Silverton Co-work Society to build North Slocan Valley Community Food Centre

The Silverton Co-work Society is receiving almost $900,000 to create a North Slocan Valley Community Food Centre in Silverton. The funding comes through the provincial Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP), which is investing $90 million to support community economic resilience, tourism, heritage, and economic development projects to support BC’s post-pandemic economic recovery.

“The idea of a food hub is one which has been percolating in the community for at least a decade,” says Mick Wilson, local farmer and vice president of the Silverton Co-work Society. When the Healthy Community Society created a food hub committee several years ago to begin work towards creation of such a space, the Silverton Co-work Society was simultaneously working on creating a technology hub for office work, skills training, and meetings. Because both initiatives are based on providing shared work spaces for community programming and economic development, it seemed natural to pursue this larger vision under a single roof and a single organization. Three members of the Healthy Community Society’s food hub committee joined the board of the Silverton Co-work Society, which will oversee the combined vision.

The CERIP funding for the food centre will be used in conjunction with the previously provided Rural Community Development grant from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) to create a co-work space on the ground floor of the heritage Silverton General Store building.

“The food centre and co-work space projects are complementary,” says Morgen Bardati, society co-chair. “Aligning them in the same physical space will benefit both and provide unique opportunities for incubating small business with cross pollination of ideas, resources, business training, and collaborative projects.”

In addition to CERIP and FLNRORD grants, financial support has been received from the Slocan Valley Economic Development Partnership and private donations. The Village of Silverton provided initial funding for the co-work feasibility study. Overall, the project will cost approximately $1.3 million, including contributions from the building owner.

Plans include renovations to the building, bringing it up to current building code with COVID-19 ventilation requirements, and a space designed to be both functional and flexible. A commercial kitchen will be available to local food producers, caterers, and food-related home-based businesses. Space for food storage and a culinary tool library are included in the design, as are spaces large enough for educational programs, workshops, and potentially an indoor market or pop-up cafe.

A primary objective of the project is job creation and economic support for the North Slocan Valley. In addition to the jobs created during the construction phase, local value-added food entrepreneurs will have an accessible commercial kitchen and flexible spaces for service and sales to the public. “The food centre will raise the profile of emerging food issues, respond with community-informed solutions, and will be in a position to offer stability and continuity during times of global change and emergency situations such as pandemics or wildfires,” states Paula Shandro, co-chair.

The society is currently working with the Hammond family, owners of the General Store building, to finalize designs. Ellen Kinsel, society treasurer, says, “We expect to be ready to go to tender for the construction contract by early summer, but there are still a lot of unknowns as we move through the process.”

The Silverton Co-work Society board of directors outside the Silverton General Store, where they will be creating a community food centre and co-work space. Miranda Hughes, Morgen Bardati, Ellen Kinsel, Paula Shandro, Robin McNabb, Mick Wilson.
New library for Kaslo: community feedback and involvement wanted

by Jan McMurray

If all goes well, there will be a brand new 5,000-square-foot library on Kaslo’s Front Street in three years’ time.

The library is looking for community feedback and involvement, and hosted an online public meeting on February 24. Library Director Eva Kelemen said the new facility was envisioned to be “welcoming, highly visible, accessible, energy-efficient, tech-enabled, and with an awesome collection.”

“We have a community of lifelong learners,” Kelemen pointed out as a good reason to invest in the library. She also said reading for pleasure as a child predicts a better outcome in life regardless of socioeconomic status.

The chair of the library board of directors, Anne Heard, said that the library has run out of room after 38 years in its present location in the basement of the City Hall building. “Every new or donated book means something from the collection has to go,” she said.

Although use of the Kaslo Library is higher than average for small libraries in BC, Heard said, the collection is about 20% smaller than average because of the space constraints.

The lack of space also impacts staff and volunteers, library programs, and storage. Kelemen said her “dream” was to have “a room for volunteers where they can have a cup of tea.”

Also, the library “barely meeting current accessibility standards,” Heard said, and the location is not ideal. When the library temporarily moved to Front Street during City Hall renovations, visits increased substantially.

All of these challenges are addressed in the preliminary concept drawings of the new building, done by R Inwood Design and Richard Hunter Architect (posted on the library’s website). There’s a large circulation area, a designated 500-square-foot program room, a reading nook, a children’s area, a teen room, an area for public computers and copying, a local history room, a meeting room with a smart board, a staff room, offices, storage areas, accessible washrooms, a small kitchen, and a room for exam invigilation.

Heard explained that the need for a new library was identified about five years ago. Because current legislation prohibits public libraries from owning property, the library approached the Village and was well received. Village council formed a committee with library and Village representatives, and established a library capital reserve fund that is strictly for funding and donations for the new library. Although donations must be made to the Village of Kaslo, with it noted that the funds are for the new library, people were assured that their donations would go into the reserve fund and could not be diverted for other Village purposes.

The new library’s operational costs of the land on the corner of Front and 5th across from Front Street Park is being funded by Columbia Basin Trust Trust ($300,000), the RDCK grant ($50,000), and one very generous local pledge of $50,000. The new library’s operational costs will be higher than currently, Mayor Suzan Hewat said, but there will be an opportunity to offset those with rental fees. Kelemen said a rough estimate of the operating costs in the new facility was $22,000 annually and would result in a “very small tax increase” for the service area’s residents.

Mayor Hewat also said that other community needs, such as affordable housing, were considered – but the ICIP grant can only be used for a “library.” “Once we have got or not got the grant, we can pivot and look at different uses for the space up above. Until we know about the ICIP grant, we can’t go any further on those discussions,” she said.

A fundraising committee was established in January and is working on communications materials and event planning. Watch for an online auction this spring, the library’s display at the Saturday Market, and notices of further events. Heard listed many ways individuals can get involved. “Be a friend of the new Kaslo Library, spread the word.”

First Slocan Valley cannabis shop planned for Evergreen Natural Foods

continued from page 3

Kootenay (RDCK) has placed a notice in this issue of the Valley Voice, seeking public input on the cannabis retail licence. See page 9 to find out how to submit comments.

“We’ve been pleased at how swift the Province and RDCK have been,” Mattson said, “and I expect and hope we’ll be able to open this year.”

With the Province as the sole wholesaler, Mattson says the products they’ll have in the store will be limited to within the scope of what the Province carries. However, they want to carry Slocan Valley-grown pot, and are encouraged by the project to build a co-op cannabis processing facility at the junction.

This valley is known around the world for having some of the best producers, and if they have made that transition to legal wholesale growing, we want to carry it. We’ll see what’s possible within what the provincial wholesaler allows,” said Mattson.

Mason and Mattson took over management of Evergreen Natural Foods in 2018. Mason’s parents owned Evergreen, so she grew up in Crescent Valley. She lived in Vancouver for a while, and moved back to the valley in 2016 when her mother fell ill. “We wanted to build a life here and we realized there was a place for us to take over the store,” she said.
First Slocan Valley cannabis shop planned for Evergreen Natural Foods

by Jan McMurray

The first legal pot shop in the Slocan Valley may be coming soon to the café space at Evergreen Natural Foods in Crescent Valley.

Evergreen owners James Mattson and Serena Mason have applied for a cannabis retail store licence and are planning to transform the Everbean Café space upstairs into a pot shop.

"It wasn’t a good time for us to be taking on a project because we are expecting a child," he explained. "Then COVID happened, and we had to close the seating in the café. So we had this wasted space, and COVID really drew out the need for this space as a café. So it seemed like the time to do it — but now we’re expecting another baby!"

"As per regulations, the cannabis store will be completely self-enclosed — it will be walled off with fire separations. An entrance ramp/stairway will be built on the highway frontage side," Mason said. "The café will be coming back." The café will be coming back, Mason assured. "We just need to renovate another spot in the store." The application process has three parts, Mason explained. "This business viability component is where the Province wants to know you will be a reliable business partner, because they are the wholesale," he added. "Then there is an extensive screening, and a public input process."

The Regional District of Central Kootenay continued on page 2

WHY VWS OPPOSES THE PROPOSED ZINCTION RESORT

The BC Mountain Resorts Branch (MBR) has declared that Mr. David Harley’s proposed Zincton Resort is “Resilient”, and has invited his company to submit a formal plan. Zincton has issued a “Summary of Public Comments and Preliminary Revisions” as described in the Feb. 11 Valley Voice. The following is Valhalla Wilderness Society’s reply.

Highway 31A has some of the highest-traffic tourist and recreational/urbanism lands outside of parks, in the West Kootenays. It is already heavily used for non-commercial and commercial recreation. The proposed settlement and lift-assisted ski hill will represent explosive, malignant growth of development, human occupation and highway traffic, in an area that is already occupied and ecologically important populations of grizzly bears, mountain goats, wolverines and western wildlife. It will be biologists predict high loss of grizzly bears, and reductions of other species over a large area.

Potential impacts to soil and water, in the form of pollution (e.g. phytoremediation, seepage of waste water from the slurry pit, acid rain or erosion) and greatly increased run-off known to occur on ski hills, could result by downstream all the way to Slocan Lake.

A potentially rapid increase in human use could exceed the carrying capacity of existing recreation and tourism assets, causing cumulative damage. These features include Goat Range Provincial Park; a system of outstanding hiking trails; a sensitive old-growth interpretive trail with bear dens; a mixture of moun- tain bike trails in the Zincton area above; and the Idaho Peak interpretive trail.

It is well-documented that high-impact development (with buildings, roads, villages and ski developments) can have devastating economic and social impacts on small town residents. These are impacts about which government and de- velopers never tell the public.

Ruining our most valuable assets

The MBR mandate is to make BC resorts “Resilient”. But what draws abundant international tourists here is our mountain wilderness, combined with clean natural resources (Slocan Lake), and an off-the-beaten-path character in our towns. This is what we have that no one else is so unique and rare as to draw many international visitors.

Economist Dr. Thomas Power has re- ported to resort development in such areas “suggesting that which is unique for that which is common.” High-impact tourism brings a new crew of people to town, not those who work locally and seeking ski homes to buy, or expensive vacation ac- commodation. Another group of tourists that seeks nature-based or wilderness- based recreation, gradually abandons these areas. Even the Zincton develop- ment company admitted in its Expression of Interest that many people are abandon- ing towns in favour of resort areas to seek backcountry recreation.

Zincton claims that it will provide sustainable backcountry recreation opportu- nities. The response to public inputs says it will build 60 apartments just for the staff of the resort, and plan for a lift that will only be open for 100 times per season. Denver, with 1,550 skiers per day on the slopes, backcountry reached by ski lifts, and other people and their back- country lodge isn’t backcountry anymore.

Negative economic impacts

Zincton promises wealth, jobs and pros- perity to the local communities. But a number of studies by economists have shown that, even when separated from property owners, ski resorts rapidly drive up real estate prices in the towns, making it difficult for many long-time residents to maintain their property, and preventing ordinary newcomers from buying property. The result is that new residents from outside displace some of the original residents.

Dr. Power lauded tourism as a key part of a transition from resource extract- ion, but he drew a big distinction between wilderness-based tourism that provides resources based on natural condition, and “large-scale” tourism: “Large-scale tourism is not just another economic activity, with it can come cul- tural change and the physical transfor- mation of a community. The impact on existing residents can be quite dis- trictive because of the effect, terminated competing with local residents to take possession of their homes, stores, streets, and parks. Those who consider their residences, either rented or

owned, as homes rather than invest- ments will find it increasingly costly to remain in the community. Rising prop- erty taxes along with low property owner’s rising rents to push renters out... Many resort towns have experienced this syndrome.” Zincton’s own EOI admitted that “residents have been careful not to lose the character of the region and work to ensure a high quality of life the area is known for.” We have done this by keeping most of our tourism develop- ment in town, and our enhancements at recreational sites minimal, so as not to ruin their natural character. This draws vis- itors here by droves — people who no longer have wilderness or natural forests around — and many are eager to “get away from crowds.” Many people who live here have the same desire.

Public land to increase private profits

New information in Zincton’s response to public comments states: “Zincton will provide up to 60 on-hill apartments to accommodate seasonal Staff and full-time members of the communities to add housing as required at their own pace.”

“Each residence on Zincton Mountain Village will offer its own guest rental suite(s), enjoying accommodation reve- nue while also eliminating dark homes.”

The name of Mr. Harley’s company is the one on the proposal is now “Zincton Lift Company”. “Residents in the Zincton vil- lage will not be run or managed by the resort, but by each owner-operator. The role of the Zincton Lift Company will be limited to lifts, roads, safety, marketing, and reservations.”

In summary, the proposal looks ever more like a big real estate deal for a few developers. The value of the properties would be greatly increased by the BC gov- ernment over 4,500 hectares of high-value wildlife habitat for a private ski hill and a backcountry lodge. The buyers would occupy the high price of their dwellings by renting out the guest suites. Zincton Lift Company can wash its hands of what goes on there except for its financially marketing and running the ski hill.

VWS and its supporters spent decades securing two provincial parks in this area to preserve nature, but also to provide recreation and tourism that would not destroy the character of our communities. Outside Goose Range Park our Society built the Whitewater and Re- tallack Cedar Grove trails, instigated gov- ernment to desinitize three recreation sites, designed and worked on the Dennis Creek Basin trail, opened up the Alps Al- turas, K & S and Mt. Brennan trails, con- tributed to developing the Galena trail. VWS, with the contributions of other groups and individuals, is another kind of community wealth and precious legacy that belongs to us all.

Retailack Resort’s original applica- tion was supported by VWS, but it has since shown us how, once established, a resort and a marketing campaign expand the private owners’ priority use of public land; and how proposals the public thinks it is reviewing turn out to be something different some years later.

The Mountain Resorts Branch should be ashamed of permitting further plan- ning on this project simply because it is “feasible”, without accounting for the in- evitable negative consequences.

Mr. Harley now proposes to set up a Wildlife Protection Zone in summer for grizzly bears, which makes very little if it is on his private ski hill, subject to his discretion, and used by the many people his ski hill would attract. For VWS’s more de- tailed response to these proposals see https://www.vws.org.

Letters Urgently Needed

Money talks, and this project will be fast ap- palling unless the many people who oppose it tell the government so in no uncertain terms. Please also join us in asking for a moratorium on all further commercial per- missions along the New Denver to Kaslo corridor until a cumulative effects assessment is done and an economically sound fair recreation plan is created for the Highway 31A Corridor. Address two letters to:

Hon. Katrina Cremonesi, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations (FLNRORD)
Fax: 250-357-9090
FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Mountain Resorts Branch, FLNRORD #510-175 Second Avenue Kamloops, BC, V2C 5W1 Phone: 250-376-7301
Kelly.Northcott@gov.bc.ca

Submitted by
Valhalla Wilderness Society
Staying afloat

I would like to thank the Kootenay Lake Historical Society for an insightful look at our past struggle with our most recent pandemic. (VV, Feb 22: ‘A look back at the Spanish flu in the Kootenays’)

How quickly we (humans) forget the recent past to our collective detriment. It only goes to show how important the study of history is if we want to have any chance for success in the future.

I would also like to thank Richard Cannell and Ann Sherrod for their paid and unpaid submissions over the past few issues of the VV. It really does show how much you both care about our micro and macro society by putting in the time and energy with your articles. By not remaining silent you are throwing the rest of us a life preserver to keep us from drowning in the misinformation tsunami.

Rayn Butt-Grau
New Denver

Learning from each other

On February 18, Israel National News reported some worrisome outcomes from their vaccination program against COVID-19, regarding adverse reactions to the vaccine. Israel led the way in the vaccine roll-out and has already vaccinated over half of its population. An interesting contrast may be seen in India. They were already vaccinated over half of its population. An interesting contrast may be seen in India. They were already vaccinated over half of its population. An interesting contrast may be seen in India. They were already vaccinated over half of its population. An interesting contrast may be seen in India. They were already vaccinated over half of its population. An interesting contrast may be seen in India. They were already vaccinated over half of its population. An interesting contrast may be seen in India. They were already vaccinated over half of its population. An interesting contrast may be seen in India. They were already vaccinated over half of its population. An interesting contrast may be seen in India. They were already vaccinated over half of its population. An interesting contrast may be seen in India. They were already vaccinated over half of its population.
No freedom without responsibility

What I don’t understand is that you publish letters that deny the existence and severity of the coronavirus pandemic and falsities like the claim by Cifarrai and Gian about a “landmark decision by the German court” declaring lockdowns, social distancing etc. as unconstitutional. That is not so.

The Bundesverfassungsgericht (Constitutional High Court) admitted that the freedom of the people is massively restricted because of the measures ordered by the federal and provincial governments, but 100% freedom does before the freedom of the individual. Anyone can read the latest decisions of that court on the internet under ‘Bundesverfassungsgericht/ Coronavirus pandemic.’

The protesting people misunderstand the term ‘freedom.’ They should think instead of equality and egalitarianism – which protects the term ‘freedom.’ They should think about the suffering of the elderly and most vulnerable from an elderly, or someone from Gaza, Yemen, Burma? How about a march in support of the recent genocide of the Sinixt – who did I see any explanation on the health effects that some members of our community are comparing our current crisis, and march against the fentanyl crisis, and march for Indigenous rights, and missing and murdered Indigenous women? How about a “March” for Indigenous rights, and our sacred forests, old growth and fridges? How about a “Freedom March” for Indigenous rights, and to bring awareness to the plague of domestic violence against women? How about a march in support of reconciliation for reparation for the horrors of the residential schools? This very land we live on is a site of mass genocide, murder, and disease-ridden refugee camp.

What has us concerned are the mistruths, conspiracy rhetoric and xenophobia being spewed forth in the Valley in regards to the pandemic. It is important to question the government, and the media (all sources: mainstream and alternative). Even in a democracy, government answers to corporations, and has many interests which are not solely focused on the well-being of its citizens. Free speech is a defining beacon of democracy.

That said, it has come to our attention that some members of our community are comparing our current (and relatively easy-going) COVID restrictions in BC to Nazi Germany. To compare our public health officials trying their damndest to protect the elderly and most vulnerable from an illness disproportionately affecting them with the SS officers as they held the helpless mother down.

That’s what Nazi Germany was about – mass genocide, murder, slavery and torture. The minor, and temporary, restrictions we face in BC cannot be conflated with the Holocaust. If you are not a Holocaust survivor, or survivor of any genocide – that’s a comparison that’s not yours to make.

We believe that it’s a luxury to have the time to complain about mask wearing, new restrictions, wearing glasses that house googling the “Plandemic.” Most of the world is just trying to get by at the best of times. Most settlers in Canada know very little about true loss of freedoms, or of life in a real dictatorship. Talk to an Indigenous elder, or someone from Gaza, Yemen, Syria or China about your perceived lack of freedom in modern-day Canada. While our government does outlaw the CERB, families are fleeing war zones, crossing sea in inflatable rafts with their children. Only, if they are lucky, to end up in a freezing and disease-ridden refugee camp. Perspective is lacking – we’ve got it easy in Canada.

There are so many urgent humanitarian and environmental crises in the world that we are not home to.

Why not use our position of privilege to put our energies into productive causes?

Why not raise awareness about children in the West Kootenays who don’t have enough food in their refrigerators? How about a “Freedom March” for Indigenous rights, and to bring awareness to the plague of domestic violence against women? How about a march in support of reconciliation for reparation for the horrors of the residential schools? This very land we live on is a site of mass genocide, murder, and disease-ridden refugee camp.

We believe the above listed causes to be coherent. Protecting wearing a piece of cloth on our faces does not appear to be a positive expenditure of energies. We are concerned that it can lead to the further disempowerment of the vulnerable, and a dangerous anti-Semitic trop. Hitler spewed the same bile. Nor are they the only powerful billionaires. The “Global Banking Conspiracy” is not race specific. greed and lust for power transcends all communities, nations and ethnicities.

* Pedophilia and child trafficking are horrific, but that horror is not spiritually any political affiliation or ethnicity. Please stop demeaning the personal hell of sex abuse survivors by somehow tying in mask wearing during a pandemic to pedophilia and child trafficking.

The beauty of the Slocan Valley community is love and tolerance. Most Valley residents are open-minded. To those few folks who are sparing hatred under the guise of fighting for freedom – please stop. Racism, xenophobia and intolerance have been well known throughout history. Now, under a disguise of new age conspiracy theories. Lack of critical thinking breeds paranoia; which then opens the door to atrocities. Voltaire once said: “Those who can make you believe absurdities, can make you commit atrocities”.

Of course it’s a stressful time. Job losses, social isolation and the isolation of our seniors in the care home industrial complex are tragedies. There are some positives – why must we only focus on anger and paranoia? We are all slowing down; catching our collective breaths and giving Mother Earth a much needed break from our glutinous consumption of her resources.

Let’s teach the next generation love and tolerance regardless of race, creed or sexual orientation. We live in one of the most beautiful places on earth – let’s not poison it with hate. We need coherence, tolerance and decency now more than ever.

Laura Lee McGhie
Slocan

Dear Valley Community

We are writing out of concern for the direction we see our community going in. The whole world is tested to its limits at the moment, to varying degrees, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ensuing limitations on our day-to-day lives are extremely frustrating. What has us concerned are the mistruths, conspiracy rhetoric and xenophobia being spewed forth in the Valley in regards to the pandemic. It’s important to question the government, and the media (all sources: mainstream and alternative). Even in a democracy, government answers to corporations, and has many interests which are not solely focused on the well-being of its citizens. Free speech is a defining beacon of democracy.

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testing from Pfizer/Moderna 'vaccines' are from 7-day and 14-day trials and are specific to treating symptoms. Many are lining up ad hoc 'expert' on the role of evidence in the medical system, I’ve heard: “I’m too old” and “I’m just going to follow what they’re saying and get the shot.” Many simply want to travel, bring an end to lockdown, restrictions, and masking. Understandably so.

For those seeking out their own truth – what feels inherently true for them – check out Dr. ZachBush. I’ve just recently scratched the surface. As stated previously – we need to get back to nature. Here are some quotes from Dr. Bush.

“The microbes we are destroying are the direct link between our bodies and the Earth. The dramatic increase in human disease we are currently experiencing is a symptom of the failing health of our planet.”

“The warrior mentality has also led to a mischaracterization of the innate immune system where it is often described as a protective barrier that we perceive as a threat. It is far from this perception of threats of nature.”

He also states: “over half of the human genome is of viral genetic origin.”

“Our ability to interact with nature at a biological level is paramount to our survival. The innate immune system is not fighting against nature, it’s an intelligent, dynamic, living mechanism connecting us to the health of the environment, and we have to understand the body’s natural microorganisms that surround us and the innate immune system via the gut microbiome that assures balance between protection and adaptation.”

We need better understanding of the fact that the immune system is both innate and adaptive. The adaptive immune system makes decisions down on our relationship, not with the viruses, but with the proteins that we produce from the viruses,” says Dr. Bush.

The ‘vaccine’ may result from increased inflammatory reactions and is NOT going to protect you from coronavirus.

“New Denvers Sinixt tumuxulatxw

The Valley Voice  March 11, 2021

Letters

Old news - new

New Denver Excelsior

Police, COVID, and politics

Early March always brings this back to mind. On March of 3, 2023, my 8 year old nurse, a nurse from nearby Mayworth, Alberta, was quite distressed and unable to cope. The four young RCMP officers were ambulance and shot on a nearby farm that night. Everyone in the area was shocked and saddened by the death and grief. Like all first responders, we are not used to this kind of response. First to arrive were people who have lived her for 400+ generations (10,000 years), are the indigenous people and anyone speaking out and bringing evidence to the fact that the supposed virus is much higher death rate. People already know what is going on.

The microbes we are destroying are an integral part of our environment and our health. They interact with our immune system to maintain balance and prevent interaction for 14 days and beyond. They are critical to our survival. The microbes we are destroying are the direct link between our bodies and the Earth. The dramatic increase in human disease we are currently experiencing is a symptom of the failing health of our planet.”

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He also states: “over half of the human genome is of viral genetic origin.”

“Our ability to interact with nature at a biological level is paramount to our survival. The innate immune system is not fighting against nature, it’s an intelligent, dynamic, living mechanism connecting us to the health of the environment, and we have to understand the body’s natural microorganisms that surround us and the innate immune system via the gut microbiome that assures balance between protection and adaptation.”

We need better understanding of the fact that the immune system is both innate and adaptive. The adaptive immune system makes decisions down on our relationship, not with the viruses, but with the proteins that we produce from the viruses,” says Dr. Bush.

The ‘vaccine’ may result from increased inflammatory reactions and is NOT going to protect you from coronavirus.

“New Denvers Sinixt tumuxulatxw
New Denver council February 23: $257,000 grant for Nikkei Centre
by Kathy Hartman
The Village of New Denver received a $257,000 grant for the Nikkei Centre. See story, back page.

The Sandoon Historical Society also received a grant to support the replacement of historical buildings.

Residents this week,” said volunteer Therese Dubinsky, assistant superintendent for SD 10.

The committee had 18 members, including four students, two parents, a teacher, a CUPE representative, a vice-principal, three district staff, all five trustees, and two SOGI experts.

The project was awarded grant funding of $290,000 in 2019, but according to a press release, the project was delayed because of COVID-19 restrictions. The Village of New Denver has been released.

Eagle is working with the University of British Columbia on the two-year project. The press release states that the project “aims to establish baseline performance of battery anode graphite from Eagle Graphite’s plant and quantify improvement of cathode properties to the formulation, incorporating new improvements to cathode materials, for the provincial CleanBC Go Electric Advanced Research and Commercialization program.”

Eagle Graphite CEO Jamie Deith was recently invited to speak to a parliamentary committee about Canada’s opportunity in the field of energy technologies. His message: we should be investing in our mineral resources and manufacturing capacities here at home.

“...Canada has a choice of roles,” he told the committee. “One can choose to be base metal raw materials supplier... Canada’s other alternative is for us to invest heavily and with urgency in downstream manufacturing, nurturing a viable ecosystem of second- and third-stage processing capacity where currently there is a vacuum.”

Deith said that Canada supplies raw materials – “that’s the limit of Canada’s capabilities.” However, with electric vehicles and green technologies becoming more and more mainstream, he said there is “a renewed sense of gravity for us, focused and diversified supply chains.” At the moment, China has the monopoly on intermediate-stage processing of graphite-based material that could lead to a supply chain in BC and promote the adoption of electric vehicles in Canada.

“...If the committee... Schroeder said. “One can... and diversified supply chains.” At the moment, China has the monopoly on intermediate-stage processing of graphite-based material that could lead to a supply chain in BC and promote the adoption of electric vehicles in Canada.

SD 10 Arrow Lakes builds community during revision of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification policy
by Jan McMurray
The task of revising policies is not usually described as “a profound experience,” but that’s how it was for the New Denver and Area Housing Society.

Two of the New Denver and area volunteers who did not receive funding during the spring runoff.

The Village of New Denver is now accepting applications for the following:

Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre

The Village of New Denver is now accepting applications for Museum Attendants, Museum Assistants and Collections Assistants to work at the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre National Historic Site.

Student positions: Open to individuals between 15-30 years of age.

Wage: $15.20/hour.

Non-student positions: Flexible hours available from May to September. Wage: $17.68/hour.

Village of New Denver Public Works

The Village of New Denver is accepting applications for an Equipment Operator, Temporary Labourers and Summer Student Groundskeepers in the Public Works department for the 2021 season.

Equipment Operator position: Wage $26.54/hour.
Temporary Labourers positions: Wage $20.79/hour.
Student Groundskeepers positions: Wage $15.20/hour.

Centennial Campground

The Village of New Denver is currently accepting applications for a Campground Attendant for the 2021 season (May – September).

For more information regarding any of these opportunities, please contact the Village Office. Positions will remain posted until filled. All applicants are thanked for their interest – only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

March 11, 2021 The Valley Voice

Eagle Graphite and UBC partner on EV battery research project
by Jan McMurray
Eagle Graphite’s quarry and plant in the Slocan Valley is the site of a research project to develop a part for electric vehicle batteries.

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could “feel it in her body.” In the second man, a said that when someone criticized him, he knew this to be true because of his inner response. And the questions, proffered by a third person: Aren’t feelings facts? Isn’t my gut feeling the best absolute barometer for truth? I wish it were easy. Feelings are fact, in that they represent something real: the sensations of my body. They tell me that my stomacher hurts, my head aches, or that my chest feels tight. These are facts, and part of the work of an adult is to acknowledge these sensations and decide what to do about them.

In another sense, feelings are not facts. They do not state clearly the truth of an external situation; they simply indicate my body’s interpretation of that external situation. The new research on trauma, which provides real hope for healing PTSD, is hopeless about bodily sensations – experiencing what is happening in our body rather than ignoring it or drugging it away. But the essence of good trauma therapy is intended to liberate one from the difficult experience, rather than allow it to frame every subsequent interaction.

If I grew up with screaming and hitting – and I don’t consciously examine my physical responses – then whenever someone raises her voice, my body is going to feel as if I am being attacked. If I grew up with silent scream, I’ll interpret certain facial expressions as disdain whether intended or not. It doesn’t matter what I know rationally. The body decides long before I start thinking.

Relying solely on bodily sensations to navigate life choices is no more adequate than relying solely on logic. Healthy responses come from using both our sensations and our working minds.

We’re in a tricky time. The pandemic may be easing – but the need of mistrust sown in this last year won’t disappear with vaccinations. When I read the paper or Facebook to listen to the news, I am aware that most of us are desperately trying to bludgeon each other into agreement with our viewpoint. The upside of this mess is that it is an ideal time to develop character, starting with a close look at my physical response to ideas that I dislike! That closer look shows that like virtually everyone else, I’m more comfortable with my settled opinion than with hearing something challenging. I may avoid people with whom I seriously disagree – partly because I don’t like being harangued, but also because I don’t want to be unsettled. At some level, I am afraid of others’ opinions. They cause discomfort in my body. It hurts, my head aches, or that

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Open 9 am - 5 pm Monday to Saturday. Contactless debit/credit. Cleaning protocols in place – customers reminded to social distance. Please wear a mask in store. Facebook: Bon Marche Dollar Dollar Nakusp 250-353-9644

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Mon-Sat. 8 am & 9 pm
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Open Mon-Sat. 8 am & 9 pm
Call or book online for appointment or tire purchases. Emergency and commercial work done as required. Please only one customer in store at a time.
Payments accepted by Debit or Credit. NO CASH please. Sanitization precautions being taken in showroom and all customer vehicles.
Visit our Facebook page for full details. 250-295-4155, www.katriche.net

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KASLO & AREA

ACE Building Centre-Kaslo
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Open for patio and inside seating with off-sales for beer to go, 7 days a week! Phone to pre-order or to arrange a beer-delivery for a friend. 250-353-7446, lunchy@angryhenbrewing.com, Facebook, Instagram.

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Valley Voice
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250-305-2121 - rich@kootenaykustoms.com

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Silverton Building Supplies
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We look forward to serving you! 250-359-2299

Silverton Camp Cafe
Under new ownership! Everything fresh baked daily. Spring hours Wednesday-Saturday 9:30-2:30
Sunday 10-2

SLOCAN

Slocan Village Office: - Masks Mandatory. Library open (Thursdays 1-5pm, Sundays 11am-3pm) - COVID protocols in place; masks mandatory; take out service available. Eagle open - Nurse Practitioner Appointments - COVID protocols in place; masks mandatory. Fitness Center temporarily closed.

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. 250-355-2221, sunki@telus.net

WINLAW

Emery Herbs Botanical Dispensary, Healing Suites and Teaching Centre
The Botanical Dispensary: Open Thurs and Fri, 12-4. Limit of one client in the shop at a time. Order requests can be sent to orders@emyherbs.com or by phone: 250-226-7744 for pick-up using our safe pick-up guidelines. We offer a $10 local shop rate and all local orders over $75 are shipped for free. We ship once weekly. Our online shop is https://emyherbs.com/online-aphrotesarcy/ - Colleen Emery, RHT (CHOBDC) is conducting all client consultation online or via the phone. Priority is for acute conditions new clients are welcome. - All classes have moved online at this time.

Mama Sita’s
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Winlaw renters lose all in devastating house fire

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A Winlaw family is trying to put back together the pieces of their life after a house fire devastated the home they were renting last month.

“I am trying to be optimistic,” says Esmeralda Nadeau-Jasso. “But when you’ve lost everything it’s hard to be.”

Nadeau-Jasso and her partner, Felix Bilodeau, were away from their rental house in Winlaw the afternoon of February 24 when the fire broke out. RDCK officials say the Winlaw Volunteer Fire Department received a call at about 1:50 pm, reporting heavy smoke coming from a residence.

Because of the size of the fire, more than 20 firefighters responded from the Winlaw, Passmore and Slocan departments, and were able to save at least one other building, as well as some vehicles and farm equipment on the property.

“Crews worked hard and overcame adverse weather conditions and difficult fire behavior,” said Kynan O’Rourke, the RDCK regional deputy fire chief - operations. “Minor injuries occurred involving icy conditions and firefighter slips.”

O’Rourke says an investigation has been completed, but the cause of the fire hasn’t been determined.

Nadeau-Jasso says her family lost everything in the fire. They moved to the Winlaw rental a year ago, and brought her work inventory – art supplies, circus costumes, and tools for woodworking, felting, silversmithing, and make-up kits. Much of their furniture and children’s toys were also handmade and irreplaceable.

“Basically everything is gone. My beautiful book collection, my antiques. None of my antique furniture, things I found in garage sales or from friends. From the 1800s, it’s pretty harsh,” she said. “My partner is a musician, and he lost all the recordings he had on his computer, his music projects. They are all gone.”

Avalanche claims snowmobiler’s life

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Kaslo RCMP reports that a man was killed last week in an avalanche west of the Kootenay Lake village.

Police say the incident occurred in the afternoon of March 4, near Mt. Payne west of the Kootenay Lake community.

“A group of experienced snowmobilers had been sledding when one person was caught in an avalanche and buried in the snow,” says an RCMP release. “The rest of the group managed to dig the man from the snow, however he was pronounced deceased at the scene.”

The BC Coroners Service has conducted the investigation and there is no further information available at this time.

While police are not releasing the victim’s name, a Facebook group run by the Crescent Valley Fire Department says one of their volunteers, Joe Leblanc, passed away in a snowmobiling accident on that day.

“His family is utterly traumatized and need support from the community,” says a post on Facebook. “He leaves three small children behind and their road is going to be challenging in the coming months and years.”

A GoFundMe campaign has been set up to help the family, raising more than $25,000 to date (March 8).

Winlaw family left homeless by fire

The couple didn’t have any renter’s insurance, she says.

“At the time it wasn’t in the budget, we’re artists,” she says. “I make my money doing artistic endeavours, events all around the world. Then COVID happened, and everything I was doing for festivals is on hold. I really regret not having renter’s insurance.”

Nadeau-Jasso says she’s just happy her family is safe, and they’re beginning to try to rebuild their lives. She says it’s going to take time to replace all their things.

“I am trying not to dwell on the loss, but more on what I have – I have one project that represents a thousand hours of work, it was in another building and safe,” she says. “We have our health, our family, and our dog – my neighbour ran in and saved her.”

A GoFundMe campaign was set up a few days after the disaster, and the response has been heartwarming – they blew past the first target of $20,000, and to date (March 8) have raised $25,000 of their new $30,000 goal.

“The support from the community’s been amazing,” she says. “I have a pretty decent network. I had a circus community in Montreal, the Burning Man community, and people in the Kootenays and Winlaw.

“People I don’t even know are willing to try to help us with what we lost.”

Now the work begins of rebuilding their lives. Finding new accommodations in the Valley will be a big enough job in itself. Nadeau-Jasso might even try to make art from the disaster.

“In coming weeks I’m going to try to make stuff from the ashes...the old burnt books, there’s some beautiful coloured burnt books there...I was thinking of making something artistic from that.”

Nadeau-Jasso and her family aren’t the only ones left homeless by the fire.

The house was split into two suites, and the second renter, another artist, also lost years of work materials and other personal items. A GoFundMe campaign has also been set up for that person. It’s raised about $7,600 of its $15,000 target.

You can donate to help the two renters by visiting gofundme.com, and searching for ‘Winlaw.’

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Notice of Application
For a Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Licence

Please be advised that the Regional District of Central Kootenay has received a provisional retail application from the Ocean and Essentials Regulation Branch (OREMB) to sell.

Proposed location: 2939 Highway 6, Crowsnest Pass
Suitable description: THE CANADIAN RETAIL LICENCE holder is proposing to be involved in the sale of cannabis commercial retail and within the existing “Existing Non-Medical Food” building on site.

Community members & business owners are encouraged to write a letter or attend the OREMB application. Written objections must be delivered to the Regional District of Central Kootenay office prior to April 16, 2021. A public hearing will be held if objections are submitted.

Follow the OREMB application via the website: https://www.gobc.ca/government/industry/industry/medical-cannabis/non-medical-cannabis under the Public Notification section.

RDCK on Facebook, B.C. 2014-2044 Day of February 2021
The Valley Voice   March 11, 2021

COMMUNITY

Beverley E
McClinchey
Jan 31, 1937 – Mar 2, 2021

With a heavy heart I am sad to announce the passing of my mother Beverley McClinchey after a courageous battle with cancer which she fought with dignity and grace.

Mom was born in Victoria and grew up and lived on Vancouver Island where she owned a hobby farm and worked as a Lab technician until she was able to give it all up and found her magical home in Nakusp 30 years ago. There she created her paradise.

Mom was very blessed to be surrounded by family, numerous friends and animals. She had a deep love of animals of every kind and fostered many at her property. She was well known for dressing up as Sylvester the Cat for any PALS event, always bringing a smile to the faces around her. Her and Meeko her beloved Samoyed were well known in the community for many years.

Her home was her sanctuary where she created the life she wanted to live fully and on her terms. She was a very strong woman who has instilled that strength in her family. If she was told she couldn’t do something, the reply was “watch me” and she did.

Mom was able to find joy in everything she did whether it was sitting for hospice, taking in new animals for PALS, working in her beautiful gardens or just going for coffee with the girls on Saturday morning – always with a big smile on her face. She had a special gift of allowing the mystical, spiritual world to surround her and everyone around her which helped make her passing peaceful.

We would like to thank Robyn, Danna and all of the staff of Halcyon House. We couldn’t have done this without you all. Special thanks as well to Flo, Kathy, Jen, June and all of her many friends. You were always there for her and she loved you all. Darren, Neil & Rocky – thank you. You helped keep her in her home.

Bev is survived by her daughter Linda (Brent) Metcalfe, Sheila (Randy) Ash, Tom (Shannon) Fitzsimmons and Janice Legros. Grandchildren Calinda, Ryan, Chelsea, Brian, Bradley, Shauna and Charles.

We know you are flying free now mom. You will always be in our hearts.

In lieu of flowers or gifts please donate to her beloved animal rescue society PALS. nakusp.pals@gmail.com

A memorial will be held in the spring at Mom’s property. Date to be announced later.

Nakusp and Winlaw to benefit from more child care spaces

submitted

The Childcare BC New Spaces Fund is supporting two projects to create new licensed child care spaces in Nakusp and Winlaw. These spaces are part of the September 2020 milestone that marked more than 20,000 new spaces funded throughout the province in just over two years.

Nakusp will see 96 new spaces created with the opening of a facility at Nakusp Elementary school. The new licensed spaces will include 12 infant/toddler spaces, 24 spaces for children up to the age of 12 and 60 before- and after-school spaces when it opens in May 2022.

“The new Nakusp Child Care Centre hub will help address what has been described as a ‘child care desert’ in our community,” said Terry Taylor, superintendent, School District 10. “The hub will give kids the start they deserve, while also creating opportunities for young people in our community to gain experience as early childhood educators.”

In Winlaw, the 20 new spaces at Our Place will provide much-needed child care for school-aged children in the Winlaw community. School District 8 (Kootenay Lake) will operate the before- and after-school child care at Winlaw Elementary for $10 per day. Priority for the new spaces will go to vulnerable children. It should be opened this fall.

The Columbia Basin Trust is providing funding for both facilities.

Community

Silverton resident Heribert Hahne got this photo of a little lynx – the first one he’s ever seen – on his property the morning of March 3. He was in his truck, parked behind his house, just back from taking photos of the mountains reflected in Slocan Lake. When he went to get out of the truck, his eyes caught a movement and he instinctively switched on the camera and took a shot through the glass of the side window. He was so happy that the photo turned out, and was enchanted by the encounter.

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- Delivery of Benefits
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Apply by March 21: ourtrust.org/careers

Columbia Basin Trust operates in the unceded traditional territories of the Ktunaxa, Lheidli T’enneh, Secwepemc, Sinixt and Syilx Nations.
Columbia River Treaty virtual town hall covers a lot of ground

by Jane F. Barton

Over 230 people from Columbia River Basin communities in both Canada and the United States attended a virtual town hall meeting on February 24 to discuss the Columbia River Treaty negotiations.

Katrine Conroy, MLA for Kootenay West and Minister Responsible for the Columbia River Treaty, emphasized the importance of people’s input in this renewal of the 1964 treaty between Canada and the United States.

Canada’s chief negotiator, Sylvia Fabi, joined the meeting from her new post in Colorado, where he has just been appointed Canada’s Consul General in Denver. Fabi said his new position will enhance his work as chief negotiator, and gets him physically closer to the Basin and able to better visit the area when travel is permitted again. Referring to the recent meeting between Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and US President Joe Biden, Fabi was optimistic about the blueprint for cooperation that emerged from those talks.

In June 2020, the Canadian negotiators presented their first proposal to the US after having received the US’s first proposal in March. Fabi said a response to the Canadian proposal is expected soon. He has been in regular contact with the chief US negotiator and has been assured that the US is keen to reach an agreement on a new treaty.

Fabi outlined the broad themes of Canada’s proposal. In addition to flood risk management and power generation, priority issues include ecosystem function, a greater Canadian role in Libby Dam coordination, and increased flexibility for Canadian operations to address issues in Canada. “We want to gain an element of flexibility that we could use for our own benefit without having to go to the US. That’s a very important and I would say novel element that we are discussing,” Fabi said.

For the US, flood risk management is a top priority, as it was in drafting the original treaty, Fabi said. The Americans also want to address the cost of electrical power because they believe they pay too much. Fabi added that with the new US administration, there could be an increased emphasis on climate change nature can still be partially con- served and restored but great resistance to maintain the status quo.

In a live question, Nakusp resident Madelyn MacKay asked whether the extraction of the Sinai people would be addressed in tandem with the treaty negotiations. Fabi said this falls outside the scope of the treaty talks, but he believes that this issue, like other important issues being raised, could benefit from the negotiators acting as agents for change. There was not time to answer all the questions even though the event was extended to nearly three hours. The questions will be answered and posted on the CRT website. See https://engage.gov.bc.ca/columbiarivertreaty/2021-public-engagement/ to find the answers, watch the town hall meeting, and to stay up to date on the treaty talks.

Kathy Eichenberger, BC’s lead negotiator, said the People’s input in affecting climate change through the treaty negotiations. Fabi said this falls outside the scope of the treaty talks, but he believes that this issue, like other important issues being raised, could benefit from the negotiators acting as agents for change. There was not time to answer all the questions even though the event was extended to nearly three hours. The questions will be answered and posted on the CRT website. See https://engage.gov.bc.ca/columbiarivertreaty/2021-public-engagement/ to find the answers, watch the town hall meeting, and to stay up to date on the treaty talks.

Community

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.
It’s been nearly a month, but Deb Booth still shudders when she recalls what happened to her on Valentine’s Day. “I think it’s affected us, permanently,” she says. “Even talking about it, I get stressed out. And I’m not that kind of person. I’m pretty low-key.”

It all started when her husband Ken noticed how the February cold snap had completely frozen Kuskanax Creek. Booth, a photographer, got excited. “The colour was stunning… when you’re standing there, looking down through the trees, the colour just popped,” she recalled. “Ken said ‘you have go down and take some pictures.’”

Taking advantage of the sunny day, the pair went down to the creek and began wandering, taking pictures and exploring the shoreline. It was a lot of fun, even when Booth momentarily got her boot stuck in between some of the rocks in the creek bed. “My foot went through between these rocks,” she says. “The water was up over my ankles, and I thought, ‘great, now I’m going to have a wet foot.’”

“I managed to wiggle my boot out, and went up the bank to warm my foot by the fire Ken had built. Otherwise I would have been down there for quite a while longer to take more photos.”

The Booths have lived on the property for decades, and thought they knew the Kuskanax well. She says she had never experienced what happened next. “There was no noise. It was silence. There was no wind,” she recalled. “So when we began hearing this sound, it got our attention.”

The sound kept growing. “We turned around just in time, to see a 12-foot wall of ice and water that was bright turquoise coming towards us,” she says. “It takes a second for your brain to register what is going on. Then it started slamming into the bank and hunks of ice were coming up over, and Ken yelled ‘Run!’”

Her husband held on to a nearby tree, while Deb ran as far from the bank as she could. “I had to go down the bank and up again, and I thought, ‘I’m not going to make it.’” The rising water came within 20 feet of her, she says, but it was over in a matter of seconds. The ice and water receded almost as quickly as it began, leaving them unscathed. After recovering their composure, the couple went back down to the creekside to take pictures of the aftermath – and Booth saw how close she had come to disaster.

“I was pretty much right out in the middle of the river when I got stuck, and never thought twice about it,” she says. “Ken would have come down to try to help free me. We would never have made it out of the way in time, it happened so fast.”

Booth posted her experience to a local Facebook group, saying she hopes people will take what happened to her as a warning, and stay aware when they’re walking in and around mountain streams. “My message is use caution,” she says. “I wouldn’t go near a frozen river again, unless it’s really, really tiny and you have a chance to escape.”

And the couple even managed to find a bit of humour in the experience. “Ken told me he used to make my heart race on Valentine’s day, but in a different way,” she laughs.
Merriwake to take shelter thanks to Heritage BC grant

An important piece of Japanese-Canadian history will be preserved in the Slocan Valley thanks to a $500,000 grant from Heritage BC.

The funds will support construction of the Merriwake Interpretive Centre at Slocan. The building will shelter the Merriwake, a 31-foot fishing boat believed to be the last of its kind in Canada.

“This injection of funds will allow us not only to showcase the restored vessel, but to tell part of the larger story of the Japanese-Canadian internment,” says Slocan Valley Historical Society vice-president Anitra Winje. “We are ecstatic to receive this support.”

The Merriwake was built in Prince Rupert in 1929 by master boat builder Isamu Matsumoto and was one of hundreds of fishing boats seized by the BC Security Commission during the Second World War.

The Merriwake changed hands several times before being brought to Kaslo in the 1990s. The historical society acquired it from Ted Fitzgerald in 2019 at the urging of noted author Joy Kogawa and plans to restore it as a dryland exhibit along the Slocan Valley Heritage Rail Trail.

Shipwright Eric Chevalier of Copper Nail Boat Shop in Bonnington has nearly completed work on the boat and the project’s focus is now shifting to construction of the shelter.

Award-winning architect Gene Kinoshita, whose family was interned in Slocan, has designed the shelter plans and the next step is to put out a request for proposals. The society hopes to break ground this year.

The funding comes from the Unique Heritage Infrastructure stream of the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program.
Nakusp council, February 22: Consultant to be hired for bylaw review

by Jay-Dell Mah

- Airbnbs will be allowed to continue operations in Nakusp for now – although in contravention of Village bylaws.
- Council voted to hold enforcement in abeyance until it receives recommendations from a consultant who will be hired to study the issue and get public feedback. Councillors had earlier expressed the idea of a special committee to look into Airbnbs, other short-term rentals, and the illegal use of RVs and trailers for housing. Now, that work will be done by an outside individual or firm, to be enlisted primarily to deal with the major job of ensuring the Village’s bylaws accurately reflect the aims of the Official Community Plan. The OCP was given final approval at this meeting.

Cheryl Martens, the CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) said she’d like to have this work finalized before the end of this year, and added that the consultant would want to consult with the public and council “when it comes to items that aren’t quite in there (the OCP), which would be the short-term rentals, the Airbnbs, trailers, RVs, that sort of thing.”

Jason Saville, who has purchased the “ice shock” (behind the General Store), appealed to council not to take action against Airbnbs until there’s been a full examination and discussion of the issue. He has submitted renovation plans to create three rental units in the old building, to go along with an Airbnb in existing building on the property. In a letter to council, Saville says Airbnbs provide several advantages for the village, such as increased capacity for tourism – thus bringing in more revenue for local businesses, jobs for cleaners, landscapers, handymen and more tax dollars.

Also, in another letter, Director of Finance Mark Tennant presented the draft 2021 budget, with a proposed tax increase of 3.58%. Tennant estimated this result would be a $28 hike in municipal tax rates or about single-family dwelling. Council has already approved increases in fees for water and sewer, as well as garbage bags.

Cited among the reasons for the tax increase were inflation, salary for a new facilities manager position, and takeover of the marina.

Public water users frozen out of supply in Edgewood

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Julie Hall got a nasty surprise when she went to refill her water jugs at a standing pipe in Edgewood a few weeks ago.

She and her partner relied on the pipe for water in their tiny home they built on the edge of town.

“Pipe had frozen up during February’s cold snap, leaving her and others of people living in or near the community without a source of drinking water.

“It was an inconvenience,” she says. “I was annoyed, because there was no notice of the problem.

“I ended up going to Vernon. There’s a spring on the way to Cherryville, and I filled them up there,” she says.

“I filled them up in Nakusp once as well, as well as in Edgewood.

The problem set off a social media firestorm, with people blaming the RDCK, for cutting off the essential service. But the area director for the region says that’s not the case.

“All the trouble started when we had that severe cold snap and the pipes froze,” says Paul Peterson. “There has been a lot of hype around incorrect rumours that the Regional District and/ or myself had shut down the standpipe. Once this incorrect assumption started, folks got on Facebook and blew the whole thing out of proportion. Out-of- area trolls got a hold of this and amended themselves by fanning the flames with outrageous assumptions.

The pipe has since thawed and is running again, calming the Facebook outrage. But the issue of hiking the RDCK rates is ongoing.

“Everything is better than nothing,” she says. “I wouldn't want folks coming up from the valley to be the first to notice.

“Pipe is a service provided by a RDCK service, pending completion of consultation, and pen construction. The project would have seen about $200,000 in pre-construction funds raised and $600,000 of the project committed.

“Hopefully the caribou are still in the area. We will soon be posting. Year to year restrictions. Year to year restrictions. We always have to pay for any damages or other economic losses,” it added.

“Anything is better than nothing,” she told the Valley Voice. “I’d be nice if something was done so there’s access to the community. People who don’t live in the community but live close – and lots of people who have wells but the water isn’t fit for drinking. And there are lots of people who never leave Edgewood, who don’t have another source for water.”

Area residents outside of the Edgewood water system boundary who rely on commercial type pay-per-use filling stations are asked to contact the RDCK’s water department.

COVID restrictions put caribou rescue project on hold

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative

The provincial government has put on hold a plan to help an endangered caribou herd near Nakusp this spring.

The Province has decided to postpone a project that was to help reduce the risk of caribou being killed by vehicles.

“The government felt that a capture could not be orchestrated while maintaining social distance, as there is close work involved in helicopters and on the ground,” says Hugh Watt, the head of the Arrow Lakes Caribou Society. “It takes a team of 25 to do the capture, and they would have to travel from here all over to get here, which was felt to be too risky.”

The project, which was expected to cost up to $300,000 a year to operate.

Watt says they hope the project will still be needed in a year’s time. The caribou are still in a condition where this project could yield benefit after another year, he says. “We will hopefully manage to reach the herd condition during the next year.”

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Kaslo council, February 23: Outdoor learning space on Kaslo River Trail proposed

by Jan McMurray

• IV Humphries K-1 teacher Sarah Pollick made a presentation to council to propose an outdoor learning space for the school and community along the Kaslo River Trail, preferably at the Village-owned old dump site near the Upper Bike Park. She said the vision was for a simple, low-maintenance structure with a roof and one enclosed wall. If council approves the project, community input will be sought. Pollick said the school, trail users and community groups could use the structure for educational purposes, picnics, day camps and other events. It would provide “endless opportunities for our community,” she said. Although the location has a history of unwanted gatherings, she said, “I think we can change the culture of this spot.”

Council responded positively, and asked staff to put into it and report back at the next council meeting. Mayor Hewat explained that the fact it is a former landfill site might present problems.

• Kaslo Housing Society Chair Erika Bird and New Commons Development representative Dion Whyte elected to discuss next steps in moving forward with the proposed Penny Lane Apartments affordable housing development adjacent to the Kambell Centre. They asked council if they’d like to move forward with rezoning and formalizing the land contribution at this time, while the society waits for the decision on the BC Housing funding application. Council discussed the need to prepare a report on this for a future meeting.

• The Kaslo Racquet Club’s wish to expand their leased area and obtain a long-term lease with the Village is on hold, due to the bureaucracy involved. This would require a leasehold subdivision, survey, Land Titles Office registration and approval with the Ministry of Transportation. The club would like to continue pursuing this, but is happy to renew their existing lease for now – with a change to the map to show the leased area more accurately.

• Council agreed to submit a resolution in support of aging in place in rural communities to the Association of Community Services Local Governments (AKBLG). The resolution calls on the BC government to commit to increasing “the number of care beds through the expansion or building of facilities to meet the growing need.” If approved at AKBLG, it will go to the Union of BC Municipalities for approval. If approved at UBCM, it will go to the Province.

The outdoor display Lardeau Valley Museum to spruce up outdoor display

by Jan McMurray

The outdoor display Lardeau Valley Museum is embarking on an extensive upgrade in Meadow Creek. This project, led by John Boivin, local journalist, will enhance and spruce up the outdoor display. The goal is to provide a more engaging and informative experience for visitors. The project will include several components to improve the display and interpret large heritage machinery.

The addition to the outdoor display will include the following features:

- Fresh Meat Cut Daily
- Fresh & Frozen Seafood
- Fresh Salmon & Steelhead
- Deli Sandwiches to go
- Awesome Cheese Selection
- Fresh & Smoked Sausage
- Smoked Salmon
- April 1 - Beef Jerky
- Custom Cutting
- Weekly Instore Specials

Come see our selection of new cards and more – Easter bonnets and chocolates will be in-store soon! 250.353.2566 436 Front Street, Kaslo, BC www.fgsmarkets.com

Understanding taxes and property assessments

It can be hard for people to understand what an increase in the tax rate really means for the taxes they pay, a Village official told the Valley Voice.

The Village is considering a new parcel tax on sewer services, and more than a dozen major and minor infrastructure projects.

Taxes

The tax break residents got last year from council – a 0% increase – won’t happen again this year if the budget is adopted. To cover inflation, the Village council is looking at a 4% increase – 2% to make up for last year, and 2% for 2021. Besides inflation, the Village’s union contracts includes a 2% wage increase, so the tax bomb will help cover the Village’s extra costs.

The increase would bring an extra $35,000 into the Village’s coffers.

The Village’s Chief Administrative Officer noted, however, the increase still leaves the Village with a comfortable tax record. Ian Dunlop said the tax rate in Kaslo has dropped 21% in the last three years. And the CAO said the 4% increase doesn’t automatically mean less money in residents’ pockets. (see sidebar)

New parcel tax?

The Village is considering a new parcel tax on sewer services. For simplicity, it would be tied to the water parcel tax, at about $1 per foot of frontage. The new parcel tax would build up reserves for repairs that aren’t always eligible for funding from other levels of government. “It’s for upkeep of the system,” explained Dunlop. “It’s to replace the system as it ages. We have pumps and other things that are capital items, but they’re not really because you are replacing them, they’re coming to the end of their life. The existing sewer users would pay towards that so that we’re building up a reserve to cover those kinds of costs.”

Mayor Suzan Hewat also endorsed the sewer parcel tax, noting that if the Village would create , the Village could face a financial shock if they have to make an urgent repair of the system.

Thus, the Village is going because you want to reduce taxation,” said one of the Village’s key officials.

Kaslo council, February 23: Outdoor learning space on Kaslo River Trail proposed

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A Meadow Creek woman is under doctors’ care after an armed standoff in the North Kootenay Lake community on March 1.

Police in Kaslo said they received word on February 28 of written communication “alluding to potential future harm to individuals, such as lethal action and the taking of hostages.” Police attended the residence, but found no abnormality.

Suzan Hewat, responding to concerns about the proposed new tax raised by Councillor Henry Van Mill. “This is going to be a very good year for people for some more than others. But we still have to be prudent and manage ourselves.”

Capital ideas

The draft budget also included more than a dozen major and minor capital projects planned for 2021, taking advantage of a suite of grants and incentives offered by other levels of government, most as part of the COVID recovery process.

Among the roughly $3 million in projects and purchases to get underway or continue in 2021:

- development of Front St. Park, FineSmart projects, Kaslo River Dike improvements and repairs, purchase of an anti-icing truck, pedestrian improvements, City Hall building and courtroom upgrades, purchase of new electric vehicle, repairs to Kemp Creek dam and A. Ave. waterline expansion.

Almost none of the cost of the projects will be paid for directly out of the Village’s tax dollars, as the Village is using a combination of federal and provincial infrastructure and COVID Recovery grants, reserve funds and incentives from other initiatives.

There’s still work to be done before the final budget bylaw is passed. Councillors have given a provisional thumbs-up to the draft budget, but some say the Village taxes so far, but the final vote on those items will take place in the weeks to come.

There’s one more public meeting, on April 6, before the council will likely be able to set its tax rate. The Village is also awaiting the final tax requests from the RDCK and regional hospital district to add to the equation.

The provincial deadline for the municipality to submit its budget is May 14.

FOR THOSE IN NEED of an Easter Hamper from Hills to Enterprise Creek, call Sue 358-7778 or Sue 358-2676 by March 15.

KIDS’ CLOTHES BY DONATION! Koots Kids Clothing Store, 222 Lake Ave., Silverton General Store. Used clothing and footwear accepted. Open Tues., Thurs., Sat. and Sun. 11am-3pm or by appointment. Call 250-505-4610. Follow “Koots Kids Clothing Store” on Facebook.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY to live your dream and own your own business. Become the proud owner of the main street of New Denver. The newspaper business can provide a modest living for you and your family, and wonderful community connections. If you are so inclined, we would love to show you the ropes and stay as long as little as you need us. We have absolutely loved our life as newspaper people. Give us a call at 1-833-501-1760 for a chat, or email valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca. Yours, Dan & Jan.

WORK YOUR JOB AND be your own boss with help from the Self Employment program at Community Futures! Through this program you will receive business plan instruction and ongoing business training and coaching while you start your business. And if you’re eligible you will usually also receive financial support for the first year. To learn more call 250-367-34 ex. 201 or email Nakupu@futures.bc.ca.

THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business? If so, Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training and delivers the Self Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-367-34 ex. 201 or email Nakupu@futures.bc.ca.

The KASLO GOLF COURSE RESTAURANT is available for lease for the 2021 season. The kitchen is very clean and well equipped, providing an excellent opportunity to offer a dining experience to golfers and the folk in Kaslo who have supported this beautiful location so well in the past. Indoor seating capacity of 65 plus outdoor seats lends to economical company functions with P&ID spacing restrictions. Visit: http://kosalsogolf.org/lease-opportunity Very reasonable lease rates. Questions? Please email KasloGolfClub@gmail.com or call 250-353-3479.

COMING EVENTS

SUPPORT LUCKY GRAINS of 2021 and give yourself the chance to win $400 worth of firewood or one of two beautiful gift baskets. Details by March 18.

THE SILVERY SLOCAN Historical Society will be holding its AGM via ZOOM meeting on March 25 at 7 pm. If you would like to attend please email silveryslocanchs@gmail.com for details by March 18.

AFFORDABLE STEEL SHIPPING CONTAINERS 20 ft. and 40 ft. sizes.

WATERS PRODUCTS, HAND CRAFTS – Berith Williams, 811 – 217 Zacks Rd, 250-263-9080.

THE TITLE OF EVERYTHING! Store, 222 Lake Ave., Silverton General Store. Furniture, clothing, books, kids’ stuff, etc. you never knew you would love to show you the ropes and stay as long as little as you need us! We have absolutely loved our life as newspaper people. Give us a call at 250-353-3479.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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HOME CARE WORKER - 67-year-old man from New Denver area looking for home care, part-time. 250-358-2756.

SOCIETY
THE SLOCAN VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY is accepting expressions of interest from qualified individuals to build the new Merriwiek Interpretive Centre in Slocan. The SVHS is looking for a contractor that has a proven track record of building post and beam structures.

They would also understand how to read architectural drawings and specs, and numerous other things. Please return, by March 31.

The Valley Voice
March 11, 2021

Business Classifieds start at $10.00
Call 1-833-510-1700 for details

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Call 1-833-510-1700 for details

Coalition for Elder Abuse Prevention 
Residence: 250-358-6008 
Email: info@coalitionforelderabuseprevention.ca


HAVE YOU OR ARE YOU KNOWN to be sexually assaulted and want help? Call the Intimate Crime Line 24/7 at 1-888-353-CARE to discuss your options or go directly to Arrow Lakes Hospital or your local emergency room for confidential care.
Interior Health opens COVID-19 vaccine bookings

Interior Health has opened up its call centre on Monday for seniors to book COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

Seniors aged 90 and over, and Indigenous peoples aged 65 and over, can now book vaccine appointments by calling 1-877-740-7747. The call centre is open seven days per week, from 7 am to 7 pm.

The public is reminded to follow the call centre will only ask for legal name, date of birth, postal code, personal health number (PHN) for identification, and date of birth, without financial information, credit card details, or personal contact information. Information collected will be used for the booking system.

The call centre will only ask for personal contact information, including an email address or your family contact if needed. People who need assistance in accessing child care can contact the call centre on Monday, or email descamp@heartsrest.com.

Divisions will never ask for financial information, credit card details, or social insurance numbers.

The call centre will only ask for personal contact information, including an email address or your family contact if needed. People who need assistance in accessing child care can contact the call centre on Monday, or email descamp@heartsrest.com.

If you are interested in supporting Goat Mountain Kids Centre, visit www.goatmountainkids.ca/fundraising or email goat.mountainkids@gmail.com. GMKS is a registered charity, able to issue a tax receipt for donations.
March 11, 2021 The Valley Voice

Construction to start on trail to Mt. Buchanan summit this summer

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo Outdoor Recreation and Trails Society (KORTS) was funded to work closely with the Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce (CERIP) to develop an economic development strategy for Kaslo and area has just been completed by consultants Factor 5, as part of the North Kootenay Lake Rural Revitalization Program. “The plan is done, and three components of that plan were included in this grant application,” she said. The three components are: a digital marketing and e-commerce adoption project; a secure supply chain project; and an agriculture capacity incubation project. Hewat explained that a digital marketing project aims to transition businesses online, allowing residents to source and access goods and services locally. This will strengthen local business and local employment. The secure supply chain project will provide businesses with procurement expertise that allows them to manage, adapt, and pivot in response to changes in the marketplace, to supply chains, and to benefit from community-led procurement coordination. The agriculture capacity incubation project will provide farmers and entrepreneurs with the necessary community facilities and business supports to grow, harvest, preserve, store, prepare and distribute food. This project creates local food security while incubating commercial businesses and jobs.

“...the secure supply chain project will provide businesses with procurement expertise that allows them to manage, adapt, and pivot in response to changes in the marketplace, to supply chains, and to benefit from community-led procurement coordination. The agriculture capacity incubation project will provide farmers and entrepreneurs with the necessary community facilities and business supports to grow, harvest, preserve, store, prepare and distribute food. This project creates local food security while incubating commercial businesses and jobs.”

Happy 25 Years to Arrow Refrigeration Services

It started back in January 1996. Steve along with his wife Karen and two kids wanted to live a simpler life and were looking to move to the interior of BC. There happened to be a small ad in a Vancouver paper, advertising a Refrigeration business for sale in Nakusp, BC. The business was owned by the late Walter Wells who was ready to retire. The process began to purchase the business and with the help of Community Futures the plan was set in motion. It was going to be a business adventure and challenges we were ready for. We took the leap of faith in March of 1996 and Arrow Refrigeration Services was established.

We are forever grateful to have Rodney Koeneman, a local resident as part of the business transition. Rodney has been a tremendous help since the beginning and continues to support Steve with many jobs. We would like to send a “BIG THANK YOU” to everyone who supported our business for the past 25 years. We can only hope that the future will look brighter for all of us.

Steve & Karen Likness
Grant writing pays off for New Denver and Sandon

by Kathy Hartman

CERIP (Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program) grants were announced in late February and two big winners were the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (NIMC) and the Sandon Historical Society (SHS). The grants will allow the Village of New Denver to complete much needed repairs and upgrades to the NIMC, and SHS to finish two replica commercial buildings in Sandon and add another wheelchair access to the Sandon Museum.

Dan Nicholson, SHS president, says the $211,000 grant will be used to “preserve a piece of Sandon’s history, and to improve access to the wonderful stories there.” The replica buildings to be finished, located next to the Sandon Museum, are referred to as the Burns-Atherton block. The buildings were constructed based on the originals about 30 years ago, but were never finished due to a lack of funding. The Burns Meats building was one of the first retail outlets of Patrick Burns, founder of one of the world’s largest integrated meat-packing empires. Burns came to be one of the wealthiest Canadians of his time. The Atherton Mercantile building, named after Sandon’s first mayor, was originally a dry goods store. Both buildings will be finished with windows, shiplap and clapboard. Nicholson says, the society wants to “finish them off and make them look like they were always there.”

Wheelchair access will be built at the back of the museum to improve accessibility and make it easier to move heavy artifacts in and out of the museum. The first step is to get a building permit and the final step will be to find tenants to run businesses out of the finished buildings. “There is some interest in businesses setting up,” said Nicholson.

The Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (NIMC) received $257,000. “If we hadn’t gotten this money, we may have had to take it to the public,” said a relieved Mayor Leonard Casely.

Money raised through admissions, gift shop sales and donations are enough to keep the site operating, but not enough to make improvements, Casely said. “The centre is hugely important to New Denver, and it needs to be well taken care of. Staff has done an amazing job of bringing in grants to keep it going.”

After touring the site last fall, the Village decided to request funding for repairs to building envelopes, replacement of the fire suppression system, rebuilding of the boardwalk and hardcapping, garden restoration work, updating of the existing kitchen facilities and construction of a new building for safe storage of the historic artifact and archival collections. They received enough funding to complete everything but the building for safe storage of artifacts. According to staff, the artifacts are beginning to decay and are becoming a concern.

The NIMC was opened in 1994 by the Kyowakai Society and designated as a National Historic Site in 2007. The Village formally took over the operation of the NIMC, with the Kyowakai Society advising, in 2012. In 2018, the society officially dissolved, and all operations were transferred to the Village.

The funds come from the heritage stream of the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program, which provides fully-funded provincial grants to support economic resilience, tourism, heritage, and urban and rural economic development projects in communities impacted by COVID-19. Other recipients of the heritage stream grants in the area include the Kootenay Lake Historical Society, for upgrades to the SS Moyie; the Lander Valley Historical Society, for pavilions and sheds for displaying large machinery; and the Valkicn Heritage Hall Society, for the preservation and restoration of the hall’s windows.

Little Free Library and Gallery for Lucerne School

by Jan McMurray

A Little Free Library and Little Gallery is being built in the shop class at Lucerne School and will be installed in the alcove outside the front entrance, hopefully before the summer break. The small structure will be a place where people can pick up and leave books, and take a peek inside the gallery to enjoy the students’ artwork.

The idea comes from Lucerne School teacher Margot Baker, who built a Little Free Library and Little Pantry in front of her house in Calgary when she lived there. “It was a way for my kids and I to help provide books and food for people,” she explained. “I just loved having it and I thought it would be a great thing for Lucerne School and the New Denver community. We have a very inclusive, community-minded place here in New Denver, and I want to contribute by encouraging reading and the arts with the Little Free Library and Little Gallery.”

The structure is still in the design stage, but Baker says there will be a shelf for about 30 children’s books and a shelf for books for adults. The gallery side of the structure will be locked, with glass on two sides so that people can have a look inside. Baker said there are many options for artwork that would fit into the space, including beading projects, small ceramic projects, and bucket hats, and she hopes to build tiny plinths for the gallery. She says there will be a schedule, where each class at the school would display their artwork at the gallery for a month at a time. Art shows could be a group or individual effort.

The Parent Advisory Council provided $125 for the building materials, and Baker says they will probably need $200 more to complete the project. Donations are being accepted. Contact her through the Lucerne School Little Free Library and Gallery Facebook page.

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