 pm; Sat 11 am-5 pm. We are accepting orders by phone for pick-up for those who prefer not to enter the store. We are also offering delivery services on a weekly basis. 250-355-2211, svmkt@telus.net

Mama Sita’s Kitchen
Open for dine-in, take-out and delivery. Outdoor seating. 9 am-7 pm. Phone or come in. 250-226-7707.
February 25, 2021
The Valley Voice

COMMUNITY

New Denver council, February 9: Support for Telus plans to expand wireless network

by Kathy Hartman

• Telus asked for a letter in support of its plans to apply to the federal government’s Universal Broadband Fund to connect New Denver and other communities in the region to the Telus wireless network. This would expand wireless cellular coverage and improve internet connectivity at no cost to the Village. Council asked staff to obtain additional information and referred this to a special meeting on February 12, when they agreed to provide the letter of support.

The additional information from Telus indicates that they hope to achieve speeds of up to 50/10 mbps for mobile internet service by upgrading the existing cell site in the Okanagan and also linking in one of the phones at the transit place. Telus would be required to upgrade this service, and the pricing would be competitive. Telus assured the Village that the copper lines service would continue. There is no firm timeline for the project, and Telus was unable to say what areas would be covered by the upgrade at this time.

Council directed staff to write a letter of support, and also asked staff to initiate discussions with the WildSafeBC program to clarify the progress and cost of the last-mile fibre-optic project.

• New Denver will continue to provide its annual contribution to the WildSafeBC program: $1,000 cash plus $500 in kind support in the form of facility rentals for public events, photocopies, promotion and advertising costs. The Villages of Silverton and Nakusp and RDCK Area K also contribute $1,000 each on an annual basis to keep this program going. WildSafe BC has been delivering public education to reduce human-wildlife conflict in the New Denver area since 2013. The public outreach and education work done by WildSafe BC improves compliance with municipal regulations and satisfies the Province’s Bear Smart designation requirements.

To further reduce human-wildlife conflict, Councillor Colin Moss encourages all residents to visit the ‘rodsent’ page under ‘wildlife management’ on the Village website.

John Duncan Carter
(13/09/1945 - 26/02/1996)
“Grew Up The Mountain”

New Denver Community Garden on hold

New Denver will not be getting a community garden this year. Although the Village and the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley (HCS) had numerous, fruitful discussions about making it happen, everything has not yet fallen into place.

“We did a huge amount of work, and I think we got things pretty far,” said one of the organizers, Moe Lyons. “We’ve gotten considerable support and we know way more than we did when we started. But we’re kind of stuck here yet, and well, you just can’t have a garden if you don’t have the land.”

HCS and the Village have been looking into the possibility of creating

a community garden on the pie-shaped vacant lot at the S curve on the way north out of the village. The land currently belongs to the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), which acquired it nearly 20 years ago to straighten out the road there. Now, it seems MOTI might be amenable to issuing the Village a Licence of Occupation, which could give the Village use of the space. This is where the community garden could come in. However, there is no guarantee this will happen, and no known framework as to how.

HCS had prepared a grant proposal to acquire the necessary funds from the Columbia Basin Trust but the organization realized it could not go forward with the proposal without the guarantee of a place to make it all happen. The society had started out with a piece of private land in mind, and had the agreement of the owner to use it, but zoning did not permit it to take place there.

“This is by no means a lost cause,” says organizer Mick Wilson, who negotiated with the Village and prepared and worked to conceptualize the garden and cost out the time and materials needed. “We are grateful to the Village for entering into this discussion with us and we appreciate their giving us a letter of support. Unfortunately, this has turned out to be a lot more complicated than it seemed when we first started this process several months ago.”

HCS will now step back and reconsider, and may, on the advice of the Village, look into obtaining funds to hire a consultant to make sure all the issues that have surfaced are considered and dealt with.

The organizers are disappointed not to be able to use this land this year, and want to thank everyone involved in the process: “I know we raised people’s hopes,” says Lyons. “All I can say is, don’t give up hope, something will happen, who knows, maybe even something different from what we have imagined so far.”

North Valley Mountain Film Festival goes online

The annual North Valley Mountain Film Festival, visit its website, is back this year. The festival has been shifted online to accommodate circumstances, and the annual wake up to the exciting and diverse festival line-up will be available for viewing from March 5 through March 12.

“Although the Village and the Revelstoke Dam. Four intrepid snowboarders seek to retrace a portion of David Thompson’s footsteps down the Columbia River, the middle of January, during one of the coldest snaps in recorded history in Revelstoke. Surreal frozen landscapes, epic paddling, downpowder riding and a lot of pain, Without a Paddle produced and directed by Johan Rosen and Nick Khattar is a canoe film about snowboarding.

Enjoy these shows and more starting at 5 pm on Friday, March 5 on the festival Vimeo Page. Tickets and more information are available from the Village Office.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT NIMC

Do you have an interest in history and/or working in the heritage or tourism sector? Do you enjoy meeting a variety of people? The Village of New Denver is now accepting applications for Museum Assistants and Collections Assistants to work at the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (NIMC), a National Historic site. The NIMC is seeking both student and non-student positions are available starting in May.

Student positions: Open to individuals between 15-30 years of age; 35 hours per week. Wage: $15.20/hour.
Non-student positions: Flexible hours available from May to September. Wage: $17.00/hour.

If interested, please submit a resume and cover letter to Village of New Denver, Attention: Catherine Allaway, CAO Mail: P.O. Box 40, New Denver, B.C., V0G 1S 0 Phone: 250-358-2316 · office@newdenver.ca · www.newdenver.ca

Non-student positions will remain posted until filled. For more information, please contact the Village Office. All applicants are thanked for their interest – only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER PUBLIC NOTICE

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PERMITS AND LICENCES

Did you know that Building Permits, Sign Permits, Temporary Licences of Occupation, Business Licences and Dog Licences are required within the municipal boundaries? Application forms and additional information are available from the Village Office.

Woodstove Exchange Program

Funding is available for a first-time, first- served basis for the 2021 Woodstove Exchange Program. In order to qualify, residents must replace an old (pre-1994), uncertified wood stove with a new, locally purchased, EPA- or CSA-certified wood stove, gas stove, pellet stove, or inset stove. The stove must be in active use for home heating. One rebate per property is allowed. Stoves must be dismantled and brought to a local landfill or transfer station for disposal. For more information, please visit our website.

BEWARE OF ICE JAMS

Residents are encouraged to stay away from creeks, streams and rivers. Current conditions can cause ice jams, which may break loose and result in flooding and debris flows. This flooding can occur quickly and without warning. Use caution and be safe!
The meeting opened with a mention of Silverton's rink in Fernie. WorkSafeBC reports that the rink in Fernie is being inspected since the deaths at the rink in B.C. WorkSafeBC reports that silverton's rink were received.

“I think this is one we don’t have any choice on. It is an overwhelming responsibility,” commented Acting Mayor Leah Main. The CAO asked for a council resolution to start working with WorkSafeBC “because it takes forever.”

Council also decided to take advantage of a deal on bear-proof garbage cans. CAO Elliott reported that large refurbished bear-proof garbage cans are available for $5,500 instead of the usual $9,000. The Village will buy two right now, for the campground and day park, and order two more for later. A possible pilot project was discussed, where cans could be placed at the end of roads that are difficult for Village crews to access, and could become community garbage receptacles.

Pickup would still be available for people with mobility difficulties. With freight, the full cost of the four cans would be in the area of $40,000. The funding would likely come from Safe Restart federal money. The Village will buy two right now, for the campground and day park, and order two more for later. A possible pilot project was discussed, where cans could be placed at the end of roads that are difficult for Village crews to access, and could become community garbage receptacles.

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Water main replacement and reservoir upgrade are considered to be high-priority items and are awaiting funding for a large percentage of the cost.

Work on the footbridge is on hold waiting for further information.

The CAO will ask the Village’s technical person about potential new communications equipment and software.

Council also discussed replacing the stove in Memorial Hall with a new one. He also asked for a copy of the report detailing her ongoing work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the RDCK, and various other governing bodies. Highlights are that she was elected vice-chair of the West Kootenay-Boundary Transit Committee and to the executive committee of the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District Board. She outlined various new funding possibilities from the federal government.

On February 24, she will be part of a meeting between FCM and federal government officials to discuss post-COVID-19 resiliency. This may result in additional funding being available to municipalities.

Slocan and the RDCK.

She urged council to join in a movement to invest in businesses and resilient.

Community Futures to get businesses by Donna Wilchynski and Tyler Rice about the West Kootenay Boundary Community Investment Co-op (WKBCIC), which works with Community Futures to get businesses off the ground and help them succeed. Wilchynski stated that “the time for local investment is now,” stressing the importance of being locally self-reliant and resilient.

She said they are asking local governments to invest between $10,000 and $100,000. “The question is,” she said, “can we get local government here has gotten on board.

He also asked for a copy of the Village’s Dangerous Tree Policy and the arborist’s report on the trees in the campground, but the CAO said he had already received as much information as was available.

Village block in emergencies for some time now. Council asked the CAO to bring back information about the water main.

Campground upgrades are also high priority, but details need to be worked out before this can be entered into the budget. A $15,900 worth of upgrades needed at the curling rink, as required by WorkSafeBC. CAO Elliott offered congratulations to Public Works and to the CAO for their great work.

She said the co-op should talk to想让更多人知道 to help with COVID resiliency. She urged council to join in a movement to invest where they live, work and play.

She pointed out over $75 million is currently invested in this way in Nova Scotia.

Treasurer Tyler Rice, who is also on the board of Community Futures, talked about the importance of this work, and described it as a truly grassroots movement.

Acting Mayor Leah Main thanked them for their presentation, and suggested this conversation happen in the context of the partnerships that has been forged among Silverton, New Denver, Slocan and the RDCK.

She said they are asking local governments to invest between $10,000 and $100,000. “The question is,” she said, “can we get local government here has gotten on board.

She urged council to task their staff to explore the possibility of becoming part of this “trailblazing” phenomenon. "If you become the precedent," she said, “kudos to everyone involved.”

She said if the election took place in May 15 every year, members agreed to be on a working group to, as Main said, “tease things out,” look at what needs to be done when and how and to get it underway before there would be a public meeting on the campground. He stated, “People are adventure seeking, for things that may or may not be right.”

Councillor Tanya Gordon said numerous people have asked her how they can have input into the campground project. She said people should speak to members of council.

In the public input period, Don Broughton once again asked when there would be a public meeting on the campground. He stated, “People are adventure seeking, for things that may or may not be right.”

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On the way to zero waste: Sorting it out

submitted

Unwanted material regularly arrives in our households in the guise of packaging and printed paper. We have an intimate relationship with this garbage and ask: Where did you come from? What are you made of? What are we going to do with you? Where are you going to go?

The worst scenario is imagining the unwanted products of our consumer households buried in a deep lined hole for future generations to be aghast at our wasteful and wanton ways. So wanting to be good ancestors, we are grateful that change is arriving and we are starting to put in place a circular economy to reuse resources in our consumer products. This is not easy, as there is a lot to consider but as my mother would say, “Where there is a will, there is a way.”

Our household is working towards zero waste. In a convenient place close to the entry, we have a large bin in a handy kitchen cupboard. All recyclables go into this. When it is full, it is taken to the sorting station in our utility room. Cardboard boxes and bins serve as containers. A poster pinned above illustrates the Village of Kaslo guide to curbside recycling and the RDCK recycling depot list. One large bin on wheels holds all the clean household packaging for curbside collection by our Kaslo Village. This includes: clean metal containers, paper and cardboard, and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 7 type plastic containers. Every two weeks on the designated Tuesday, this bin is wheeled out to the curb for pickup.

Material going to the RDCK recycling depot at the transfer station is managed in separate cardboard boxes. There is one for clean glass bottles without lids, one for plastics including: clean CD cases; plastic cups, plates and cutlery; one for styrofoam, one for soft plastic bags and one for crinkly plastic bags. When these boxes are full, about every three months, we head to the Recycle BC transfer station at the Kaslo transfer station. Here, signage and a friendly recycling educator makes the depositing of material in correct bins easy.

If unsure of where something will go or if it is accepted, we can ask.

The good news is that our household volume of recycling is much larger than our garbage. A real challenge is that we still have garbage to be buried in that deep pit. At present, most packaging is not standardized and that makes some articles impossible to recycle. Our goal is zero waste so we are working on a waste audit and refusing to acquire products that cannot be recycled. We can all do it, one step at a time.

For information about Kaslo curbside recycling, check: www.kaslo.ca. For information about the Recycle BC depot check: www.rdck.ca or recyclebc.ca
Slocan council, February 8: Slocan assessments up this year and probably next, too

By Barbara Curry Mulcahy

In a presentation to council, Ramaish Shah, BC Assessment Deputy Assessor, said that from July 2019 to July 2020 the value of Slocan’s 5,393 properties increased by an average of 20%, to a total of $46.2 million. The value of single-family homes increased by 15%-30%; strata residences by 0%-5%; and commercial and industrial properties by 0%-15%.

Shah noted that increases in a property’s assessment does not always mean its property taxes will increase – what matters is how the change in a property’s assessment compares to the average change in a property’s assessment does not always mean its property taxes will increase – what matters is how the change in a property’s assessment compares to the average change in a property’s assessment. Shah also said that a number of sales in Slocan

Shah also said that a number of sales in Slocan in 2020 occurred after the July 1 date for valuation. This means that property values in Slocan will “likely increase next year as well.”

Information about the proposed affordable housing project was brought forward from in camera. The Village submitted a funding application to BC Housing for the January 15 deadline. Staff will prepare an information package on the project, and a public opinion survey with a deadline of March 31 “to better gauge the support of the community.” Council will then decide whether or not to move forward on the project.

Council received eight letters and a petition signed by 26 people in favour of Slocan’s affordable housing project, and two letters against the project. Two of the letters in favour had qualifications: one called the building’s exterior aesthetic “unattractive”; the second said traffic flow near the project needed to be improved. Of the two letters against the housing project, one said concerns of area residents should be heard, the other said that before starting the project the Village should concentrate on improving basic services – garbage pickup times, policing off-leash dogs, improving snow removal, beautifying the Village flowerbeds, and getting the log booms and diving board set up earlier in the summer. Councillor Madeleine Perriere abstained from the vote to receive this information.

During public participation, Denise Dufault asked council whether they could consider moving the housing project to the site currently leased to the Slocan Valley Outriders Association so the facility could be even larger. Councillor Ezra Buller said that the grant the Village had received was a “property-based application,” and if the site was changed it would be a “completely new project.” Councillor Joel Pelletier, Village rep for the Affordable Housing Commission, said, “This is a pilot project… to get our feet wet” and in the future Slocan could “look at a larger project.”

Council agreed in principle to a request from the Slocan Valley Outriders Association to fence the perimeter of the grounds they’ve leased from the Village, and asked staff to get more details on what materials would be used for the fence. The fencing would allow the grounds to be an official emergency evacuation site during the fire season, the Outriders letter said, and with the Village’s support, they will apply for grants to help fund the project.

Mayor Lunn and CAO Michelle Gordon met with Kelvin Saldern, Columbia Basin Trust Manager of Community Relationships West, to discuss funding for Slocan’s 120th birthday. During public participation, Joyce Johnson said the Slocan Valley Historical Society would be happy to assist with the celebration.

Council agreed to write a letter of support for the Rural Alternatives Research & Training Society (RARTS)’s CBT grant application for a 50th anniversary Vatican Whole construction and land use planning project.

Councillor Buller reported that the Fitness Centre is “working on what looks like to reopen” during COVID. He said the committee had brought a leg curl extension machine to replace two older machines and an inner and outer thigh abductor machine to replace two other machines. During public participation, Denise Dufault said the Fitness Centre should prioritize serving the firefighters, that they are providing an essential service and need to be in shape to respond to emergencies. “We really need to get back in the gym,” she said. Mayor Lunn responded that the Fitness Centre was working to reopen in response to requests from the firefighters, but that they had to figure out how to follow COVID protocols.

Eagle Graphite CEO participates in parliamentary committee meeting

The CEO of Eagle Graphite, which owns the Black Crystal quarry and plant in the Slocan Valley, was honoured to be invited to speak to a parliamentary committee about Canada’s opportunity in the field of energy technologies.

On Monday, Eagle CEO Jamie Deith gave a five-minute opening statement and then joined the subsequent discussion panel at a meeting of the federal Standing Committee on Natural Resources, a parliamentary committee that is studying ‘critical minerals and associated value chains’ in Canada.

Graphite plays a critical role as the battery anode in virtually all commercially available lithium-ion batteries, including all models of electric cars. The Black Crystal quarry and plant is the only natural flake graphite facility in western North America that is constructed and permitted, states an Eagle Graphite press release.

“Canada has an opportunity to establish itself as a stable and reliable partner participating at all levels of the value chain, if we decide as a nation to seize this role,” said Deith.

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**Land Act:**

Notice of Application for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that I/We, Hurley Holdings Inc., Slocan, BC have applied to the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), Kootenay Boundary Region, for a Licence of Occupation for Adventure Tourism situated on Provincial Crown Land located in the vicinity of Slocan.

FLNRORD invites comments on this application, the Lands File is 4406185. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to Sr. Authorization Specialist, FLNRORD, Kootenay Boundary Region, at 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook, BC V1C 7G1. Comments will be received by FLNRORD up to March 28, 2021. FLNRORD may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit the website at http://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. Access to these records requires the submission of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. Visit http://www.gov.bc.ca/freedomofinformation to learn more about FOI submissions.

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**Slocan skatepark to see beginner section added this spring**

by Jan McMurray

The Tenacity Skatepark in Slocan is on track to become bigger and more beautiful this spring. Plans to add a beginner section to the park and to do some landscaping in the area are set for May or June.

“The skatepark is continuing to grow in popularity. Every year we see more and more people accessing the park,” said Chantal Smith, Slocan Valley Youth Network coordinator for the past three years. “A beginner park has always come up as a priority for the kids since I’ve been here. The existing park is a bit intimidating for new skaters – being that it is a competition bowl and a very big drop in. So we started thinking about how to create something everyone could use – young and old. We also wanted to include BMX bikers and rollerbladers. This new addition will encompass everyone and everything.”

The addition will be built onto the existing park and will run from the path facing the WE Graham Community Service Society building and will extend down to the cobb oven.

Smith says they are planning some sort of public consultation in March, whether it be a Zoom meeting, a survey or some other pandemic-friendly way to consult. She says they have been working with Kodiak Concrete out of Fruitvale, the contractor that repaired the existing skatepark last spring, and have come up with a “generic” design idea. “It’s so important to get community input on the design, especially from the youth that use the park all the time,” she said.

The $20,300 project is being funded by Columbia Basin Trust’s Basin Plays program ($14,312), the RDCK and the Village. Smith says they are short just $388.

The landscaping project will see landscaping around the edge of the skatepark and in the area of the graffiti boards, the construction of a two-bleacher shade structure on the school field side, the repair of the cobb oven, and a new cobb oven enclosure with a new gate. The project also includes upgrading the bleachers, adding new signs and picnic tables. Slocan’s Sustainable Roots has been hired to build the structures and repair the cobb oven, and Dana Fidler has been hired to do the permaculture landscape design. This project is being funded with a CBT Outdoor Revitalization Program grant of $33,525, a Columbia Power Corporation grant of $3,600 and a Village of Slocan contribution of $2,100.

“We’re hoping to have a grand reopening,” Smith says. “The Josh Evin Memorial is usually held here at the end of June, but it didn’t happen last year because of COVID; we hope it can come back and everyone can enjoy the new space.”
Tim Hill retires as Slocan’s public works supervisor

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

Slocan Mayor Jessica Lunn had high praise for longtime Public Works Supervisor Tim Hill, who retired at the end of January.

“Tim’s contributions have been tremendous and we very much appreciate Tim’s dedication and commitment to the Village of Slocan,” she said. Slocan council and Village staff held a small socially-distanced party for him in the Public Works yard on February 11. The mayor spoke at length about Tim’s work and then gave Tim a plaque in honour of his years of service.

Tim started working for the Village in 2005 under Jerry Simmons. When Jerry retired in 2008, Tim took over as supervisor. Tim has also been the Village’s emergency operations coordinator and has managed capital projects. Jessica said Tim has been managing the Village’s water plant, water infrastructure, dam and intake, transmission and distribution system, leak detection program, water-main replacement program. He has been our SCADA system technician and research analyst for troubleshooting and future source works.” Tim has trained 22 public works employees in part-time, full-time, and seasonal positions.

Over the years, Tim has been instrumental in a great number of improvements to the Village: the Owl Walk project, the Legion roof replacement, paving Village streets ($200K worth of resurfacing around town), the campground expansion, and the Main Street waterline replacement. He has overseen the installations of water mains, boat ramp, breakwater, swim dock, and public works machinery shed. He has guided renovations to the Fitness Centre, Wellness Centre, Village office. He also has been key in the planning for a number of Village projects: the Legion heritage design, stormwater management, Harold Street Beautification, the source water study, the waterfront development strategy and the asset management inventory.

“Lachlan McGreal, who started working for the Village at almost the same time as Tim and who has been the assistant supervisor of public works, has been appointed interim public works supervisor. Mayor Lunn said the Slocan waterfront project completed last spring “was very much inspired by the thoughts and ideas of Tim in his role as public works supervisor… it evolved and changed over time – but the project itself began within Tim’s imagination!”

Tim says that the most exciting part of his work has been managing the aging water grid. Several times there have been blowouts in the Main Street, welcomed Lachlan to the position, saying that he has been trained and worked on all of the same Village projects as Tim. “I have lost a lot of sleep … trying to provide safe water,” Tim said. Tim’s predecessor with council has been to try to get the “infrastructure done before we get the ‘pretty’ done. You can’t be digging up the ‘pretty’ to work on the infrastructure, he explained. “Council has always been very good to work with,” Tim said. “We don’t always agree… but they have been very respectful.”

What is Tim planning to do?

He has an old truck to restore, woodworking to explore, and a 100-year-old house that needs work – so much work that Tim says he will have to live to 110 to get the house into proper shape.

Tim and his wife moved to the area in 1986 from the Lower Mainland. His wife grew up here and they wanted to move back to be closer to her mother. It was a good move – they both enjoy rural life. Tim ran Kokanee Auto Electric in Lemon Creek before he was hired by the Village of Slocan.

Lachlan McGreal, who started working for the Village at almost the same time as Tim and who has been the assistant supervisor of public works, has been appointed interim public works supervisor. Mayor Lunn welcomed Lachlan to the position, saying that he has been trained and worked on all of the same Village projects as Tim. “I have lost a lot of sleep … trying to provide safe water,” Tim said. “I know fortune.” He says the system the Village is proposing would have an intake deep in the lake. The source water will be “really clean” and a reliable temperature. With no more worry about ice and sediments, the Village could have a simple cost-effective system. “Both Lachlan and I have a lot of sleep… trying to provide safe water,” Tim said.

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Conserving New Denver’s built heritage

submitted by Silvery Slocan Historical Society

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Silvery Slocan Historical Society, formed in 1971 to preserve the history of the Slocan Lake area and operate the Silvery Slocan Museum in the former Bank of Montreal, built in 1897.

Despite the museum’s closure in 2020 due to the pandemic, the society remained very active. Thanks to a grant, the Village of New Denver completed improvements to the building, including repairs to the east wall. A humidity problem in the archives room was resolved with the installation of a ventilation fan in the crawl space, which is a plus for the entire building foundation.

Painting was completed of the first floor exterior and interior, as well as along the interior staircases, and hallways on both floors. Two holes in the floor of the Knights of Pythias room were repaired. The floor in the archives room was also repaired and rotting studs and the wall fixed. New flashing was installed, old awnings were replaced, and an additional awning was put over the Bellevue Street door to prevent further water damage. The large cracked window on the south side by the door was replaced.

Although the museum was closed to visitors, the society was still able to hire a summer student to accession and photograph artifacts. “This is a job that has needed doing for a very long time and, although we’re a long ways from being finished, we got a good start on it,” says president Henning von Krogh.

In preparation for the painting of the interior, all exhibits were removed and entirely new ones created. These displays consist of photographs and interpretive panels about pictographs, mining, Silvertown, New Denver, Three Forks, Sandon, Mill Creek, and the glacier trail. Displays of bottles and artifacts have also been set up in the museum windows.

A new database has been created to inventory the society’s 337 maps while work continues on the photo database. Photos received from the now-defunct Silverton Historical Society have been shared with UBC Okanagan’s digitization project and are now available for online viewing at https://arcabc.ca. Many more photos still need to be accessioned or have their database information reviewed before they can be shared online.

The society received a grant to have contract archivist Linda Wills visit for two weeks to work with the collection and help with long-term planning for the museum, but this has been postponed due to COVID-19.

Plans for the society’s 50th anniversary include redoing the garden in the west side of the museum. This would involve replacing the existing plants with ones that require less water and maintenance, adding a number of large mining artifacts, and installing interpretive signage.

While the society hopes to reopen the museum this summer (allowing access to the upper floor for the first time in several years), it will depend on COVID-19 restrictions.

The NIMC will be opening its doors for its 27th year in May and we look forward to welcoming visitors for another successful season. A reminder that the gift shop will also be open to visitors and offer a great selection of books, cards, and other unique mementos which connect visitors to the history of the NIMC.

The NIMC is a registered Heritage BC and Columbia Basin Trust heritage site. The property was purchased by the Village in 1971 and there have been a few minor renovations since then. In 2020, the Knox Hall and the Reading Centre closed for major restoration work. We look forward to welcoming users back into the Knox Hall soon. The project is now close to completion and the interior and exterior results are beautiful. Meticulous work was executed by local tradespeople restoring this building’s historical elements while making the building more functional and energy efficient for users.

The Village would like to thank the CBT for committing Built Heritage Program funds to the 2020 Knox Hall renovations, allowing us to preserve and restore this wonderful heritage resource and make it available for our community for years to come.

Silvery Slocan Museum

The Silvery Slocan Museum stabilization project was completed in 2020 ensuring that the building is safe and operational. The project addressed moisture and drainage issues which would prevent further rotting of the structure for many years, and also improved the fire suppression system.

The completion of this project will benefit the community and allow the Silvery Slocan Historical Society to continue their wonderful work in preserving, and sharing our diverse history with visitors and residents. It will also enable the Slocan Valley Chamber of Commerce to continue operating the Visitor Centre in the building which is a great resource not just for visitors but also local businesses and residents. The Village of New Denver would like to thank the Columbia Basin Trust and Heritage BC through the Built Heritage Grants for funding this project.

The restoration work at New Denver’s Knox Hall is almost finished. The restoration work at New Denver’s Knox Hall is almost finished. The museum this summer (allowing access to the upper floor for the first time in several years), it will depend on COVID-19 restrictions.

The society has over 50 members and four active volunteers. The annual general meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, March 25 at 7 pm. For details email vonkrogh@telus.net.
The May Bill mystery: royal staffers immigrate to Nakusp in 1912

submitted by the Nakusp Museum Society

If you saw Downton Abbey, you can be sure that life in rural Nakusp in 1912 was starkly different from that televised depiction of Edwardian life “across the pond.” That was the year the Bill family came from the royal household of George V. (1910-36) to start a fruit ranch on Shakespeare Avenue in Nakusp.

Lots of immigrants from England were coming to Canada and to BC to take up farming thanks to serious incentives from the Canadian government, but the Bills didn’t fit the typical immigrant profile. Ernest and Leticia Bill were senior royal staffers in the government, but the Bills didn’t fit the BC to take up farming thanks to coming to Canada and to Avenue in Nakusp.

In 1912 was starkly different from that submitted by the Nakusp Museum.

The May Bill mystery: royal staffers immigrate to Nakusp in 1912

HERITAGE WEEK

18

The Valley Voice February 25, 2021

18 HERITAGE WEEK

Local pioneers persevere in uncertain times

submitted by Lardeau Valley Historical Society

In an era of uncertainty, we forget how lucky we really are. Our little valley has faced hardship, loss, and an uncertainty of its own, but through it all, we have found hope, perseverance and a comradesy unique to us and us alone. This is the story of Joe and John Logus and their story of creating a life in Poplar Creek (15 km north of Meadow Creek) and living through uncertainties of their own.

Joe Logus (December 7, 1893-November 30, 1978) immigrated to Canada around 1910 and married Catherine Logus on February 10, 1918, in Nelson. Together, they had three children, John and Lena Logus. Joe, Catherine and their young family began their life across from the initial Poplar Creek townsite. They later made the move one kilometre south to their permanent homestead (1921-1968). On the farm itself, they had cattle, hay fields, a large garden and a number of different farm animals. Most of the farming-related artifacts at the Lardeau Valley Historical Society originated from the Logus farm.

Joe worked on the family farm, mined several claims around Poplar Creek, maintained trails throughout the valley and aided forestry surveyors when needed during the 1960s. As a result, ‘Logus Lake’ was named after Joe in honour of his contributions to them.

Later on, John Logus (1919-2006) was born and raised in Poplar Creek and spent most of his childhood on the family farm. He married his wife, Medina Logus, on September 1, 1945. Together, they had one son, Wayne Logus, who, to this day, plays a vital role in helping the museum preserve Poplar Creek’s history.

Before the war, John worked for the Silver Cup Mine (1936) and briefly worked for the Marblehead Mine in and around the time of its closure.

From 1941 to 1974, John served with the RCAF and retired with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. During the war, John trained to become a flight engineer. In the early ‘50s, he continued to serve as a flight engineer in Watson Lake with the 414 Photographic Squadron where they were tasked with mapping the Canadian North. Later, he was posted to stations across Canada and overseas including various posts in Canada, France, Germany and Egypt. Once retired from the RCAF, John moved to the North Shore with Medina. There, he worked for the Harrop Ferry for over a decade before officially retiring.

Over the course of his career, John received the following medals: Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, War Medal, UN Emergency Force Medal, Canadian Centennial Medal, Canadian Forces’ Decoration and Clasp and Flight Engineer Badge.

Both men had exceptional careers, both in the Lardeau Valley and around the world and are a true testament to the unbroken spirit of the Lardeau Valley itself.

Written by Jesalyn Tremblay and Wayne Logus. All information gathered was cited from Wayne Logus directly.

Members of the royal family. The inscriptions showed a genuine personal bond with them and add credence to the idea she was one of their own. May Bill died in 1974 and we will never know the true “herstory.”
February 25, 2021  The Valley Voice

The story of a Slocan madam’s grave site

submitted by the Slocan Valley Historical Society

In honour of Black History Month and BC Heritage Week, the Slocan Valley Historical Society would like to share the story of a Black brothel keeper in Slocan City.

According to historian Innes Cooper, who heard it from others, “A prostitute died at Slocan City. Cooper, who heard it from others, Black brothel keeper in Slocan City. would like to share the story of a Slocan Valley Historical Society Month and BC Heritage Week, the Historical Society

The story of a Slocan madam’s grave site

February 25, 2021

Gratitude to our local historical societies for all important volunteer work
done by the historical societies in our area.

Thank you!

Wants to thank our local historical societies for keeping the wheels on the cart of history!

Richard Cannings, MP
South Okanagan - West Kootenay
Thank you to all the individuals and groups that work to preserve the heritage and rich history of British Columbia?

Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort lies within the traditional home lands of the Ktunaxa people. The hot springs, referred to as nupika wu’u (spirit water), have been good medicine for many years.

The Hot Springs pools and cave remain open to hotel guests only. Now is a good time to book your staycation and experience the power of nature by relaxing in the pools and cave.

The Ktunaxa Grill offers an indigenous inspired Menu. Open Wednesday through Sunday 11:00am - 8:30 pm. Reservations required.

1-800-668-1171
www.ainsworthhotsprings.com

Bikes...

Our Outdoor Recreational Heritage!

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were a few drawbacks. A local experience sounded idyllic, there deteriorate. Although the hot springs water as the fabric would quickly their clothes in undiluted hot springs Campers were warned not to wash was carried from Kuskanax Creek. Drinking water on rocks or stumps, and cooked Springs brought their own tents, sat portable history series. Arrow Lakes Historical Society’s Nakusp Hot Springs, book 3 in the to-be-published Historical Society submitted by the Arrow Lakes

Excerpt from Memories of Old Nakusp Hot Springs

**HERITAGE WEEK**

Old Nakusp Hot Springs

The next morning, when Moul was returning to the springs, he came upon the spot on the trail where he had been detained the night before. He noticed a tree had been uprooted and was hanging over the trail. Calculations showed that a man riding a horse would have hit the trunk and been thrown off the horse. Jerry could not have been there but he sensed that his rider could not. Moul could only wonder at this revelation.

**Kaslo & New Denver Community Pharmacy**

Celebrates over a century of providing pharmacy services to the communities of Kaslo & New Denver.

Under various owners, Kaslo’s drug store has been supporting the community’s health and wellness almost continuously since 1898.

Kaslo Drugs was first established on the corner of Front Street and 4th Avenue by F.E. Archer & Dr. Gilbert Hartin. The property has since been used by a long line of pharmacists, from F.E. Archer & Dr. G. Hartin in 1898, to G.M. Done in 1948. The original building fell into disrepair and was torn down in 1958. The new Kaslo Drugs building was constructed in 1974 for Ken Lahto. Kaslo Drugs operated from 1976 to 2012 under the ownership of Ward Taylor.

New Denver Community Pharmacy Building

The building was constructed in 1899 by Frank Pyman, whose watch repair business was the original tenant. When Pyman left the community about 1904, the building was bought by C.F. Nelson who operated a drug store until his death in 1940. In May of 2015, Ward Taylor opened New Denver Community Pharmacy in the originally 1899 building.

Ward Taylor and staff proudly continue the tradition of support to our communities’ health and wellness!

Phone: 250-353-2224
403 Front Street, Kaslo

Phone: 250-358-2500
309 6th Avenue, New Denver

**Katrine Conroy, MLA**

Kootenay West

Thank you to all the individuals and groups that work to preserve the heritage and rich history of the West Kootenay! Congruity Office: #2-1006 3rd St

Katrine.conroy.mla@leg.bc.ca

**Thanks to our local historical societies for preserving our heritage.**

405 4th Street

Kaslo, BC

**KASLO & NEW DENVER COMMUNITY PHARMACY**

Established in 1899 by Frank Pyman, who later operated a watch repair business, the New Denver Community Pharmacy celebrates over a century of providing pharmacy services to the communities of Kaslo & New Denver.

**Cornucopia**

422 Front St, Kaslo, BC

Congratulations to the Village of Kaslo and the Kootenay Lake Historical Society for the Heritage BC Awards

Thank you to all the volunteers for your dedication in keeping our history alive

**Memories of Old Nakusp Hot Springs, book 3 in the Arrow Lakes Historical Society’s portable history series.**
A look back at the Spanish flu in the Kootenays

submitted by the Kootenay Lake Historical Society

The worldwide coronavirus attack of today moves in the shadow of its predecessor, the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. The cases are similar, and yet vastly different, as they came in waves. The first spring outbreaks were generally mild, but a second wave was highly contagious. Like today, people were directed to wear masks. One article, October 31, 1918 the Kaslo Kootenaian reported that “the first flu mask observed here was noted on Tuesday morning covering the features of T.F. Miller, who sailed up Front Street with a hankie over his features.” The paper also remarked that there were only three cases in Kaslo, all men from the mines, “in very mild order” at the newly arranged isolation hospital at 408 A Avenue. Things soon changed.

The provincial board of health laid down regulations but the City of Kaslo had its own board of health who were involved in local interpretation. Dr. George Read was the City and Provincial Medical Officer of Health. The regulations were described by the Kootenaian on November 7 as being “screwed down a bit tighter.” When Dr. Read intended to examine newcomers he was reminded that “an absolutely germ proof lid” was needed. He was required to examine everyone arriving on boats and trains and arrivals were required to quarantine for three days. Later that month, the Church of England “broke the flu regulations” by holding a service. There was “considerable argument regarding the wearing of flu masks.” Kaslo council talked of “raising the lid.” “Not a single case of flu had so far originated in the town – all had come in from the outside.”

Despite this wishful thinking, the school board closed its schools on December 2 until after the Christmas holidays. “There is still some danger of the tail end of the epidemic striking Kaslo.” The Victorian Hospital, which had previously turned away flu patients, accepted them if they had no home where they could be cared for, and a group of volunteers nurses was formed. Meanwhile Dr. Read advertised his newly arrived supply of influenza vaccine, inviting anyone requiring it to come to his office from 4 to 5 for inoculation. Two patients died in Kaslo, both in the same family.

With the turn of the new year, the Kootenaian announced that the flu situation was “much wiser” and there were “many cases” in town. The situation at the Ivarhoe Mine at Sandon was “serious,” and there were three deaths at New Denver. However, by February 13 it was reported that “the local flu situation is now fine and dandy, according to Dr. Read. No new cases are developing.”

Edward L. Affleck’s excellent history of the “Ainsworth Camp,” High Grade and Hot Springs, touches on the impact of the Spanish flu epidemic on miners. He states that “younger men employed in the Ainsworth mines proved particularly vulnerable.” The Central Hotel in Ainsworth became an infirmary staffed by local women volunteers. Four men from the mines did not survive. This was hard rock country, and it is likely that the miners had not worn dust protection. This story reflects only a small corner in the worldwide effect of the 1918-1919 influenza epidemic. Yet, to the people affected, this experience was sometimes shattering and difficult to deal with. To have survived is to be grateful.

Spanish Flu epidemic notices, as published in The Kootenaian.
Nakusp council, February 8: Council commits to tackling the housing crisis

by Jay-Dell Mah

- Nakusp residents living in RVs and trailers, in contravention of zoning bylaws, won’t be facing enforcement any time soon. Village council, at its online, regular meeting February 8, unanimously agreed to try and come up with solutions to the housing crisis in the community.

A four-page report from the Chief Administrative Officer recommends that council allow RVs and trailers for permanent living in the Mobile Home Park if, among other things, the residents can be found to do jobs and they just can’t find places to live.

Councillor Joseph Hughes added, “There are multiple strains on housing and I think it’s incumbent upon us to come up with some creative solutions, not just to focus on constraints.” He said, “We need to rethink some of the norms that have existed in housing in the past.”

All agreed that the work on the housing issue would not be a speedy process, with the mayor suggesting it might take at least a year.

- Nathan Petherick and Kayla McCarthy of B&A Planning of Calgary presented the new Official Community Plan at a public hearing just before the council meeting.

However, council postponed approval of the plan after, local resident Gary Grout made council aware that a map in the document showed a potential hiking route going through his property, and another map for an associated zoning measure appeared to be incorrect.

The new OCP, the first major update of the 2007 plan, sets the overall vision for the long-term growth and development of the community. In the presentation, Petherick said the firm received more than 300 responses from residents over the course of the planning process. He said the comments helped to guide the planners to a core finding, “that articulates a vision of Nakusp as a vibrant community with an identity that is grounded in holistic economic, social, and physical health and wellness.”

Petherick said a key change from previous community plans was a departure from the Village’s growth within the current Village boundaries and focus energy and investment and planning into providing services where people actually live, not where they may have jobs.

- The document notes there are around 200 acres of undeveloped or underutilized land within the Village that could accommodate some 1,600 new units and 3,000 new residents. The OCP highlights housing affordability as a major issue.

- Council had heard a presentation from the West Kootenay Boundary Community Investment Co-op (WRBIC) seeking investments to bolster its funds to help local businesses or sustain local businesses. Donna Wilchynski told council, “Co-ops allow residents and organizations to invest in areas where they live and play, creating new and helping businesses to succeed, thus creating a sustainable local economy. It’s a win-win proposition.”

- She noted that Nakusp would be a trailblazer if it can find a way to assist, as no government has yet actually invested into a local investment co-op in British Columbia. She asked council to try and explore ways, in conjunction with WRBIC, to make it happen. It was suggested Nakusp offer $10,000 and $100,000 to the venture.

- Council approved a lease agreement with the Arrow Lakes Caribou Society for 10 hectares near the Nakusp Hot Springs for the caribou maternity pen. The five-year lease is renewable and the rent is $1 per year. Mayor Tom Zeleznik explained, “We spent a couple of hours the last time we met in a field, some supply goods and services to the women and men in the forest industry. ILA members are your neighbours in communities from the Fraser Valley to the East Kootenays, North to MacKenzie and west to Smithers.”

- Volansky is a second-generation logger with experience in all aspects of the industry from falling to hauling. He has been on the ILA board since May 9, 2014 and took the position of second vice chair on May 4, 2018. When his two-year term as ILA chair is up, he is eligible to be re-elected for another term.

The new chair of the Interior Logging Association is Ronald Volansky from Nakusp.

Nakusp native is new chair of Interior Logging Association

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp’s own Ronald Volansky is the new chair of the Interior Logging Association (ILA) board of directors. His two-year term started January 1.

“Chair of the ILA, I hope to use my 30+ years of experience in the industry to help the industry thrive, improve the economic stability in forestry communities, manage the equilibrium between the social, economic and environmental aspects of the industry, and attract workers to the industry,” he said.

Volansky says the important issues the ILA is working on include contractor sustainability, safety in the industry, and stability of the association’s members and the communities that they work and live in.

The Interior Logging Association (ILA), was formed in 1958 and registered under BC’s Societies Act. “The ILA provides a voice for independent logging contractors, sub-contractors, log and fibre haulers, community forests, equipment manufacturers, suppliers and local businesses,” Volansky explains. “ILA members are involved in harvesting, movement of wood fibre products or machinery, building and maintaining logging roads, some are in the consulting field, some supply goods and services to the women and men in the forest industry. ILA members are your neighbours in communities from the Fraser Valley to the East Kootenays, North to MacKenzie and west to Smithers.”
Human remains discovered in Howser area

Human remains discovered in a wooded area near the Underwater Recovery Team's (UWT) offices on January 30 have not yet been identified.

“KASLO & DISTRICT

by Jan McMurray

About 20 people attended a Zoom meeting on February 18 to learn more about Sean Brenton’s proposal for a sand and gravel pit on the outskirts of Kaslo behind the Esso station. Brenton, a new business facilitator, made a PowerPoint presentation about the proposal and attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions, with Kaslo representatives, and the crushing equipment contractor, Aaron Zukowski of Hadean Aggregate Solutions (HAS) in Kaslo, also sharing their time.

The PowerPoint showed a map of the proposed operation, which includes a mining area and an aerated water treatment area. Brenton said the operations area covers 1.7 acres (0.7 hectares) of a large piece of land that Brenton purchased in 2018 with the intention of creating 20 serviced, accessible residential lots for sale. The mining operations area will eventually become part of the residential development.

The sand and gravel would be used for the development of the land, and off-site sales would be on a supply and demand basis. The permit application is for a maximum of 2,700 tons or 180 truckloads per year, and the expected life of the mine is 20 years.

Brenton expects excavation and crushing operations to happen for one to two weeks per year, preferably in spring and fall, to avoid the peak tourism season. Hours of operation would be 7am-6pm Monday-Saturday, with crushing between 8am and 5pm. There would be no crushing on Sundays or statutory holidays.

All the equipment would be brought in by Hadean Aggregate Solutions. Hadean owner, Aaron Zukowski said all his equipment was brought in by Hadean Aggregate Solutions. He added that the Mining Act prohibits operations during significant weather events, such as long, hot, dry spells.

To mitigate noise and visual impacts, Brenton says he will leave existing trees, and build berms as required, as well as erect noise and dust control equipment. McCuaig’s colleague, Kathie Wagar, mentioned a regulation that prohibits operations during significant weather events, such as long, hot, dry spells.

The equipment includes a bulldozer/crane truck, a 20-ton excavator, a two-yard bucket, a sand and gravel pit discussed at online public meeting

The Village has applied for a supply/demand basis. The permit stays in place until the mine is abandoned, but the Mine Plan must be updated every five years. The update process is the same as the application process now underway. If Brenton operates the mine for 20 years, he will do three updates after being issued the permit. Once Brenton applies for closure of the mine, he will get his reclamation deposit back if the mine passes inspection.

McCuaig said that if Brenton sells the property, the mine permit doesn’t sell with the property. The only way a permit can change ownership is through an amendment to the permit, he said.

If Brenton is not following the Mine Plan, McCuaig said this could “ultimately lead to fines.” He said Brenton would need to amend the plan if he wanted to do things differently, and the requirement for public input would be up to the inspector who was reviewing the amendment application. “If public input can be triggered by the history on the file. If there are lots of complaints received or a history of non-compliance, that would trigger public input.”

Wagar said every active gravel site will be inspected at least once per year, and more if there are complaints.

She added that weed control is a requirement, and control of invasive plants must be done through non-toxic means.

McCuaig said he would start adjudicating the application immediately after the meeting. “I have the application package. I have received all the written statements. I will consider all points brought up at this meeting and will consider everything in adjudicating the application and will make a decision,” he said.

McCuaig said that based on the written comments received and the comments at this meeting, he would work with Brenton to discuss “what the project will look like before it proceeds to permit.”
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available through the Grad families, New Market Foods and Silverton Building Supplies. Draw is April 1 (no fooling!) Thank you for your support.

ABLE-FOOTED BUDDIES WANTED for the Silverton Kootenay Historical Society will be holding its AGM via Zoom meeting on March 25 at 7 pm. If you would like to attend please e-mail silverstoinfo@gmail.com for details by March 18.

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

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SHAKE TREE MASSAGE THERAPY now welcoming new and returning clients for therapeutic and relaxation treatments. Clean, quiet, professional office located in Winlaw. Jessica Cooner RMT 250-226-6687 shadetreemassagetherapy@hotmail.com

YOGA WITH TYSON * ONLINE!
Chair Yoga, Restorative Yoga, Feldenkrais.

CLASSIFIED ADS

available through the Grad families, New Market Foods and Silverton Building Supplies. Draw is April 1 (no fooling!) Thank you for your support.

ABLE-FOOTED BUDDIES WANTED for the Silverton Kootenay Historical Society will be holding its AGM via Zoom meeting on March 25 at 7 pm. If you would like to attend please e-mail silverstoinfo@gmail.com for details by March 18.

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

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Grants approved for several local heritage projects

The Province of BC allocated $16 million to the Unique Heritage Infrastructure stream of the Province’s single largest heritage infrastructure program. “We could not be happier to have this recognition and support from the Province,” says Paul Gravett, executive director of Heritage BC. “Through this funding program, the Province not only provided the largest one-time infusion of funds into the heritage sector, but it also recognized the importance and potential of heritage infrastructure and its place in our province’s economic picture.”

Funding available for rural economic recovery

The BC government is investing $1.5 million to help rural businesses and communities in the Southern Interior recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will be distributed and administered by the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust (SIDIT). “With this new funding, rural communities in the Southern Interior of BC with populations under 25,000, and non-profit business support organizations serving those communities, can access funding to create up to 20 new Community and/or Business Recovery Advisor positions. These new positions will enhance local capacity to create and implement community economic recovery plans, support local businesses and create new opportunities for growth,” says the SIDIT website.

Applications to the Rural Business and Community Recovery program will be accepted starting Monday February 22, 2021. The deadline for the first intake of applications is 4 pm on Friday March 19, with funding announcements expected by March 31. A second application intake may be offered in spring 2021. Visit sidit-bc.ca for more information.
SD 8 sells former board office property to Valid Manufacturing

submitted

The School District 8 - Kootenay Lake property at 570 Johnstone Road near Nelson will soon be re-titled.

First built as an elementary school in the 1960s and later home to the school board offices, the 2.5-acre parcel on the North Shore will be changing hands to become a new place of employment in the region this coming year. Valid Manufacturing, an engineering and light assembly manufacturing firm, has purchased the building with intention to expand its engineering and electronics manufacturing operations into the West Kootenay.

Based out of Salmon Arm, Valid Manufacturing specializes in delivering innovative and reliable solutions for a wide range of industries including agriculture, transportation, recreation and even the film industry. Valid Manufacturing recognizes this region is home to many talented, skilled technical people and will be looking for individuals to join their team at all levels of the organization.

For a purchase price of $1,120,000, proceeds of the sale are planned to be used to reinvest in school district facilities.

“This transaction is win-win,” commented school board chair Lenora Trenaman, “given the board’s commitment to upgrade other SD 8 learning environments and that it will provide the opportunity for more job creation in our community.”

In June 2020, the board of education adopted its current five-year capital operations plan, committing to a major sustained increase in annual funding to upgrade facilities in the district. The 570 Johnstone Road property was the first home to the North Shore Elementary School in the early 1960s to service the growing student population on the north side of the Kootenay River. The school was built shortly after the new West Arm bridge, now affectionately known as BOR: the Big Orange Bridge opened in 1957.

It later became the offices for SD 8’s first distributed learning program: DESK (Distance Education School of the Kootenays) in the 1990s and eventually the administration offices for the School Board in 2004. In 2018, the School Board offices were relocated to their current location in Central School, 811 Stanley Street, Nelson. The following year, Elections Canada opened a temporary office for Nelson and Kootenay Columbia riding voters leading up to the 2019 federal election campaign.

“This acknowledgement comes a year after Kalesnikoff opened its industry-leading mass timber facility and launched its line of mass timber products. This award builds on how the company has established its global markets over four decades and how its successes keep adding up — even during the global pandemic. As a fourth-generation, family-owned business, Kalesnikoff has 81 years of history in the lumber industry and has been a global exporter since the 1980s. “We manage our entire timber supply chain — all the way from the seedlings we plant to the mass timber solutions we build and design at our world class facility,” said CEO and President Ken Kalesnikoff. “With our mass timber offerings, we are creating new, highly-skilled jobs, investing in technology and supporting our communities as well as our wonderful employees. We’re proud to add substantial value to our products locally in BC before serving the markets of the world.”

Kalesnikoff’s mass timber is being used for schools, community housing, university residences, commercial buildings and more throughout North America and beyond.

KALENSIKOFF
INNOVATION, VALUE, EFFICIENCY, SUSTAINABILITY

Kalesnikoff Manufacturing Corporation is BC’s leader in mass timber construction. Our family-owned business, with 81 years of history in the lumber industry and 40 years of innovation and investment, is built on a commitment to deliver world-class mass timber solutions everywhere. We are now building sustainable communities worldwide.

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JVF Leadership Education class shows real leadership

**Marilyn Oliver**

1940-2021

Edith Mary Catherine Edinger, 80, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 12, 2021, at Nelson Hospital after a long, courageous battle with a chronic illness. Marilyn was born on September 23, 1940, in Nakusp, British Columbia to Charles and Catherine Horrey. The Horrey’s owned the Nakusp Hardware Store and were very involved in the community. Growing up, she took square dancing and piano lessons, was a baton twirler, and Girl Guides member. In order to graduate high school in 1957, Marilyn went to live with her Uncle Jim and Aunt Connie (Mauchline) and after high school, she completed her BC College, completing her practical nursing course. She took a secretarial course at the Trail Business School and in 1958 got her first job at West Kootenay Power in South Slocan. It was while working at WKP that she met her soulmate and the love of her life, Robert (Bob) Edward Gordon Oliver. Marilyn and Bob married on December 12, 1959, and settled down in South Slocan where they raised their family. While the children were growing up, she worked part time at the South Slocan Post Office. Once her five children were in school, she started working as a secretary with the Nelson School District, first at Crescent Valley Elementary School and then Brent Kennedy Elementary School. She took tremendous pride in her work as the secretary and was highly regarded by students, staff, and families alike.

Other than being a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, Marilyn enjoyed spending time with her family, playing word games, crossword puzzles, a good book, and hunching out. Her flower gardens & pots were her pride and joy and they were enjoyed by everyone in South Slocan. She had a dry sense of humour and every time the family drove by Blaylock Mansion on the North Shore Road, it was the same spot that was where she grew up, she loved to keep her children guessing. In recent years, Marilyn thoroughly enjoyed her time walking with other seniors in Cathy Potkins’ walking group at the Nelson and District Community Complex where many friendships blossomed. Everyone had nothing but kind words to say about her and her positive attitude encouraged others even when she may have been struggling herself.

Marilyn is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, Robert Oliver, and her five children: Warren Oliver, Catherine (Dan) Crowther, Sharon (Andrew) Pearman, Gordon (Collette) Oliver, Tama (Shane) Martin. She is also survived by her five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service for Marilyn will be postponed until a later date when COVID restrictions ease up. The family would like to thank the Thompson Family for their support during this difficult time. Anyone wishing to make a donation in Marilyn’s memory, may do so to the Kootenay Lake Hospital.

When answering questions from attendees, McLellan explained that the Kaslo JV Parents Association is an important and increasing voice at the school, with a population of 11 students and the Strong Start program operating there.

The last slide of the presentation says: “The District will periodically review the use of the Jewett facility, including student enrolment and Strong Start participation, and continue its consultations with the local community as to how and where to best continue providing educational services to the students of the Meadow Creek area.”

JVF Leadership Education class shows real leadership

Louis Charles Hascarl

October 21, 1932 – February 4, 2021

With great sadness we announce the passing of Louis Charles Hascarl. He passed away quietly on February 4th with family by his side. Born and raised in Nakusp, B.C., Lou moved his family to Cran Flats, B.C., in 1969, where they lived until 2004. After retiring Lou and Dawn made their residence in their motor home, summering at Woodbury Resort, Ainsworth, B.C., and wintering at Seal Bay RV Resort in Comox, B.C. Lou always had a congregation at his campsite, which he would have every chance he could, always liking the society and camaraderie. Lou and Dawn went to the same church wherever he went, exploring new places. Even though he drove logging track for a living and worked long hours, his relaxation with the family on the weekend was driving the roads he’d driven all week. So when later in life some of the roads would be too rough, he’d drive around in the enjoyment for that purpose, finding new places. Lou enjoyed being in the outdoors, hunting, fishing, exploring, and finding new places. One of his greatest joys was to spend his days picking huckleberries and mushrooms. He took great pleasure in his alone time, often spending whole days out picking all by himself. He would go to great lengths to keep his special spots secret, telling wild stories of bears to deter others from his favorite spots. Lou leaves to mourn his 5 children and their spouses, Lucille (Doug) Smith, Kimberly, B.C., Daryl (Barbara) Hascarl, Elkford, B.C., Beverly (Terry) Carleton, Swift Current (Neville) SK, Naomi (Dan) Maitsette, Golden, B.C., Melanie (Blake) Kurucz, Coalhurst, AB. Lou leaves 9 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. He also leaves two very special people in his life, Paul and Theresa Butcher of Comox, B.C., who became his adopted family, 11 surviving siblings, brothers, Lloyd, Les, Neil, Allan, Gerry, Ronnie, and Kenny, sisters, Judy, Patsy, June, and Iris, Lou leaves many, many nieces/nephews, grandnephews/nieces, and great-grand nieces/nephews.

Predeceased by his wife Dawn and by one brother, Lawrence.

Lou touched a lot of lives and he will be missed greatly.

The family would like to thank Dr. Lunge and staff at the Kimberley Medical Centre, all of the staff at Garden View Village, the Health Care Auxiliary, Loan Cupboard, and East Kootenay Regional Hospital for their superb care and support of Lou during his time in Kimberley.

Dependent on COVID-19 restrictions, A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date when we are allowed to gather with all our family and friends.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation https://www.heartandstroke.ca/

Arrangements entrusted to McPherson Funeral Services.

Condolences for the family can be offered at www.mcphersonsmith.com
School District 8 amends 2020-21 budget upwards by $3.5 million

by Jan McMurray

School District 8’s budget is turning out to be about $3.5 million higher than what was originally forecast for this school year.

“Due to the impacts of COVID-19, 2020-21 will be an unusual financial year,” says a document called the ‘2020-21 Amended Annual Budget: Superintendent’s Recommendations’ received by the SD 8 board of education at its February meeting.

But the bottom line is still a balanced budget. Both revenues and expenses are coming in about 3.7% higher than projected, the document says.

Revenues are up, mainly because the government provided emergency funding – $2,293,825 in COVID-19 Safe Return to School and Safe Return to Class grants.

The rise in expenses is mostly due to an increase in staffing. The document says that 15 additional teachers, and 5.3 additional custodians and bus drivers were hired to manage the impact of COVID-19.

Revenue was also affected by the significant decrease in international students this year. The district had conservatively projected 55 international students, but only 26 enrolled. This translates to a drop of more than 50% in projected international program revenues – from $1.36 million to about $659,700.

The document also says that relief budgets and staff on paid leaves have increased substantially this year, presumably also attributable to COVID-19.

The 2020-21 budget was amended to be $74,627,580, up from $71,113,093 from when it was approved in April 2020.

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Outdoor learning classrooms are going up at Lucerne School, Nakusp Secondary and Burton Elementary, thanks to the federal Safe Return to Class funding. The outdoor structures are the same as the one at Nakusp Elementary School. Watch for more information next issue.